



# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **7th Grade** | Unit 9

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 709

## The Economics and Politics of our State

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# The Economics and Politics of our State

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## Introduction

We are all citizens of one state or another. Each of the fifty states of the Union has a government. As citizens of those fifty states we should try to understand as much as possible the workings of those state governments. This LIFE PAC® is designed to serve that end. Since all the states are different from one another, only a general coverage is practical here. We can, however, study this material and acquire a better knowledge of the particular state in which we live. Let us prayerfully consider our duties as Christian citizens. Let us seek to learn the facts contained herein so that we may better serve our country and our God.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Explain the background of state government.
2. Describe the structure of state government.
3. Discuss the significance of state spending.
4. Enumerate the types and meaning of state taxes.
5. Relate to taxes as a Christian citizen.
6. Explain and evaluate state borrowing.
7. Describe state political parties.
8. Differentiate between liberals and conservatives.
9. Discuss the elements of political power.

Survey the LIFE PAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study and write your questions here.

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# 1. STATE GOVERNMENT

In this section we shall consider the background and structure of state government. By background we mean the history of how states came to be and how they came to have the kind of government we find in the United States

of America. By structure we mean the way in which the various states have set up their governing bodies. This discussion should give us a better understanding of how state government works.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Explain the background of state government.
2. Describe the structure of state government.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.**

**bill** (bil). A proposed law presented to a lawmaking body for its approval.

**confederacy** (kun fed' ur u sē). A union of countries or states.

**derive** (di rī v'). Obtain from a source; get; receive.

**nullification** (nul u fu kā ' shun). The act of making null; canceling; voiding.

**ratify** (rat' u fī). To confirm; approve.

**sovereign** (sov' run). Independent of the control of another government.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rŭle; child; long; thin; /ʃh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

## BACKGROUND

The basic political unit in the United States is the state. The state has a unique function in the American system of government because of the way the nation developed. Remember that thirteen independent colonies united in a relatively loose organization or **confederacy** to fight the British. After victory was secured, the purpose of this union had been served. Each colony was a **sovereign** entity again. They were really thirteen separate countries.

At the end of the war, a very weak government was set up based upon what were called the

*Articles of Confederation.* This government was basically a continuation of the old Continental Congress that had led the war for independence. The former colonies retained most of their independent character.

The situation was quite awkward. Congress could not collect taxes but had to ask the states for money. The Articles of Confederation were really more of a treaty between sovereign, independent states than of a unified government.



| Independence Hall – Birthplace of the Constitution

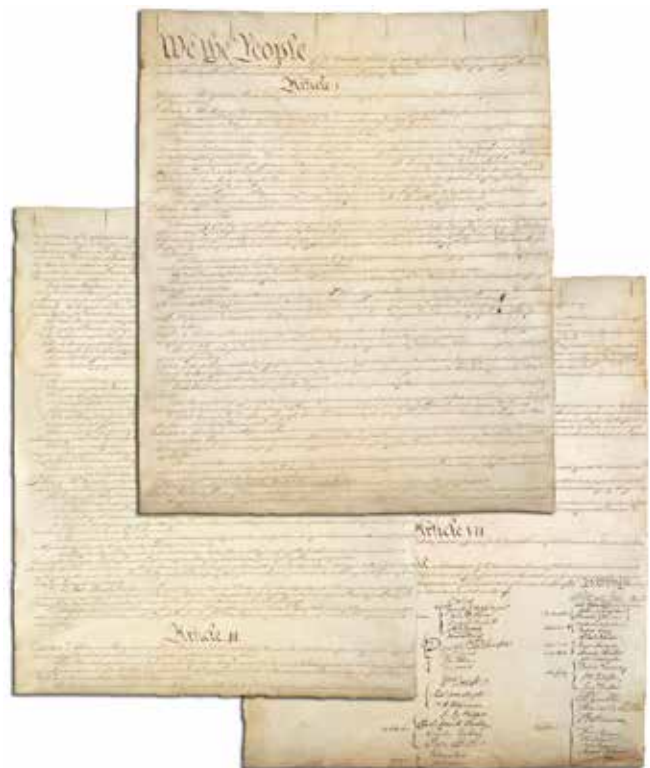
The Constitution was drafted in an effort to strengthen the national government. In fact, the original purpose of what is now called the Constitutional Convention was to revise the Articles, not to draft a new document. The drafting of a new Constitution was a radical departure from the legal purpose of the Convention. That fact is probably one reason that the deliberations were held behind closed doors.

The new *United States Constitution* was signed in 1787 and was completely **ratified** in 1790. The last state to ratify was Rhode Island. It did so on May 29, 1790.

Although the present Constitution greatly expands the power of the federal government, its assumption is that all powers not given to the national government belong to the states or to the people. Federal authority is conceived of as a **derived** authority. The national

government is the United States government. However, its authority and power to exist are derived from the authority already held by the states themselves. The derived nature of federal authority is the reason that state governments look upon themselves as being independent of the national government.

One of the major issues of United States history has been the rightful extent of federal authority and whether the states are allowed to oppose unlawful extensions of federal power. War was declared in 1812 between the United States and England. Most New England federalists opposed the war. Several New England states refused to participate in any way other than by mounting a defense against invasion. The General Assembly of Connecticut in the Connecticut Resolves declared “that the State of Connecticut is a Free, Sovereign, and Independent state; that the United States are a confederacy of States; that we are a confederated and not a consolidated Republic.” The legislators



| The Constitution of the United States

wanted their independence from the national government.

