

## ALEXANDER HAMILTON

**Team:** Federalist United

**Position:** Leg slip

**Status:** Shot totally dead



THINKER  
IN  
BOXES

Alexander Hamilton (1755–1804) liked guns. He enlisted in the militia during the U.S. war of secession (pronounced “Revolutionary War” in American), earned a commission in the Continental army, did a bit of shooting during the Siege of Yorktown, and ended up getting shot to death, presumably by Aaron Burr, who was the guy who didn’t die in the duel. Of the Founders who participated in the writing of the U.S. Constitution, Hamilton was known as an advocate of strong government, and in the *The Federalist Papers*<sup>a</sup> that are attributed to him, we can see that he probably played a significant role in transforming the logic of the U.S. federal government structure into the specific institutions of the U.S. government.

In addition to the essays making the argument for a strong government that could dominate the states just enough to hold the country together (No. 6–13), AI is given credit for most of the essays in the latter half of the *The Federalist Papers*, which discuss the details of the government being formed by the Constitution (No. 52–83). Everything from why there needed to be two legislative houses; to why the powers needed to be divided across the branches; to the role of the president as the executive; to the details of how the judicial branch would be its own, distinct branch of government separate from the others is all covered in explicit detail in the latter half of the *The Federalist Papers*.

As a result, if you’re looking for a theorist to put in a chapter on political structures and institutions, AI’s your institutions go-to guy. In fact, he may not be the only one, but he is one of the few humanoids who ever wrote about the ideas behind institutions that were actually being created to transform the general structures of government into an approximation of the ideals of a government formed from something close to a blank slate.

<sup>a</sup> [Foundingfathers.info](http://Foundingfathers.info). [www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/fedindex.htm](http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/fedindex.htm).