Federalism

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3 types of governmental systems

• Unitary system

• Federal system

• Confederal system
Federal System

State or regional government → Central Government → Citizens

Central Government → State or regional government → Citizens

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Confederal System

State or regional government

Central Government

State or regional government

Citizens

Citizens
Disadvantages of Federalism:

- States and local governments can block important national policies such as civil rights
- Allows the power of local interests to go unchecked
- Allows for big variations in how people are treated
- States and local governments may lack the necessary expertise and money to accomplish important goals
Advantages of Federalism

• Allows for big variations in terms of how people are treated

• States can become “laboratories of democracy”

• Federalism enhances political participation
  • Therefore, it can increase “political efficacy”
Federalism: The Great Debate

- National Standards versus Local Discretion

- Examples?
Federalism and the Founders

• Nation-Centered (Federalist Perspective)

• State-Centered (Anti-Federalist Perspective)
McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)

• The Issues

• Significance?
The Anti-Federalist Perspective

• States’ Rights & John C. Calhoun

• The Doctrine of Nullification

• Implications?
Evolution of Federalism

• Dual Federalism (1865-1933)
  • Role of the Great Depression
  • FDR and the "New Deal"

• Cooperative Federalism (1933-1960)
  • Escalating perception of poor state performance
Fiscal Federalism

- Categorical Grants

- Block Grants
  - Example: Community Development Block Grant

- General Revenue Sharing
Other Concepts

- Morton Grodzins: Marble cake versus layer cake theory

- Unfunded Mandates