Several New England states also opposed the Embargo Act of 1814, which sought to stop all shipping and other commercial activity in United States waters. The legislatures of these states refused to comply with the federal law. They were using the principle of *interposition*. By this term is meant the use of state sovereignty to block enforcement of a federal law that the state considers unconstitutional. The state interposes its authority over that of the federal government. The principle was first set forth in the Virginia Resolution of 1798:

*“That this Assembly doth explicitly and peremptorily declare, that it views the powers of the federal government, as resulting from the compact, to which the states are parties, as limited by the plain sense and intention of the instrument constituting that compact; as no further valid than they are authorized by the grants enunciated in that compact; and that in case of a deliberate, palpable, and dangerous exercise of other powers, not granted by the said compact, the States who are parties thereto, have the right, and are in duty bound, to interpose for arresting the progress of the evil, and for maintaining within their respective limits, the authorities, rights, and liberties appertaining to them.”*

Ironically, the author of the Virginia Resolution was James Madison. During his presidency the New England states would invoke the doctrine of interposition against federal measures related to the War of 1812.

An extension of the principle of interposition was **nullification**. This term meant that a state could declare a federal law null and void within its borders. Although the New England states had also used this principle at the time of the War of 1812, nullification was chiefly associated with the views of John C. Calhoun, a senator from South Carolina. He wrote:

*“The right of interposition, thus solemnly asserted by the state of Virginia, be it called what it may—State-right, veto, nullification, or by any other name—I conceive to be the fundamental principle of our system, resting on facts historically as certain as our revolution itself, and deductions as simple and demonstrative as that of any political or moral truth whatever; and I firmly believe that on its recognition depend the stability and safety of our political institutions...”*

Eventually, Southerners who believed as Calhoun did would accept the doctrine of *secession* which said that a state had the right to leave the Union if it thought that the Union had violated its rights. Others disagreed, saying no state could disobey a federal law, much less break the Union. The issue was settled in blood. The Civil War was won by the Union and the door was closed to secession. This war created no legal solution to the problem; the question was simply eliminated by force.

However, the issue of state sovereignty remains, even though no one talks of secession. How sovereign are the states? What is the legitimate extent of federal authority? The question is now largely left to the courts, which consider each issue separately. The trend has been a diminishing of state sovereignty and an increase in federal power.

This increase in federal power at the expense of the state does not mean that state sovereignty does not exist today. State governments are still pursuing their own courses. They do not consult with Washington concerning actions. States' rights, though diminished, are still with us and play a large role in shaping the character of the United States system.

One cannot understand either state government or federal government without a basic comprehension of the original sovereignty of the state governments and the derived sovereignty of the national government. This system of government is unique to the United States.

