





FEDERALISM



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Federalism is the system of government in America in which power is shared between the national government and individual **STATES**.

America's original form of government, under the Articles of Confederation, ultimately failed because it made the **FEDERAL** government too weak.



One of the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation was that Congress did not have the power to enforce national laws and collect **TAXES** to help pay back its debt from the Revolutionary War.



In order to protect the LIBERTY of its citizens, the Founders created a system of federalism where power is divided up at different levels of government, so no level becomes too powerful.



The 14th Amendment ensures that states and local governments must generally respect the rights listed in the **BILL OF RIGHTS**, affirming that the Constitution is the "supreme law of the land."



PROPERTY LAW is an area in which states are mainly in charge.



As listed explicitly in the Constitution, **COMMON DEFENSE** is a responsibility of the federal government, but **EDUCATION** is not.