

Before we dismiss this point, it will be necessary to attend very particularly to one more fact relating to it. The sovereign power of altering and amending the constitution, or supreme law of the American confederacy, does not lie with this foederal legislature, whom some have erroneously apprehended to be supreme. That power, which is truly and evidently the real point of sovereignty, is vested in the several legislatures and [ratifying] conventions of the states, chosen by the people respectively within them.

Tench Coxe, *A Pennsylvanian to the Convention of the State of New York*, Jun. 11, 1788, reprinted in 20 THE DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, at 1139ff.