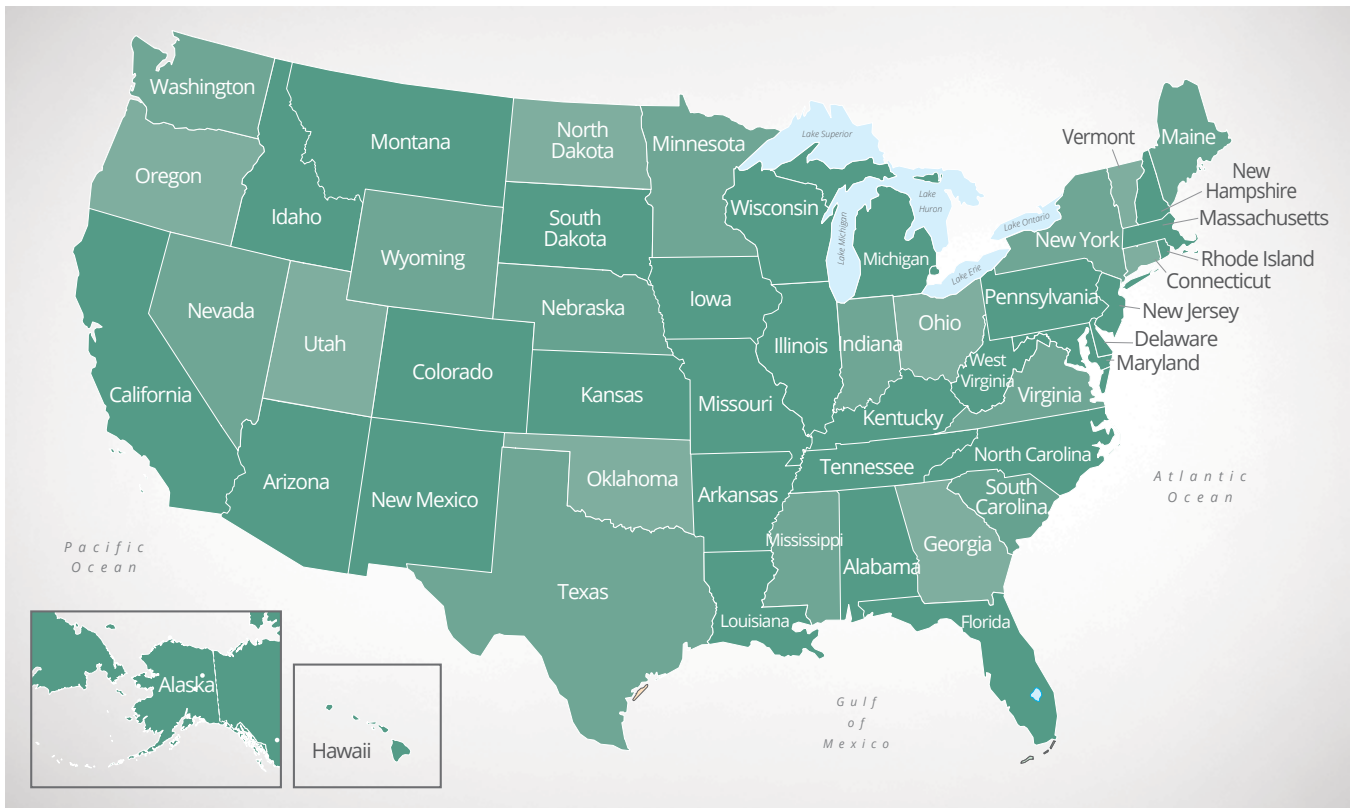


The term *state* can mean several things. It may refer to general conditions in a certain context: for example, “the state of the weather” or “the state of the roads.” It may be used as a synonym for government or the body politic. Some will speak of the growth of state power or the extension of the state into every area of life; in these cases, what is meant is the government in general.

For the purposes of this LIFE PAC, the term *state* refers to the basic units of United States government. A state is roughly similar to the provinces that compose some other countries, but

it differs from them because of the historical background we have just discussed. The United States is composed of fifty states. The reason that the state is referred to as the basic unit of government is twofold. First, the United States government derives its authority from the states. This assumption implies that the states have a built-in sovereignty. Second, the state government is the creator of all other levels of government. It is, therefore, the central unit.

The following map is a map of the fifty states. Can you find your state? What is the name of your state? What states border your state?



| The United States of America



### Match the following terms.

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1.1 _____ bill          | a. obtain from a source; get; receive                            |
| 1.2 _____ confederacy   | b. a union of countries or states                                |
| 1.3 _____ derive        | c. independent of the control of another government              |
| 1.4 _____ nullification | d. the act of making null; canceling; voiding                    |
| 1.5 _____ ratify        | e. to confirm; approve   |
| 1.6 _____ sovereign     | f. a proposed law presented to a lawmaking body for its approval |

### Write the letter of the correct answer on the line.

- 1.7 The basic political unit in America is the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. federal government                      b. democracy  
 c. county                                      d. state
- 1.8 How many independent colonies did the United States originally have when they banded together to fight the British? \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. fifty                      b. thirteen                      c. five                      d. sixteen
- 1.9 The Articles of Confederation were basically a continuation of the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. revolutionary army                      b. Continental Congress  
 c. English Parliament
- 1.10 Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress could not collect its own \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. taxes                      b. laws                      c. statutes                      d. amendments
- 1.11 Rather than a government, the Articles were more like a \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. club                      b. state                      c. treaty                      d. right-to work law
- 1.12 The Constitution was drafted in an effort to strengthen the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. state government                      b. national government  
 c. regional government                      d. county government
- 1.13 The original purpose of the Constitutional Convention was to \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. revise the Articles of Confederation                      b. write a new Constitution  
 c. elect a president                      d. none of the above
- 1.14 The Constitution was signed in \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. 1885                      b. 1776                      c. 1787                      d. 1607
- 1.15 The Constitution assumes that all powers not specifically granted to the \_\_\_\_\_ national government are retained by the people or the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. Congress                      b. counties                      c. states                      d. Supreme Court

