

John Wilkes I, Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*, 26 January 1788

One may venture to affirm, that all *honest and disinterested* Americans, of what party soever, if they understood one another, are of the same opinion in points of government and that the great body of the people who had been imposed upon by terms, which they did not comprehend, are all *real federalists*, are all desirous of living under a free federal government, established on solid republican principles.

And were the case truly and faithfully laid before those mistaken persons, who *from honest motives*, are still friends to the proposed constitution, (and who are falsely called federalists) they would know that when they make a profession of friendship towards it, they renounce their legal claim to liberty and property, and unwarily submit to what they really abhor—a despotic government.

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