

7 Principles of Government reflected in the Constitution

WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, to insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Article I.

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Section 3. The Senate shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature of the State in which they shall sit, for six Years; and each Senator shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Section 4. The actual Enumeration of all Persons shall be done every third Year, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualification requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Section 5. The Senate shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, which shall not be increased during the Term for which they shall be chosen, and they shall, in any Case, hold their Offices during their Terms, unless they shall be sooner removed.

Section 7. The Congress shall assemble every second Year on the first Monday in December, but they may, by Law, alter the Time of holding the same.

Section 8. The Congress shall have the following Powers, which shall be exercised in common with the States, unless it is otherwise provided in this Constitution:—

Section 9. The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

Section 10. No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; enter into any War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of Delay.

Popular Sovereignty



The power of the government resides with the people. The People are the true source of power.



Republicanism

A republic is a form of government where people vote for their elected officials who make laws and govern for the people.

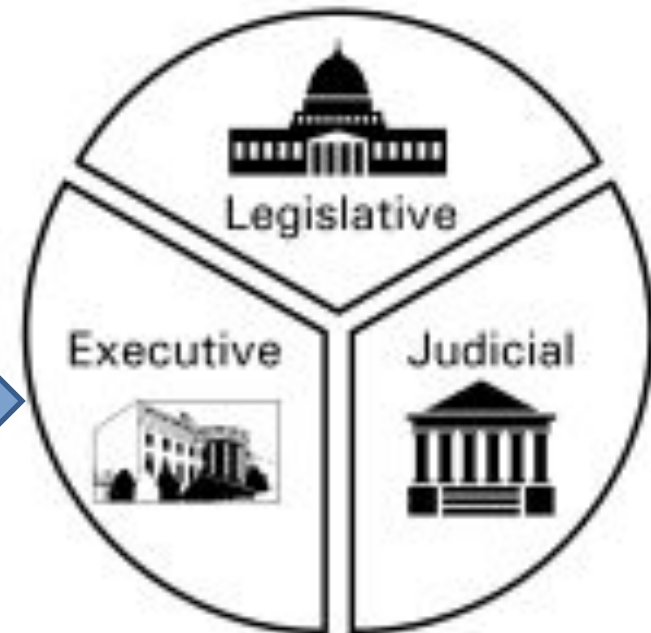


Separation of Powers



Power is separated into three, co-equal branches (Legislative, Executive, Judicial), each with their own defined roles.

This idea of separating power is from the French philosopher Charles de Montesquieu!



Checks and Balances



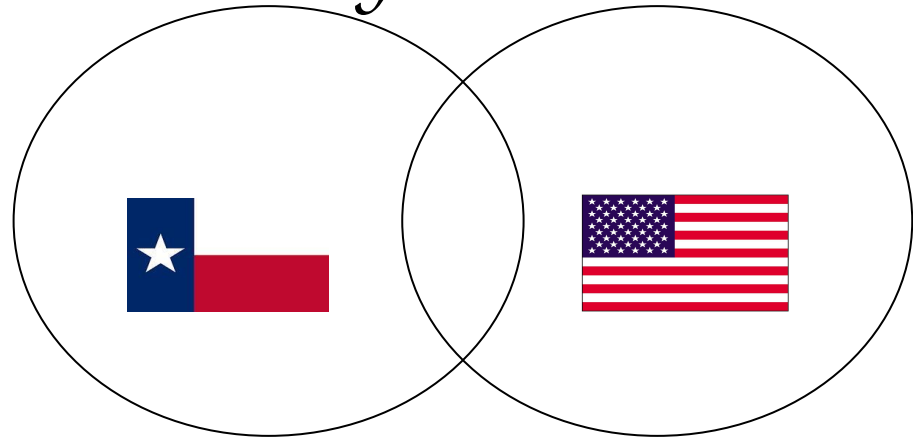
Each branch of government has a way to limit the power of the other two branches so that power stays balanced among the three branches.



Federalism



The powers of government are shared between the federal government and state governments, although certain powers belong only to the federal government and some only to the states.



Limited Government



There are limits to the power of the government, and no elected official is considered, “above the law”

This concept of “limits” on government comes from an ancient British document called the Magna Carta signed in 1215 limiting the power of the King!



Individual Rights



People have rights that the government must protect. These rights are enumerated (listed) in the Bill of Rights

Many of our rights protected in the Bill of Rights correct grievances in the Declaration of Independence.