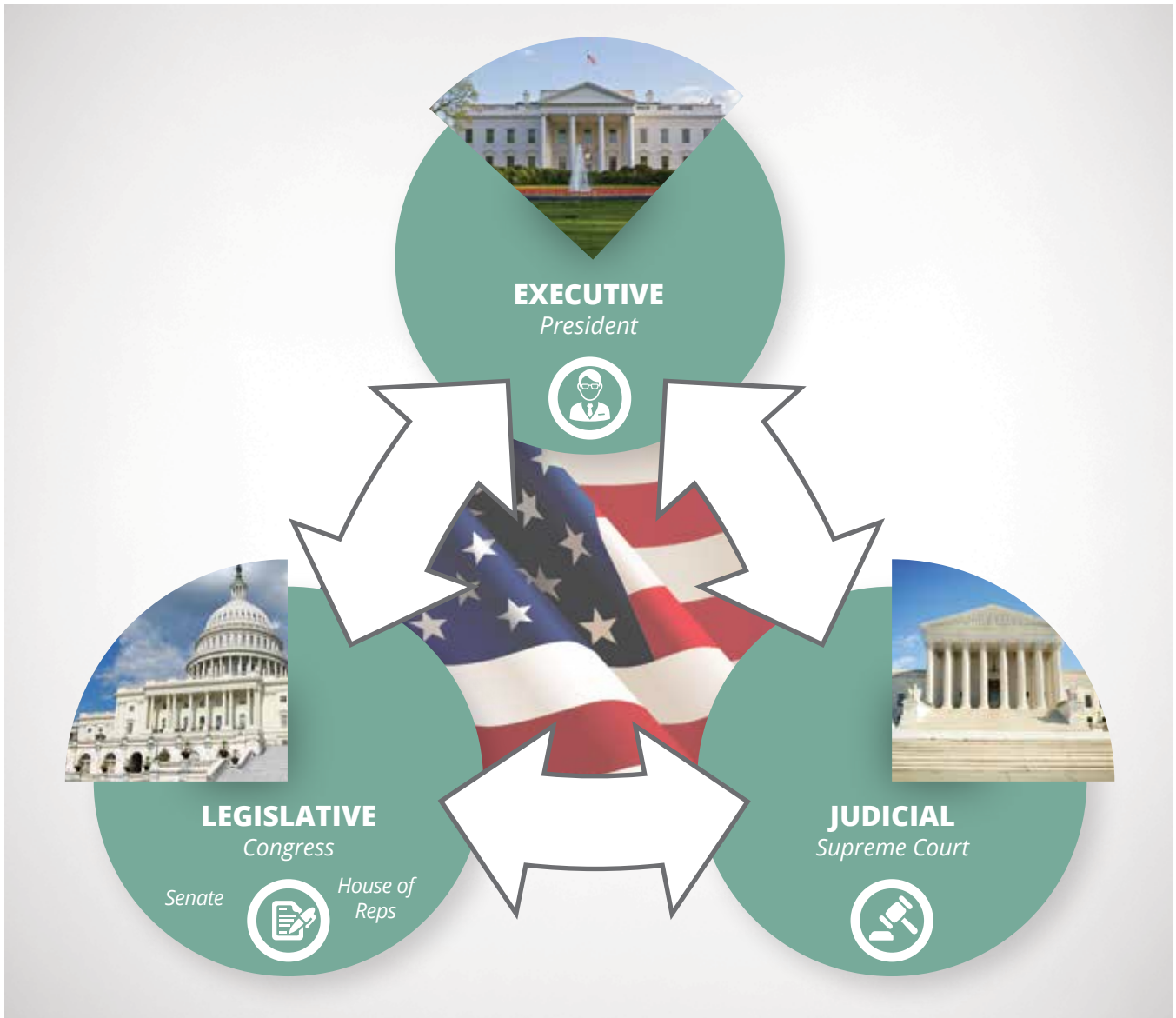
- 1.16 Federal authority is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. sovereign authority
  - b. derived authority
  - c. complete authority
  - d. weak authority
- 1.17 American state governments possess a sovereignty \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. independent of the federal government
  - b. inferior to the federal government
  - c. equal to that of the federal government
- 1.18 In which war did some of the New England states refused to participate \_\_\_\_\_ in any way other than mounting a defense against invasion? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the American Revolution
  - b. the Civil War
  - c. World War II
  - d. the War of 1812
- 1.19 "The use of state sovereignty to block enforcement of a federal law that the state considers unconstitutional" is the definition of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. veto
  - b. interposition
  - c. secession
  - d. entreaty
- 1.20 The doctrine of interposition was first enunciated in the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Connecticut Resolves of 1798
  - b. Texas Observer of 1798
  - c. Virginia Resolution of 1798
- 1.21 The doctrine of nullification was associated with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Calvin
  - b. Knox
  - c. Wesley
  - d. Calhoun
- 1.22 The option of a state's seceding from the Union was closed by the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. apostolic succession
  - b. Civil war
  - c. Emancipation Proclamation
- 1.23 Has the sovereignty of the states increased? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. yes
  - b. no

**Complete these activities.**

1.24 The number of states in the United States is \_\_\_\_\_.

1.25 Name two reasons that the state is called the basic unit of our government.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## STRUCTURE

State government, like the federal government, is divided into three branches: the *legislative*, the *executive*, and the *judicial*. These three branches are designed to provide checks and balances upon one another. The men who founded the United States system of government were very wise. They agreed with Lord Acton, "All power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Their object was to limit the power of any one person or institution.

The leaders of the original thirteen states borrowed many ideas from Montesquieu, a French philosopher who recommended the system of checks and balances in his *Spirit of the Laws*. This book was widely read in colonial times—especially by men such as Adams, Jefferson, and Madison.

**Legislative.** Most state legislatures in the United States are divided into two houses, normally called the House of Representatives and the Senate. Such a legislature with two houses

is termed *bicameral*. The state of Nebraska has a one-house legislature. It is termed *unicameral*. The lawmaking body is not always termed the state legislature. It can also be called the general assembly (as it is in nine states), the legislative assembly (in three states), or the general court (in two states).

The state House of Representatives is presided over by the *Speaker of the House*. He is normally elected by the members at the beginning of each session. Houses of Representatives vary in size from up to four hundred members to as few as thirty-five. The average state House of Representatives, however, has about one hundred members. These members are chosen from throughout the state on the basis of population.

One problem traditionally has been that some state legislatures do not have equal representation. Usually the rural population has been over-represented, and the urban population has been under-represented. This condition reflects the fact that we were once a predominantly agricultural country. Recent actions by

the United States Supreme Court are tending to correct these imbalances so that both city citizens and suburban citizens are more equally represented.

Another trend is to *single-member* districts. In some states some counties or legislative districts have been represented by *at-large* members. At-large representatives are elected by all the voters in the area. The result can be that a group of voters (such as suburbanites) dominate the election, and poorer areas are often under-represented. To counteract this tendency, districts have been divided into smaller geographical units. As a result, more people from minority groups now serve in state legislatures.

