



The Six Big Ideas of the Constitution

Limited Government
Separation of Power
Checks and Balances
Republicanism
Federalism
Popular Sovereignty



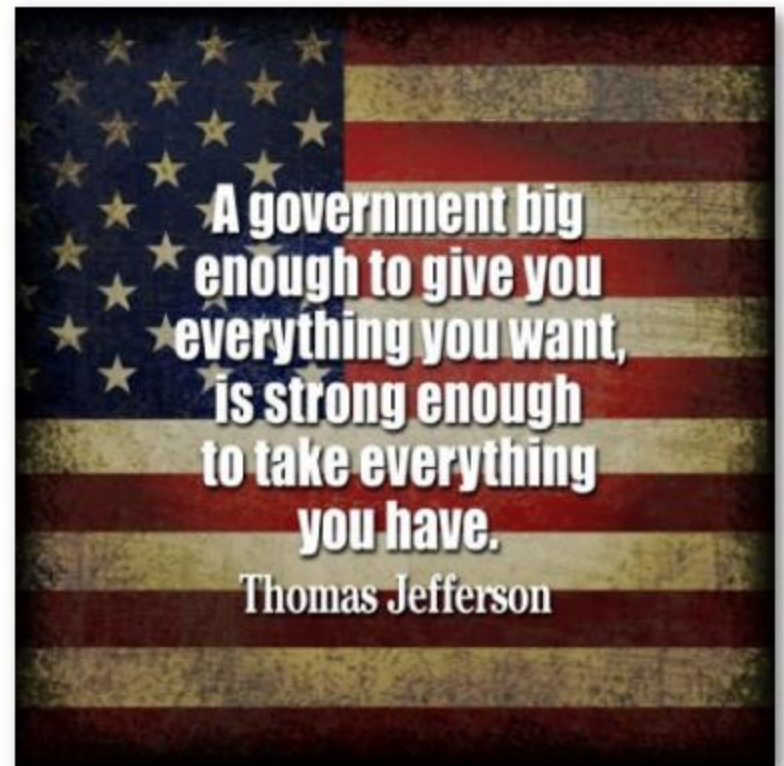
The Constitution Introduced

- The United States Constitution was signed September 17th, 1787
 - Individual states then had to ratify constitution
- It is only around 4,400 words
 - It is the oldest and shortest constitution of any major country



Limited Government

- A political system in which legalized force is restricted through **delegated** and **enumerated** powers
 - Powers specifically given to government





Reasoning:

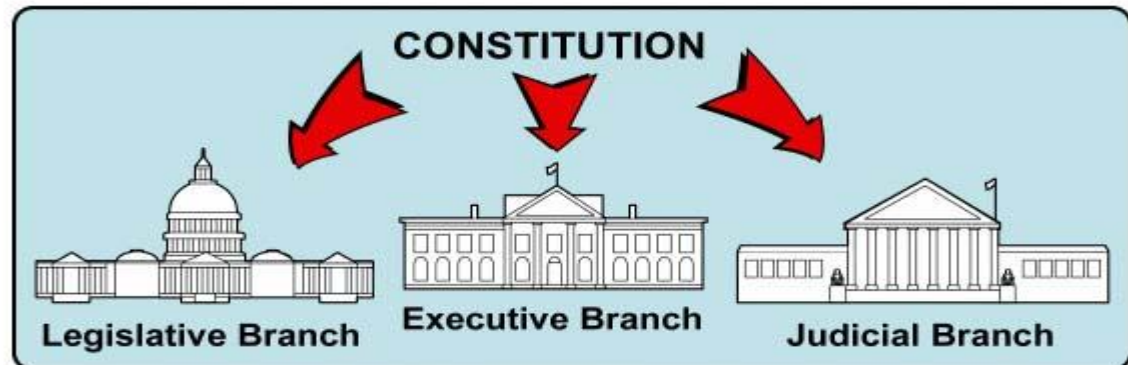
- People are the source of governments power, the government only has as much power as the people give it





Separation of Power

- Power is divided between the three Branches of government
 - Executive (President)
 - Judicial (Supreme Court)
 - Legislative (House of Representatives and Senate)





Reasoning:

