



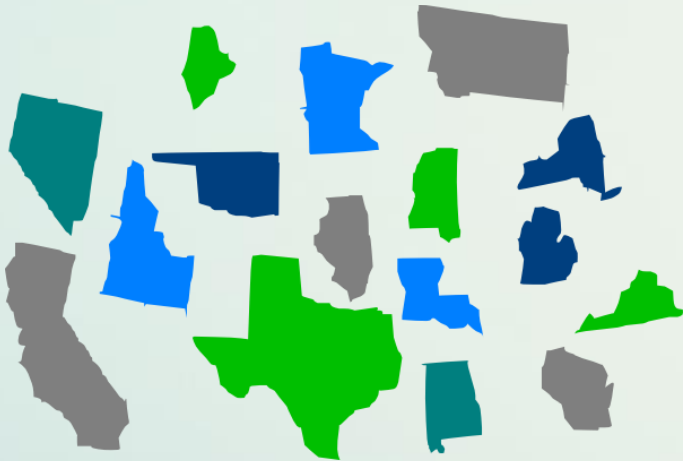
**What is a state?**

**A country?**

**A nation?**

# What makes a state?

1. A state is made up of a population
2. The group of people live in a territory with clear borders
3. States have sovereignty, or absolute power, within its borders
4. The state's government has the power to make and enforce laws



# What about nations?

1. Nations do *not* have to be states or countries.
2. Nations may exist within states independently.

Definition: A group of people who share the same culture, language, institutions, religion, and history—usually a group of people larger than a tribe or community

## Is the United States a nation?

# Origins of the State

- The existence of states, nations, and countries is not necessarily universal.
- States in the US may differ from states in Australia or Belgium.
- Subdivisions may exist and the relationship between states and central powers may differ.
- *There is no universal formula.*
- States came into existence in different ways.

# Force Theory

- Based upon the idea that a government arose when the people of an area were brought under the authority of one person or group.
- Examples:
  - Native Americans in the United States forced to assimilate/move
  - Jews and minorities under Hitler's Germany



# Divine Right Theory

- Based on the notion that a god or multiple gods chose certain people to rule a civilization or group of people.
- Examples:
  - King James I of England
  - Louis XIV of France



# Evolutionary Theory

- Based on the principle that the state was an evolution of the family, becoming more and more complex as the family grew.
- The best governments survive.
- Examples:
  - Native Americans in the United States



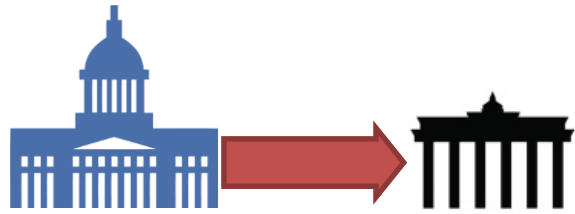
# Social Contract Theory

- Based on Enlightenment Thinking in Europe as they challenged sovereign rulers.
- Philosophes believed the origin of the state was in a social contract.
- Examples:
  - Current United States
  - England after Magna Carta



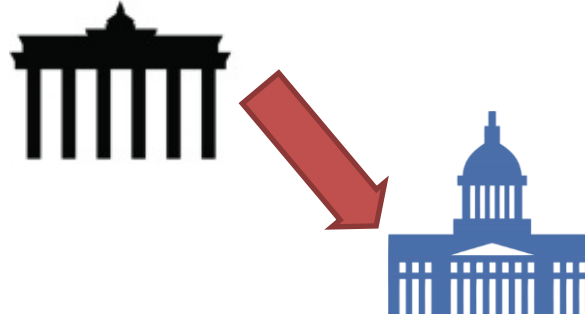


# Distribution of Power



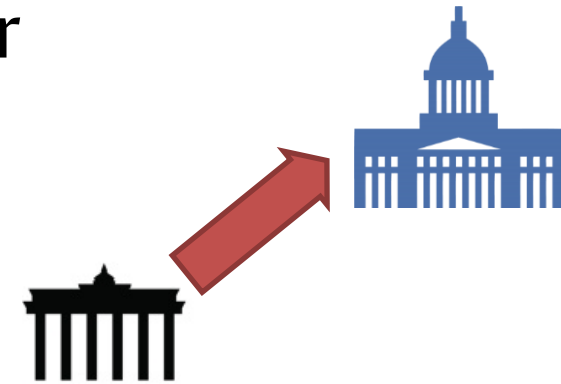
## Federal

The central government and states share power. There is usually self-rule in the states but the central government may intervene if needed and approved.



## Confederate

Individual states make their own laws and decisions. They are loosely aligned with a central government that controls trade and defense.



## Unitary

The central government has all of the authority. They make laws and decisions for the people. Power is not shared.

# **PAPER #1: Federalism**

**TASK:** Choose a current topic that is under debate regarding issues of federalism in the United States. The topic should have a “grey area” between state and federal powers. Examples:

- Public School Funding
- Legalization of Marijuana
- Gun Control
- Marriage Rights
- Death Penalty

Throughout the next two weeks you will be researching this topic and writing a complete essay regarding the issue at hand. The essay should be opinionated but must avoid first person perspective (I, We, Us, etc.). Concessions and counter-arguments should be addressed in the paper and factual evidence as well as anecdotes must be included. Refer to rubric.