

Constitutional Interpretations of Federalism

Explain how the appropriate balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted differently over time.

1. Federalism has had all of the following natural results EXCEPT

- a. Creation of dual sovereignty
- b. Centralized power
- c. Encouraged efficacy
- d. Provided a safeguard to individual liberty

2. Assessing the distribution of power in American government invariably involves familiarity with technical terms. All of the following terms are matched correctly EXCEPT

- a. Decentralized powers – exclusive power given to the President
- b. Delegated powers – given exclusively to the national government
- c. Concurrent powers – shared between national and state governments
- d. Reserved powers – given exclusively to the state governments

3. Reserved powers, powers retained by the states, were given Constitutional authority in which amendment?

- a. First
- b. Second
- c. Fifth
- d. Tenth

4. Political scientists have like to use metaphors to explain the unique relationships developed by federalism in American government and politics. Which of the following metaphors has been used most often?

- a. Layer cake
- b. Marble cake
- c. Angel food cake
- d. Fruit cake

5. The story of American government is a story of national aggrandizement. What does this mean?

- a. The national government has grown in power at the expense of state and local governments
- b. State and local governments have grown in power at the expense of the national government
- c. Federalism no longer exists
- d. Governmental legitimacy has been replaced with national authority

6. Which of the following Supreme Court cases provided the seminal interpretation for the following language found in the U.S. Constitution?

“This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.”

U.S. Constitution Article 6, Section 2

- a. Marbury v. Madison (1803)
- b. McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
- c. Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)
- d. Barron v. Baltimore (1833)

7. The following language found in the U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8, has often been called the elastic clause. How has it impacted government over time?

“...To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.”
 U.S. Constitution Article 1, Section 8

- a. Clearly defined the parameters of the enumerated powers
- b. Clearly defined the parameters of the concurrent powers
- c. Clearly defined the parameters of the reserved powers
- d. Allowed the national government to grow in its power and authority

8. Historical events along with immediate crises often serve as seminal turning points in the allocation of government power. All of the following events helped to centralize power in the U.S. government EXCEPT

- a. The Great Depression
- b. World War II
- c. Devolution in the 1980s
- d. The attacks on 9/11

9. In this case the Supreme Court ruled the Gun-Free School Zones Act went beyond what the Constitution’s commerce clause could allow. For the first time since the New Deal the Court limited the scope and reach of the Commerce Clause.

- a. Mapp v. Ohio (1961)
- b. Miranda v. Arizona (1966)
- c. Roe v. Wade (1973)
- d. U.S. v. Lopez (1990)

10. “After a third of a century of power flowing from the people and the States to Washington it is time for a New Federalism in which power, funds, and responsibility will flow from Washington to the States and to the people...For the first time, applying the principles of the New Federalism, administration of a major established Federal program would be turned over to the States and local governments, recognizing that they are in a position to do the job better.”

Excerpted from a Presidential Address to the Nation, August 8, 1969.

Using the text above and what you already know what political party today would most likely advocate for the main argument stated here?

- a. Democrat Party
- b. Republican Party
- c. Green Party
- d. Libertarian

11. Using the text above and what you already know what concept below best serves as a synonym for New Federalism?

- a. Devolution
- b. Reserved Powers
- c. Marble Cake Federalism
- d. Holocracy