

Government Terms

Limited Government: In a limited government everyone, including all authority figures, must obey the laws.

Checks and Balances: The U.S. Constitution authorizes each branch of government to share its powers with the other branches and thereby check their activities and power.

Federalism: The distribution of power between a federal government and the states within a union.

Separation of Powers: Each branch of government is given an equal set of powers, which are limited, or checked by the other branches of government.

Popular Sovereignty: Political power rests with the people who can create, alter, and abolish government by voting.

Individual Rights: in a democratic culture, human beings are born with certain unalienable rights, which governments should preserve and protect. In our Constitution, these rights are found in the first 10 amendments, or the Bill of Rights.

Judicial Branch: interprets the laws

Legislative Branch: makes the laws

Executive Branch: carries out laws