

FEDERALISM: A system of government where two (or more) governments operate simultaneously over the same territory each with separate rights powers and responsibilities.

1. A relationship that has changed over time in terms of the the balance of power each governmental unit holds.
2. Contrasts with a *confederation* (where the sub national units dominate) and a *unitary system* (where sub national governments really only exist to serve the needs of the national government.)
3. There are multiple nations that are federal in nature (Mexico, Canada) and multiple unitary systems (most of Western Europe).
4. These forms are not linked to democracy or capitalism, but reflect distinct national conditions. A common reason for federal systems is large geographic size and diverse populations.

ERAS OF FEDERALISM

Dual Federalism: Distinct and separate state and national governments

Cooperative Federalism: Some sharing of duties, roles and powers

Marble Cake Federalism: Inseparable mixing of duties and roles

Creative Federalism: Johnson Administration attempt to incorporate non-governmental actors into program decisionmaking. Centralized power in national government.

New Federalism: Nixon (and later Reagan) Administration attempt to strengthen state and local government roles. Returned some power to lower level governments.

FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN FEDERALISM:

- Expanded interstate commerce (brings increased federal role through “commerce” clause)
- Court Interpretations (McCulloch, “necessary and proper” clause)
- Public demands for increased services
- Constitutional changes (14th and 16th Amendments)

Creeping Centralization: belief that power has become concentrated in Washington, D.C. at the expense of the states.

FORMS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

PREEMPTION: monopoly of a policy area by a given level of government (constitution)

GRANTS –IN- AID

MANDATES: Direct orders that prohibit or require particular types of action

CROSS-CUTTING REQUIREMENTS: A condition of one act (mandate) that applies to all other programs using federal funds

CROSS-OVER SANCTIONS: Sanctions applied in one area for failure to comply with certain conditions in another area.

PARTIAL PREEMPTION: National government allows states/locals to administer program within established criteria.