| **Ideals and Principles of American Government** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Consent of the Governed** | * Government exercises power because the people allow it to * “Consent” takes the form of voting * The people rule through elected representatives |
|  | **Limited Government** | * A government that has been limited in power by a constitution, or written agreement |
|  | **Federalism** | * Power is shared between national and state governments * The national government has delegated and implied powers   + Delegated powers are listed in the Constitution   + Implied Powers are those that are reasonable to carry out (i.e. the “Necessary and Proper Clause”, Article 1, section 8, clause 18) and allow the national government to STRETCH its power to do what is necessary and proper to carry out its delegated responsibilities. * State governments have reserved powers (i.e. all powers not specifically granted to the national government are reserved for the states) |
|  | **Separation Of Powers** | * Government is divided into multiple “branches” * Each branch has a role in the process of governing without having total authority   + Legislative Branch (Congress): makes laws (Article I)   + Executive Branch (President): enforces and carries out laws (Article II)   + Judicial Branch (Courts): interprets the meaning and limits of laws (Article III) |
|  | **Checks And Balances** | * Each branch has some power over the other two branches, allowing each to keep the other branches “in check” and prevent any one branch from accumulating too much power |
|  | **All people are created equal** | * Though we are all born into different circumstances with different abilities, no one is better than or has more natural rights than anyone else |

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