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Pacificus-Helvidius Debates of 1793-1794: Toward the Completion of the American Founding (Paperback)

By Alexander Hamilton, James Madison

Liberty Fund Inc, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Pacificus-Helvidius Debates of 1793-1794 matched Hamilton and Madison in the first chapter of an enduring discussion about the proper roles of executive and legislative branches in the conduct of American foreign policy. Ignited by President Washington's Neutrality Proclamation of 1793, which annulled the eleventh article of America's Treaty with France of 1778, the debate addressed whether Washington had the authority to declare America neutral, despite an early alliance treaty with France. Hamilton argued that Washington's actions were constitutional and that friction between the two branches was an unavoidable, but not harmful, consequence of the separation of powers. Madison countered that Washington's proclamation would introduce new principles and new constructions into the Constitution and contended that the power to declare war and make treaties can never fall within the definition of executive powers. In the introduction, Morton Frisch asserts that the debate between Hamilton and Madison helped to clarify certain constitutional principles that we now associate with executive power generally such as that foreign policy is essentially an executive function. Yet it is the open-ended character...



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