

Constitutionalism & Federalism

6 Basic Principles of the **Constitution:**

1. Popular Sovereignty

The people are the only source of political power

The Government can only govern w/ the consent of the people.

2. Limited Government

No Government is All powerful. This principle is often referred to as “Constitutionalism” (rule of law)

3. Separation of Powers

Distributing the powers of government to 3 separate branches. (Legislative etc.....)

4. Checks and Balances

Each branch may check the power of the others. Many examples: presidential veto, presidential appointment of Judges w/ Senate approval

5. Judicial Review

The power of the court system to determine the constitutionality of a law or government action.

6. Federalism

The division of governmental power (on a territorial basis) b/t a central government and regional governments.