The *Speaker of the House* often wields a tremendous amount of authority. He is often able to appoint committee chairmen and to control what legislation will be considered. Of course, the speaker also decides who may speak out on the legislature floor.

Not all state legislatures are divided into two parties. Some states (such as Nebraska) do



## GOVERNMENTS of STATES

STATE VOTERS ELECT

### GOVERNOR

- Treasurer
- Secretary of State
- Auditor
- Attorney General
- Superintendent of Education
- Director of Public Health

### SENATORS REPRESENTATIVES

### JUDGES

*In Most States—Some Appointed by Governor or Legislature*

- 1 State Supreme Court
- 2 Higher State Trial Courts
- 3 State Trial Courts
- 4 Lower State Courts

not have party politics as part of the legislative election. Some legislatures are almost totally dominated by one party. Traditionally most southern state legislatures have been composed almost completely of Democrats. In some Western states, the Republican party has been in a similar position. This situation is beginning to change. In no-party legislatures or in one-party legislatures, divisions tend to be along *liberal* versus *conservative* lines. Liberals are those who tend to favor more government programs, bigger budgets, and increased social legislation. Conservatives are those who support less government, balanced budgets, and private solutions to human problems.

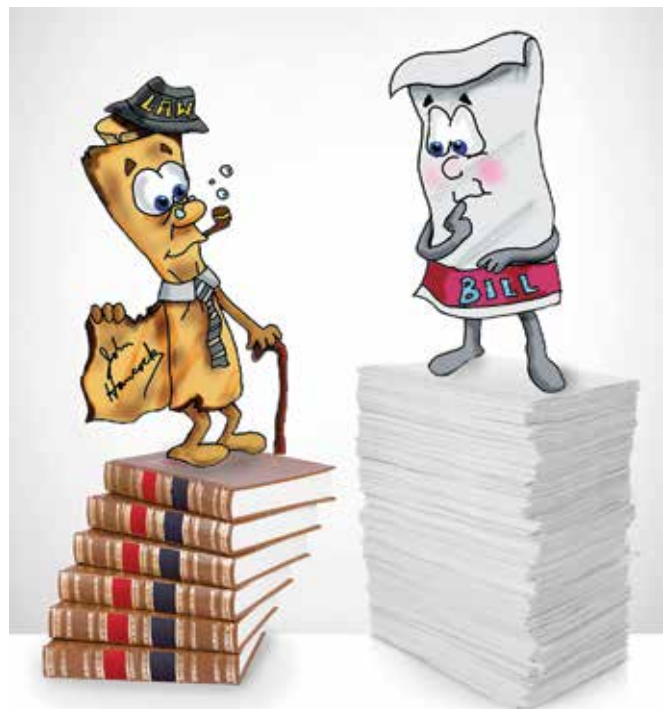
The majority party controls the legislature. The speaker is chosen from, and by, the majority party. Both parties elect floor leaders; therefore, the legislature has both a majority leader and a minority leader. Committee chairmen are from the majority party.

The state Senate (or upper house) is smaller than the House of Representatives. Senators represent broader segments of the population. The Senate is presided over by the lieutenant governor, normally chosen in a popular election. Senators often serve for longer terms than representatives.

Many state legislatures meet *biennially*, that is, once every two years. Sometimes the sessions are limited to a certain number of days (60 or 120, for example), after which the legislature can only meet at special sessions called by the governor. Other state legislatures meet every year.

Thousands of **bills** are proposed at each legislative session. Most do not pass; some are not even considered. The following steps indicate the progress of a bill through the legislature:

1. The bill is introduced. Usually it is placed in some kind of container (often called the “hopper”).
2. The bill is given a number, and the speaker of the house assigns it to a committee.
3. The committee considers the bill. Committee chairmen normally control which bills will actually be discussed.
4. The bill is either rejected by the committee or reported out of committee. In other words, the bill is sent to the floor of the House for debate and approval. By this time the original bill may have several amendments.
5. The bill is argued and voted on by the lower House. If the bill passes the lower House, it is sent on to the Senate. Of course, bills may also originate in the Senate and be sent on to the lower House.
6. The Senate also has committees, and a Senate committee now considers the bill. If it is accepted, the bill goes to the Senate floor for approval or rejection.
7. Often the Senate and House versions of the same bill are different. The senators may have included some items of which



the House did not approve or vice versa. Therefore, the bill is sent to a conference committee composed of members of both houses. Here, the differences are ironed out.

8. After the conference committee has composed a bill that appears acceptable to both houses, the bill is returned to both houses for a vote. If they pass the same bill, it is sent to the governor.
9. The governor then either signs the bill into law or vetoes (rejects) it. One way to veto a bill is called the *pocket veto*. The governor simply puts the bill away, or “pockets” it, until the session is over so that the legislature will not be able to override the veto.
10. Normally, the legislature can override the governor’s veto if at least two-thirds (or occasionally three-fourths) of the members favor the bill.

When a committee of the legislature is considering a bill, it hears from those citizens who favor or oppose the proposed legislation. Those who testify before the committee may be bureaucrats from the state government,

businessmen who will be affected by the law, or other interested citizens.

