

Teacher Key

Federalist Paper #51

It is of great importance in a republic not only to guard the society against the oppression of its rulers, but to guard one part of the society against the injustice of the other part. Different interests necessarily exist in different classes of citizens. If a majority be united by a common interest, the rights of the minority will be insecure. There are but two methods of providing against this evil...

The second method will be exemplified in the federal republic of the United States. Whilst all authority in it will be derived from and dependent on the society, the society itself will be broken into so many parts, interests, and classes of citizens, that the rights of individuals, or of the minority, will be in little danger from interested combinations of the majority.

Full Document from National Archives: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-04-02-0199>

Hamilton, Alexander, or James Madison. Federalist No. 51: "The Structure of the Government Must Furnish the Proper Checks and Balances Between the Different Departments." *New York Packet*, February 8, 1788.

1) According to the document what are the important things to guard against in a republic?

The important things to guard against in a republic are oppression of rulers and injustice of one part against another.

2) According to the document how will the new Constitution protect against this?

Society will be broken up into so many parts that it will be difficult for a majority to impose its will on a minority.

Discuss the following with your partner before you answer.

3) Why might the census be important to Madison's argument? (Think about how an inaccurate census count might impact Madison's argument.)

Answers will vary but students should mention something about the different groups of people in the nation needing to be counted in the census so that they may have adequate representation in Congress. Students should also mention something about some groups not being represented or being underrepresented.