

## Limiting Powers of Government

The Constitution describes how powers are to be shared between the federal and state governments. It also puts limits on the powers of each level.

- \* The federal government may not make laws that favor trade in one state over another.
- \* The federal government may not spend money unless there is a law giving it approval to do so.
- \* The federal government may not tax goods that are leaving the country.
- \* The states may not coin or print money.
- \* The states may not make treaties with other countries.

The Founders limited the powers of government through the system of delegating, reserving, and sharing power. The Constitution identified what powers the people delegated or gave to the federal government. The Founders were also concerned about holding the nation together. They wrote something in the Constitution that protected the country from control by individual states called the "Supremacy Clause". This means that:

- \* States cannot make laws that are in conflict with the U.S. Constitution.
- \* States cannot make laws that are in conflict with the laws made by the U.S. Congress.

For example, the Supremacy Clause would not allow a state to make a law preventing women from voting, requiring people to attend a certain church, or preventing people from criticizing the government.

How does the federal government use its powers to fulfill the purposes of government?

Purpose of Government	
Power delegated to the Federal Government	
How this power helps the government fulfill the purpose	

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How does the federal government use its powers...chart strips

To make and enforce laws

Establishing justice

Laws help maintain order and minimize conflict

This power provides a fair court system where people can go if they think they have been treated unfairly.

To provide for the common defense (common good)

Creating a court system

This power helps the federal government defend the people

Providing an army and a navy

To insure domestic tranquility (manage conflict)