Some organizations keep full-time personnel at the state capitol. These people are paid to work with and influence the legislature. They talk to individual legislators about bills that are about to be introduced, they testify before committees, and they keep the group they represent informed about upcoming legislation. Men or women who do this kind of work are called *lobbyists*. Sometimes the groups they represent are called *special interest groups*.

Lobbyists may represent teachers, insurance companies, utilities, real estate brokers, day care centers, consumer groups, retired people, unions, or just about any other kind of group.

Special interest groups are really just citizens who share a common cause or occupation.

In some cases, lobbyists have attempted to bribe legislators with money or other gifts, and sometimes they have succeeded. Most lobbyists are channels of information to the members of the legislature and to those they represent.



**Complete these activities.**

**1.26** What are the three main branches of the state government?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.27** What are the three branches designed to do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.28** What did Lord Acton say about power? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.29** The author whose thought provided theoretical justification for the organization of the U.S. government was a. \_\_\_\_\_, and his book was called the

b. \_\_\_\_\_ of the c. \_\_\_\_\_.

**1.30** What is the difference between a bicameral and unicameral legislature? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.31** What are the two houses of a state legislature usually called?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.32** The a. \_\_\_\_\_ of the house usually presides over the lower legislative house while the b. \_\_\_\_\_ presides over the upper.

**1.33** On what basis are representatives distributed throughout the state? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





**Complete these sentences.**

- 1.34** One traditional problem of state legislatures has been that rural districts have been  
 a. \_\_\_\_\_ while urban areas have been  
 b. \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.35** A state legislature that meets biennially meets every \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- 1.36** Those who tend to be in favor of less government and balanced budgets are called \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.37** The member of a state legislature who controls what legislation will be considered and decides who may speak on the floor is the a. \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
 b. \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.38** State governments, like the federal government, are divided into \_\_\_\_\_ branches.
- 1.39** The only state with a one-house legislature is the state of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.40** One difference between political liberals and conservatives is that \_\_\_\_\_ tend to favor a balanced budget.
- 1.41** The legislature in a two-party state is controlled by the \_\_\_\_\_ party.
- 1.42** In state legislatures the a. \_\_\_\_\_ is larger than the  
 b. \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.43** A session called by the governor to consider legislation when the legislature does not normally meet is called a \_\_\_\_\_ session.
- 1.44** As a result of dividing districts into smaller geographical units, more people from \_\_\_\_\_ groups now serve in state legislatures.
- 1.45** Representatives of special-interest groups who attempt to persuade legislators to pass certain bills are known as \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.46** Citizens with a common cause or occupation are members of \_\_\_\_\_ groups.

**Complete this activity.**

**1.47** List the ten steps through which a bill progresses in the legislature.

(Assume it starts in the House of Representatives.)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. \_\_\_\_\_
- h. \_\_\_\_\_
- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- j. \_\_\_\_\_

**Executive.** The executive branch of the state government is headed by the *governor*, but it includes a host of departments and agencies. Some of these departments are dependent on the governor and some are not.

The power of the governor varies from state to state. In some states (notably, Illinois, New York, and California) the governor has strong executive powers. He is actually the chief administrator to whom most other administrators report.

In many other states this situation does not exist. The governor has weak powers, and executive power is spread among several elected officials and even some boards and commissions. Weak governorships are characteristic of Southern and border states where the bitterness brought on by Reconstruction governors following the Civil War resulted in the adoption of the long ballot, in which almost every major officeholder is elected.

Even in states with a strong governor, the attorney general is always elected. Other states also elect the state secretary, state treasurer, state auditor, and lieutenant governor.

If his cabinet is composed of his own appointees, the governor is stronger than a governor whose cabinet is elected. Elected officials do not feel a responsibility to the chief executive; their responsibility is to the people, to the voters who elected them. A governor can only influence such people through a persuasive personality, by a logical argument, or through the dignity of the governor's office. He has more influence if the other officials are from the same political party than if they are not.

Many states not only have the public officials just mentioned, but they also have a number of boards and commissions. These bodies may be elected, or they may be appointed. They tend to be more responsible to the legislature than to the governor.



The reason for the scattering of executive responsibility is the long-cherished belief in the freedom of the individual as well as the lack of freedom found in concentrations of power. People in the United States have always avoided the placing of a few men in positions of great authority.

The argument against the long ballot and a weak governor is that it results in a weak and inefficient administration. Some people believe that concentration of power would make the management of government more effective. This point is debatable. Surely many overlaps of responsibilities and administrative bottlenecks occur because of the scattering of executive power, but the various semi-independent departments and agencies also act as a check and balance system and curb each other's power. Many a Southern state or Midwestern state with a weak governor is in a better social and financial position than New York and California, which have stronger governors and a more highly centralized administration.

All governors have a similar set of administrative responsibilities. Often they control the state police. They direct the national guard (or state militia) unless it is in the federal service.

They are usually in charge of coordinating civil defense efforts. Governors prepare state budgets, appoint magistrates and judges (at least those who are not elected), appoint replacements to unexpired terms of elected officials (United States senators, commission members, judges, and so on), and veto legislation.

Some governors have the "item veto" in which the governor has the power to veto part of a bill and not all of it. The governor's budget is submitted to the legislature at the beginning of each regular session. The lawmakers then spend most of the session considering and amending it. The governors of most states may call a special session of the legislature if they believe that a certain type of legislation is still needed.

