“The Bill of Rights did not come from a desire to protect the liberties won in the American Revolution, but rather from a fear of the powers of the new federal government.”

Assess the validity of this statement.
The Bill of Rights did not come from a desire to protect the liberties won in the American Revolution, but rather from a fear of the powers of the new federal government.”

Assess the validity of this statement.
Meaning of Key Words & Phrases

- **Bill of Rights**: The first ten amendments that granted liberties to American citizens.
- “Fear of the powers”: the federal government would be too powerful.
- **New federal government**: Government created by the Constitution.
- **Assess**: Take a stand. One sided? Half and half?
- **Validity**: How accurate is the statement?
What is the Prompt Asking?

Do you agree or disagree with the statement and how accurate is the statement?

Our take: Although the Bill of Rights was created to protect individual rights, the main reason for its creation was the fear of the new federal government.
Outline

Key Points to Discuss

- Federalists
- Antifederalists
- Ratification and Compromise
Federalists

- Nationalists who wanted to ratify the Constitution and believed a stronger Federal government was needed.
- Main objectives were:
  - Collect taxes
  - Guarantee the recovery of debts
  - Maintain a standing army
- Main leaders were Madison, John Jay, and Hamilton
- Launched a political campaign supporting the proposed Constitution
  - Published documents and pamphlets
  - *The Federalist*
Antifederalists

- Opponents of the Constitution
- Rural democrats feared a powerful central government controlled by merchants and creditors would produce a new aristocracy.
- Pointed out the Constitution had no declaration of individual rights, which most state constitutions had.
- Wanted the nation to be a collection of small sovereign republics
- Some feared that new government would create a new centralized, disguised “monarch”.
- Main leaders were Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson.
  - Henry’s prediction: Constitution would re-create the worst features of British rule—high taxes, an oppressive bureaucracy, a standing army, and a “great and mighty” President.
Ratification Process and Compromise

- Conventions were held from December 1787 to June 1788
- Federalists persuaded delegates to ratify the Constitution by promising that the new government would consider a national guarantee of individual rights
- 19 amendments were submitted, 10 were ratified and became the Bill of Rights
WRITE YOUR OWN INTRODUCTION

5 MINUTES.
Include your thesis for the prompt.
PROMPT:
“ The Bill of Rights did not come from a desire to protect the liberties won in the American Revolution, but rather from a fear of the powers of the new federal government.”
Assess the validity of this statement.
Since the beginning, the conflicting parties of the Federalists and the Antifederalists sparked the major debate regarding the Constitution. With the stances of both parties opposing each other, the debate would not be easily settled. The main concern from the Antifederalists was they feared the Constitution would create a federal government that would be too strong. However, some American leaders were concerned about the liberties that were just fought for would be lost. The emerging fear of overwhelming control, and to a lesser extent the protection of individual liberties, resulted in a compromise and the establishment of the Bill of Rights.
THESIS: CHECKLIST

- The thesis statement presents an arguable statement which can be supported, is sufficiently limited, and is worth exploring.
- The thesis statement answers ALL parts of the question or the prompt.
- The thesis statement asserts a single controlling idea.
- The thesis statement is located somewhere in the introduction.
- The thesis statement reflects effective and precise language.