

Relationship Between States and the Federal Government

Explain how societal needs affect the constitutional allocation of power between national and state governments.

1. A fundamental question we as a representative democracy have had to answer since our inception is

- a. How strong should our central government be?
- b. How many states should we have?
- c. Should we have a king or a parliament?
- d. Should our Supreme Court be the least dangerous branch?

2. Which of the following best defines federalism?

- a. The separation of power between national, state and local governments
- b. The separation between legislative, executive and judicial branches
- c. The separation between foreign and domestic policy
- d. The separation between church and state

3. The discussion over the allocation of government power throughout our political history can best be summarized as

- a. A settled debate
- b. A contentious debate
- c. A one-sided debate
- d. Never truly debated

4. What did Thomas Jefferson mean when he stated: "The Constitution belongs to the living and not to the dead"?

- a. The Constitution should be rewritten by every generation
- b. Each and every citizen should uniquely personalize the constitution
- c. Meanings and interpretations evolve with time
- d. Meanings and interpretations are rooted in original contexts

5. All of the following have been used to negotiate the balance of power between national and state governments EXCEPT

- a. Interpretations of the Tenth Amendment
- b. Interpretations of the Fourteenth Amendment
- c. The Commerce Clause
- d. Federal Reserve white papers

6. In Franklin Roosevelt's Second Inaugural Address he stated:

We of the Republic sensed the truth that democratic government has innate capacity to protect its people against disasters once considered inevitable, to solve problems once considered unsolvable. We would not admit that we could not find a way to master economic epidemics just as, after centuries of fatalistic suffering, we had found a way to master epidemics of disease. We refused to leave the problems of our common welfare to be solved by the winds of chance and the hurricanes of disaster.

What was President Roosevelt essentially saying?

- a. Good governments solve problems
- b. Good governments should acknowledge their limitations
- c. Good governments are characterized by their reliance on precedent
- d. Good governments first and foremost protect elite interests

7. Franklin Roosevelt's words above can literally be seen in this example

- a. Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)
- b. The Federal Reserve System
- c. The American Dairy Association
- d. The creation of a bicameral legislature

8. All of the following have proven to limit the natural aggrandizement of the central government EXCEPT

- a. The rule of law
- b. Election results
- c. Activist judges
- d. Global privatization

9. The emergence of a movement to legalize marijuana at the state level provides an example of

- a. The persistent tension over where government power is best suited
- b. The settled debate over where government power is found
- c. The negligible authority that still remains at the state level
- d. The authoritative role played by national governments

10. Using what you have learned, what constitutional provision do you suppose legitimized the passage of The Controlled Substances Act (1970) which authorized the national government to preside over a vast drug policy?

- a. Free faith and credit clause
- b. The interstate commerce clause
- c. The necessary and proper clause
- d. Tenth Amendment

Critical Thinking Prompt

Are there certain issues that state and local governments are better equipped to handle? Explain.