One of the most awesome powers of the governor is that of *pardon*. The governor may pardon a criminal and, as a result, free him from the sentence of a court. This power applies to those accused of murder and awaiting capital punishment as well as to ordinary criminals. The governor may also *commute* a sentence; he may lessen the time the prisoner must serve or change the type of punishment. For example, a man sentenced to be hanged may be pardoned and freed, or his sentence may be commuted to life imprisonment.

The governor is usually the official or actual head of his party. This is not always the case, however. Sometimes an influential senator or representative may also have a significant following in the party. If several cabinet officials



are elected, these men may be eyeing the governor's office as a future career.

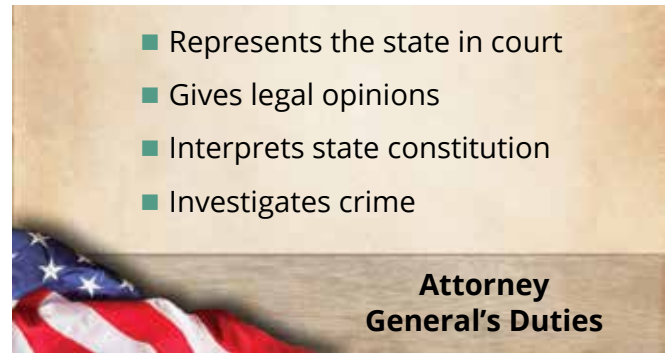
The *lieutenant governor* presides over the state senate and is often quite powerful in his role. Like the Speaker of the House, the lieutenant governor has a significant amount of authority over committee assignments and over the flow of legislation. He also may in some states be a member of several boards and commissions in the executive branch. Normally, the lieutenant governor steps up and completes the governor's term if the governor should die in office, resign, or be removed.

Another very powerful state official is the *attorney general*. He is the state's lawyer, and he represents the state in court. He gives legal opinions to the legislature, to government agencies, or to the local governments when such advice is sought. He is particularly sought after on matters involving the state constitution. He does not normally prosecute criminal and civil cases; this type of work is usually done at the local level by a district attorney. Many attorneys general are empowered to investigate and prosecute vice operations and organized crime within the state. Usually, the state attorney general is an elected official. He may sometimes embarrass the governor politically by investigating corruption in the executive branch.

The *secretary of state* is the keeper of the state seal. He or she issues certificates of incorporation, oversees the state archives (public documents and the place where they are kept), directs elections, publishes all state laws, and may even issue license plates.

The *state treasurer* administers state funds. He invests them, distributes them to state agencies, and may even be responsible for collecting taxes.

The *state auditor* approves all payment of bills by the state. He also audits (analyzes



financially) all the various departments and agencies of the state government. This acts as a check upon dishonesty in the use of state funds.

States may also appoint or elect a superintendent of public instruction. He works with the state school board in overseeing the state school system.

Normally, a host of regulatory agencies and commissions exist within the state government. The state utilities commission sets rates that public utilities (telephone companies, electric utilities, and gas companies) may charge. The state insurance board or commission regulates the insurance business. The oil and railroad commissions regulate those businesses. The state welfare department may distribute funds to the needy, provide hospitals for the handicapped, regulate and investigate child abuse, and control the day care industry.

Sometimes these agencies have powers that are far more extensive than executive powers. They may have quasi-legislative (seemingly legislative) and quasi-judicial (seemingly judicial) powers. They may issue orders that have the force of law, and they may also be the court that enforces these orders. The field of administrative law is one that has dangers for individual liberty. It removes the lawmaking and judicial functions from constitutional and political safeguards.



**Complete these sentences.**

- 1.48 The \_\_\_\_\_ branch of state government is headed by the governor and includes a number of departments and agencies.
- 1.49 The power of the chief executive, the \_\_\_\_\_, varies from state to state.
- 1.50 Illinois, New York, and California have a a. \_\_\_\_\_ governor, but many Southern and border states have a b. \_\_\_\_\_ governor.
- 1.51 Many Southern states have the \_\_\_\_\_ ballot, in which almost every major official is elected.
- 1.52 Normally if a governor dies in office, he is replaced by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.53 The governor whose cabinet is composed of his own appointees is stronger than the one whose cabinet is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.54 The scattering of executive power in the United States reflects the long-cherished belief in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the individual and the lack of freedom in concentrations of power.
- 1.55 Those who oppose the long ballot insist that it results in a weak and inefficient \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.56 In a state with a weak governor, the various semi-independent departments and agencies act as a a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_ system and curb each other's power.
- 1.57 Governors head the state \_\_\_\_\_ and the national guard.
- 1.58 Governors are charged with coordinating \_\_\_\_\_ defense efforts.
- 1.59 The governor prepares the state a. \_\_\_\_\_, appoints judges, appoints replacements to unexpired terms of elected officials, and b. \_\_\_\_\_ legislation he does not like.
- 1.60 The power to veto part of a bill is called the \_\_\_\_\_ veto.
- 1.61 The governor of most states may call a \_\_\_\_\_ of the legislature.
- 1.62 One of the governor's most awesome powers is the power to grant \_\_\_\_\_ and to commute sentences.
- 1.63 Normally the governor is the \_\_\_\_\_ of his political party.
- 1.64 The agency that distributes funds to the needy is the state \_\_\_\_\_ department.