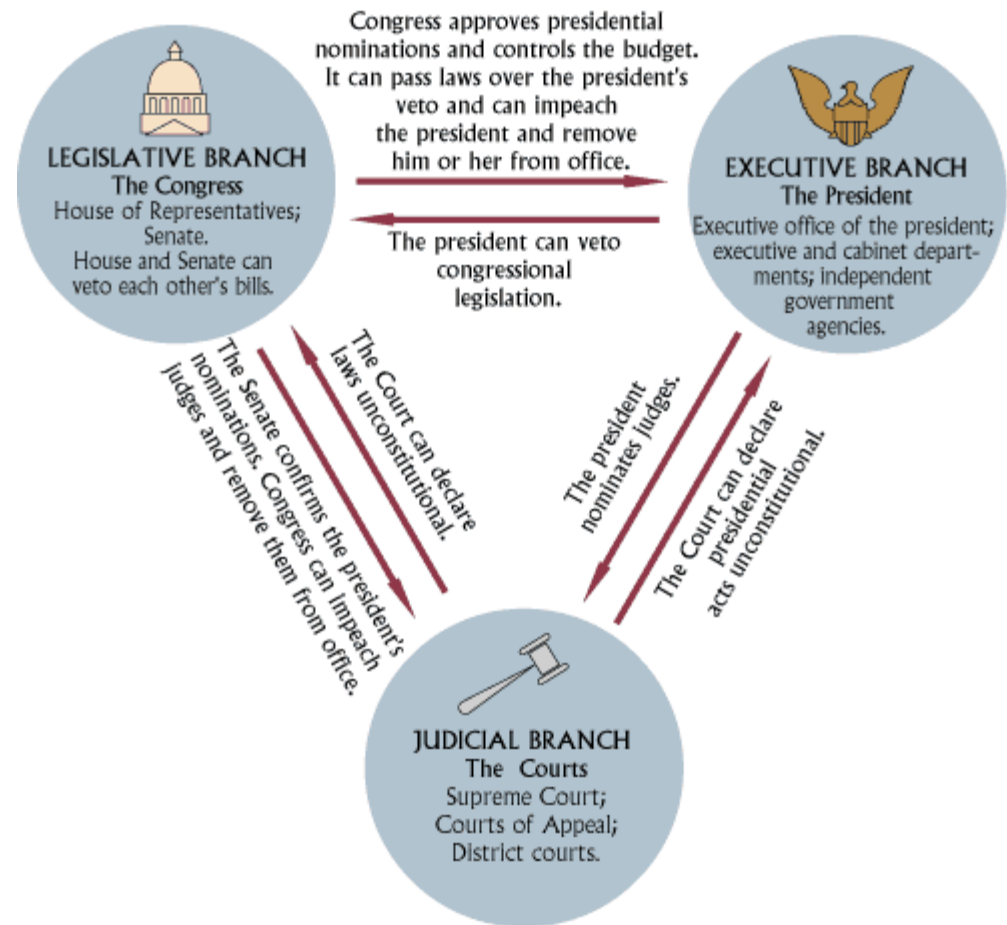
- The Founding Fathers did not want one branch to be able to become too powerful and controlling.





Checks and Balances

- Each branch has the ability to restrain by amending or vetoing the acts of the other two branches.

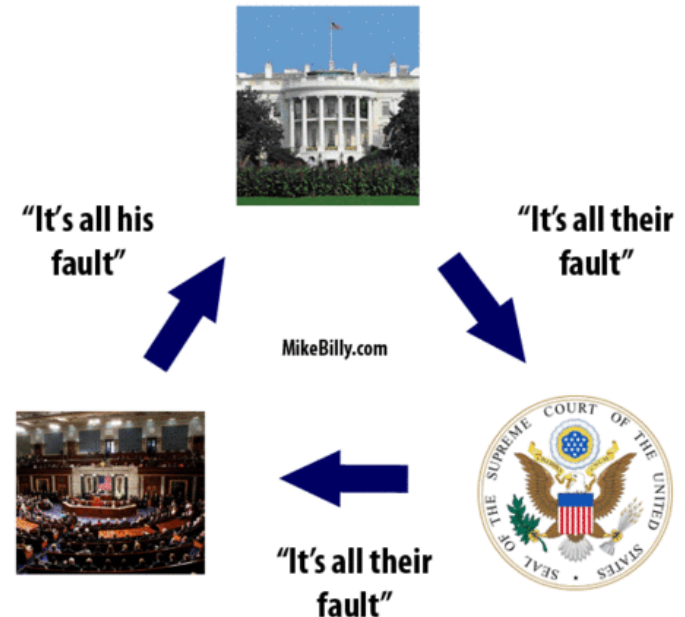




Reasoning:

- This makes the government much less efficient, but also prevents one branch from gaining power over the other two.

