

Brutus I Questions

1. Who is the audience of this piece?
2. What is the author's viewpoint as expressed in the first paragraph?
3. How does the author view the bonds between states at the time of the writing?
4. What role do the people play in the distribution of power?
5. Who is to make the choice on whether to accept the Constitution or not? [not directly the people]
6. What is the ultimate decision as it relates to liberty and the Constitution that must be decided?
7. Why does the author reject the amendment process for being sufficient to correct defects in the Constitution?
8. Why does the author believe that Article I, Section 8 giving the Congress the power to make all laws that are "necessary and proper" is a direct attack upon the continued existence of state governments?
9. How does Article VI of the Constitution further the idea expressed in #8?
10. What is the author's belief about the limit of the government's power to tax?
11. What can states do to limit the taxing power of the national government?
12. What role does the power of taxation play in a good government?
13. What role does the power of taxation play in a bad government?
14. Why does the author reject the idea of direct taxation of the people by states as being inadequate?
15. The absence of any real taxing power at the state level will end in what result for states?
16. What opinion does the author take toward the national government's ability to raise an army?
17. Why does he believe the federal courts will make state courts obsolete?
18. Why does the author fear the "necessary and proper" (elastic clause) in relation to state sovereignty?
19. What specific powers connected to the idea of "necessary and proper" does the author believe will result in the loss of liberty because of the sheer awesomeness of national (federal) power?
20. Why does the author believe that the federal government will annihilate state powers?
21. What does the author contend is what people do once given an amount of power?
22. As the author tackles the idea of whether a single government is best what thesis does he put forward at the bottom of page 5?
23. How does the argument in favor of small republics compare to the effects of money in elections in the aftermath of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*?
24. In what ways was Montesquieu correct in advocating for small republics?
25. What happened to liberty in the Greek and Roman governments as their territory expanded?
26. How does an extensive territory rob people of the ability to exercise sovereignty?
27. Why does the author not trust in the system of representation to enact the people's will?
28. How does the middle paragraph of page 7 foreshadow the Civil War?
29. Why are armies anathema to freedom?
30. Why does the author believe that the size of the republic will prevent the people from assisting with governance when compulsion of military force is needed?
31. Why does the lack of familiarity with national leaders cause the author to worry about enthusiasm for supporting the government?
32. How will this lead to the government using armed force against the people?
33. How does the large geographic reach of the United States cause the author to worry about the inadequacy of the legislature?
34. What solution does the author recommend for storing power?