- 1.65** The attorney general is the state's \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.66** Matters concerning the state's constitution are interpreted by the state \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.67** The state's bills are paid by the state \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.68** The person in charge of the state's school system is the superintendent of public \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.69** The state's funds are administered by the state \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Judicial.** The state court system is divided into local judicial districts. State judges may be either elected or appointed. The district attorney is the local prosecutor. Courts may be quite specialized within the district. Some courts may handle only criminal cases; others, only civil cases (lawsuits). Some may only handle divorces; others, only juvenile cases. Appeals from the district (or county) courts are handled by a state supreme court. Some states have what amounts to two supreme courts: one for civil cases (having to do with private individual property and rights), and the other for criminal cases.

The state supreme court may declare state laws unconstitutional. That is, they may declare them not in accord with the state constitution.

Appeals from the state supreme court go directly to the United States Supreme Court.

The United States Supreme Court is the court of final appeal.

State officials (in whatever branch) have sworn to uphold both the federal and the state constitutions. State constitutions are similar to the national one (for example, they all have a bill of rights), but they tend to be much more complicated. The federal charter is a more general statement of principles, whereas the state constitution may be much more explicit. State constitutions are often amended. Sometimes the legislature has the power to pass amendments, but often the people must ratify all amendments in the general election. State constitutions may include everything from the pay of legislators to the length of the legislative session and to limits on state indebtedness.



**Match the following.**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>1.70</b> _____ district attorney   | a. United States Supreme Court                     |
| <b>1.71</b> _____ appeals             | b. sworn to uphold state and federal constitutions |
| <b>1.72</b> _____ final appeals       | c. state supreme court                             |
| <b>1.73</b> _____ state official      | d. state archives                                  |
| <b>1.74</b> _____ state constitutions | e. more explicit and complicated                   |
|                                       | f. local prosecutor                                |



**Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

## SELF TEST 1

**Complete these sentences** (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.01** The basic political unit in the United States is the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.02** The Articles of Confederation were more of a \_\_\_\_\_ than a government.
- 1.03** The a. \_\_\_\_\_ was part of an effort to  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ the government under the Articles of Confederation.
- 1.04** The original purpose of the Constitutional Convention was to \_\_\_\_\_ the Articles.
- 1.05** Federal authority is \_\_\_\_\_ authority.
- 1.06** State governments possess a sovereignty \_\_\_\_\_ of the federal government.
- 1.07** The War of 1812 was opposed by several \_\_\_\_\_ states.
- 1.08** The doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_ means *the use of state sovereignty to block a federal law*.
- 1.09** Secession was no longer a choice for the states after the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.010** The executive, the legislative, and the \_\_\_\_\_ are the three main divisions of state government.
- 1.011** In the executive branch of a state, the most important official is the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.012** The state supreme court is part of the \_\_\_\_\_ branch.
- 1.013** Lord Acton wrote, "All \_\_\_\_\_ tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."
- 1.014** The political thoughts of \_\_\_\_\_ provided theoretical justification for the United States system of checks and balances.
- 1.015** A legislature that has only one body is a \_\_\_\_\_ legislature.

**Answer true or false** (each answer, 1 point).

- 1.016** \_\_\_\_\_ A unicameral legislature meets once a calendar year.
- 1.017** \_\_\_\_\_ The legislature may also be called the general assembly.
- 1.018** \_\_\_\_\_ The governor presides over the legislature.
- 1.019** \_\_\_\_\_ Legislators from a one-party state will mostly represent the dominant party.
- 1.020** \_\_\_\_\_ Liberals are those who most oppose Democratic Party programs.
- 1.021** \_\_\_\_\_ Many legislatures meet biennially.
- 1.022** \_\_\_\_\_ The governor may not veto a bill until it has already been approved by both houses of the legislature.
- 1.023** \_\_\_\_\_ Lobbyists represent special interest groups.
- 1.024** \_\_\_\_\_ The governor's power is immediate and uncontested.
- 1.025** \_\_\_\_\_ Long ballots assure strong governors.
- 1.026** \_\_\_\_\_ The attorney general represents the state in court.
- 1.027** \_\_\_\_\_ Appeals are heard by the state supreme court.
- 1.028** \_\_\_\_\_ The district attorney is a local prosecutor.



Match the following (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.029 \_\_\_\_\_ bicameral
- 1.030 \_\_\_\_\_ conservative
- 1.031 \_\_\_\_\_ checks and balances
- 1.032 \_\_\_\_\_ biennial
- 1.033 \_\_\_\_\_ House of Representatives
- 1.034 \_\_\_\_\_ speaker of the house
- 1.035 \_\_\_\_\_ liberal
- 1.036 \_\_\_\_\_ governor
- 1.037 \_\_\_\_\_ attorney general
- 1.038 \_\_\_\_\_ state archives

- a. supports less government and balanced budgets
- b. occurs every two years
- c. controls the state police
- d. place where state documents are kept
- e. keep one branch of government from becoming too powerful
- f. a state's lawyer
- g. legislature with two houses
- h. domination of an election by a group of voters
- i. controls legislation and decides who may speak on the legislative floor
- j. usually has about 100 members in most states
- k. tend to favor more government

<b>65</b> <b>81</b>	<b>SCORE</b> _____	<b>TEACHER</b> _____	initials	date
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