

US History Guided Notes

Principles of the Constitution



The U.S. Constitution prevents _____ by placing limits on government power.

The Constitution limits government in three ways:

<i>The federal government has to share power with state governments.</i>	<i>No one person or group within the federal government has complete control.</i>	<i>The scope of government is restricted to protect the rights of the people.</i>
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Federalism is the division of power between a central government and _____ governments. This limits the federal government's power because it has to share power with state governments. Many nations across the world have federal governments, including Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and Australia.

Constitutional division of power between the federal government and state governments:

_____ Powers	_____ Powers	_____ Powers
<i>Powers given to the federal government</i>	<i>Powers shared by both levels of government</i>	<i>Powers kept by the states and the people</i>

Who wrote *The Spirit of the Laws*? _____

Montesquieu advocated for the Separation of Powers between three branches of government:

_____ Branch	_____ Branch	_____ Branch
(Congress)	(President)	(Supreme Court)
_____ Laws	_____ Laws	_____ Laws

In addition to separation of powers, Montesquieu advocated a system of _____ and balances so that each branch of government would have ways of making sure that the other branches don't abuse their power.

The most famous example of checks and balances is the president's ability to _____ legislation, which gives the president a check on the legislative branch.

Congress can check the power of the president by holding _____ hearings when the president nominates people to the cabinet, the federal bench, or other high offices.

Once they are confirmed, federal _____ serve for life unless they are removed from office by the impeachment process.

Checks and Balances

Powers of the Government	Which Branch Has the Power?	Branch(es) Checked?
Create and pass legislation.		
Veto bills.		
Ratify treaties.		
Appoint Federal judges.		
Impeach federal officials.		
Confirm presidential appointments.		
Declare laws unconstitutional.		
Override Presidential Vetoes.		
Judges are appointed for life.		
Appropriate Money.		

The Bill of Rights protects the rights of the _____ and the _____ from being violated by the federal government.

The original Constitution (did / did not) include a Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights includes the first _____ Amendments to the Constitution.

These amendments include:

Amendment I	
Amendment II	
Amendment IV	
Amendment X	

