U.S. Government and Politics Federalist Papers Reading Assignment

“A nation without a national government is, in my view, an awful spectacle.”

–Alexander Hamilton, The Federalist Papers, No. 85

1. What were the Federalist Papers? Who wrote them and why were they needed?

Directions: Use the following link to access *the Federalist Papers*. Then, answer the questions below.

<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/fed.asp>

2. Federalist 10, James Madison

1. From your own experience, why do people segregate themselves into different groups? Is this harmful to society as a whole?
2. Madison claims that in democracies, the public good is disregarded. How?
3. According to Madison, what is a faction?
4. What are Madison’s two remedies for factions? Why is the first remedy not plausible?
5. What is the most common source of factions (why do they arise; does Madison echo Aristotle here?)
6. How does the Constitution and our Republic control factions?
7. From what you have read, what is Madison’s view of mankind?

3. Federalist 51, James Madison

1. What are the primary means by which we can prevent one department of government from concentrating too much power over the other departments?
2. Which branch of government dominates in a republic, and why is this essential?
3. What does this document explain about
   1. Separation of Powers
   2. Checks & Balances
   3. Federalism