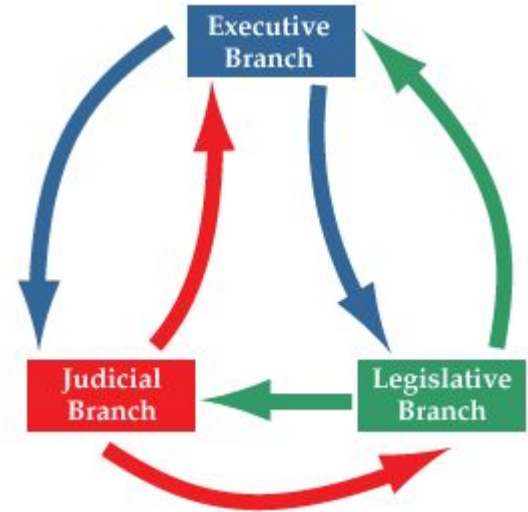


# Founding Principles of the Constitution

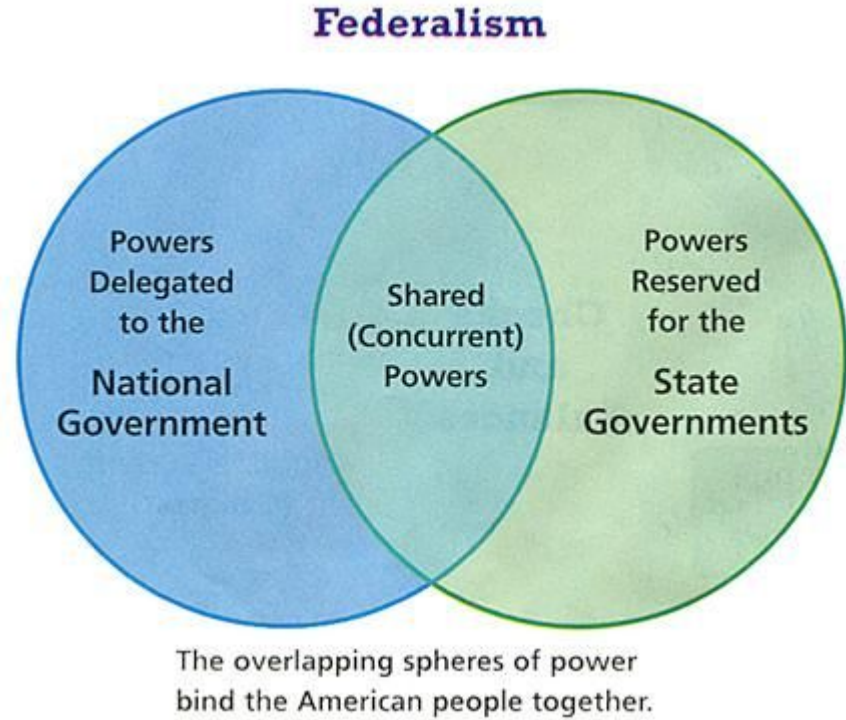
# Checks and Balances

- Definition – Each of the 3 branches of government has a little control, or check, on the other 2 branches.
- This balances power between the 3, ensuring that none of the branches get out of control.
- Example – Federal judges are nominated by the President, but have to be approved by Congress.



# Federalism

- **Definition-** A system of government in which political authority is divided between a national (or federal) government, and its political subdivisions (such as states).



# Federalism & the Constitution

The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land (National Supremacy Clause)

The Federal Government has implied powers from the necessary & proper clause or “elastic clause” (ex: create a national bank)

The Federal Government has expressed powers specifically granted in the Constitution (tax, regulate commerce, declare war, etc.)

The 10th Amendment reserves powers to the states (ex: education, law enforcement, etc.)

# Two Kinds of Federalism

## Dual Federalism (1789-1932)

- Federal and state governments are co-equals, each sovereign
- Narrow interpretation of the Constitution
- Federal government only has jurisdiction if clear expressed in the Constitution (ex: coin money, foreign affairs)
- State have greater role and powers (ex: public education, race relations)

## Cooperative Federalism (1933-present)

- National government clearly supreme over the states with wide interpretation of the **“necessary and proper clause”** (Article I, Sect. 8 of the Constitution, also known as the **“elastic clause.”**)
- Federal government intervenes or assists in some areas traditionally left to the states (ex: education, health care, civil rights)
- Began with the New Deal in the 1930s



DANZIGER  
NYTS/CWS Sep 6 2005 (2513)

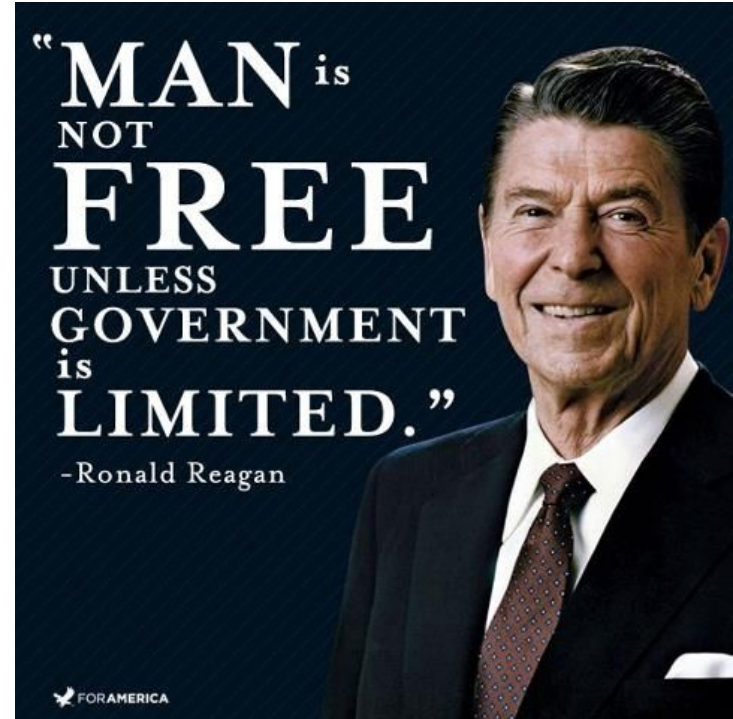
# Individual Rights

- Definition – Personal liberties and privileges that people are born with and can not be taken away.
- The Bill of Rights, the first Ten Amendments, was created to list out all of these rights so people know when the governments tries to take them away.



# Limited Government

- Definition – Everybody has to follow the same laws, even members of the government.
- If a Representative killed a man, he would face a trial just like everybody else.





# Popular Sovereignty

- Definition – A government in which the people rule
- This means they participate by voting.
- Example – People can run for office, campaign for individuals who run, or protest decisions made by others.



# Republicanism

- Definition – People vote for people to represent their views. (Representative Government)
- You can't have the whole population vote on everything, so you vote on people who share similar beliefs and allow them to vote.



# Separation of Powers

- Definition – Divides the roles of government into 3 branches, Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.
- Why? So that one person or one group of people do not control everything and become too powerful.