Checks and Balances





Republicanism

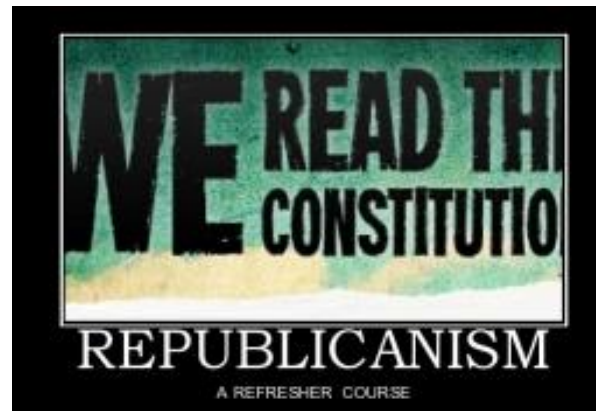
- A form of government in which leaders are elected for a specific group of people for a specific amount of time, and laws are passed to benefit all not just a select few.





Reasoning:

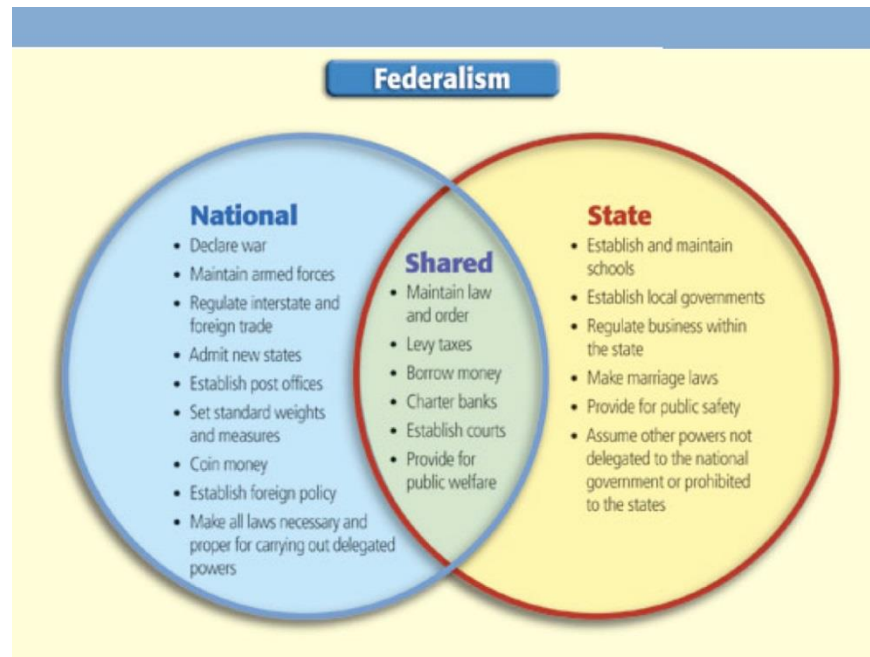
- The entire country will not have the same beliefs and each other
- By limiting term limits it makes the government more responsive to the will of the people





Federalism

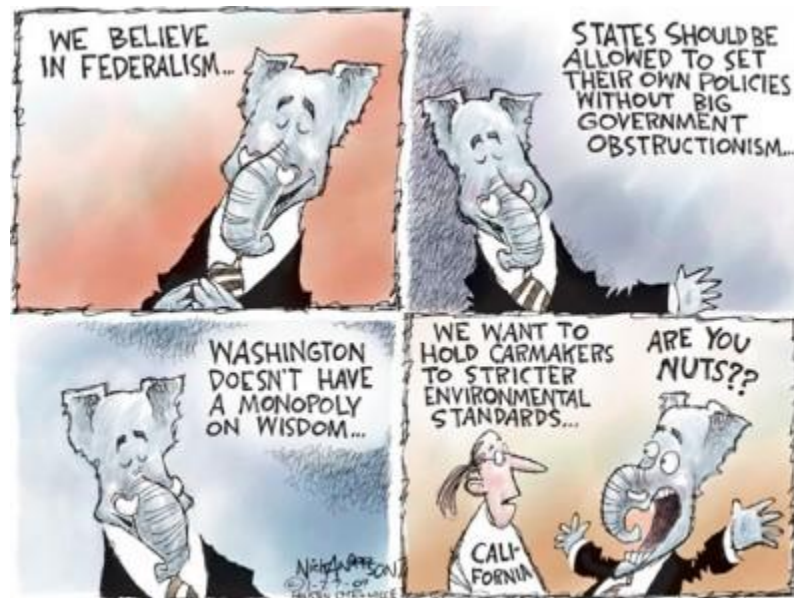
- Power is divided between a central government, and smaller, local governments





Reasoning:

- Allows central government to be powerful enough to be effective
- Allows states governments to handle local issues





Popular Sovereignty

- The Government is created at the will of the people





Reasoning

- What the people give, can also be taken away

