

## "Shay it ain't so"

Listen to the ROOM 2B podcast **SHAYS REBELLION** at [mrreview.org](http://mrreview.org) and complete the following exercise. Be prepared to discuss with your classmates.

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using popular uprisings and protests in order to bring about political change?
2. Find five (5) different examples of street protests in your lifetime. Put them into a context. What were the grievances? How were they addressed?
3. When are popular uprisings a legitimate use of First Amendment rights? When are they illegitimate? Would the Shays Rebellion have been legitimate under your guidelines?
4. Read the scenario below taken and answer the prompts that follow:

According to Hamilton, "The fabric of American Empire ought to rest on the solid basis of THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE. The streams of national power ought to flow immediately from that pure original fountain of all legitimate authority." Madison says something similar when he defines a republic, such as the government created by the Constitution, as a type of rule "which derives all its power directly or indirectly from the great body of the people. " Madison said, "I believe in the name of the people." According to the Federalists, not only does all power emanate from the people, but the people can collectively alter the government at will. Consent, power from the people, the right of revolution: Is this not the vocabulary of democracy?

And yet the Federalists made it plain that they rejected "pure" democracy, if "pure" democracy can be defined as equality, participation, and community.

Excerpted from Joshua Miller, *The Ghostly Body Politics*, Political Theory, February 1988.

- A. Describe the main idea or essential claim.
- B. In the context of the scenario, explain how the claim discussed in (A) can be substantiated by using text from the U.S. Constitution.
- C. Explain how our new constitution addressed the fears emanating from the Shays Rebellion.