Federalism
Checks and Balances
Rule of Law
Separation of Powers
Limited Government
Judicial Review
Popular Sovereignty

Each branch of government has a certain number of checks it can use to ensure the other branches do not become too powerful. For example, the president can veto legislation, the Supreme Court can declareacts of Congress Checks unconstitutional, and the Bal Senate must approve treaties and presidential appointments.

Since the people give government its power, government itself is restricted to the power given to it by them. It must follow its own laws and it can only act using powers given to it by the people.

This belief comes from the concept of the social contract theory and the idea that government should be for the benefit of its citizens. If the government is not protecting the people, it should be dissolved.

The source of governmental

power lies with the people.

This is the idea that everyone living in the United States must follow the law. This even includes the president.

Rule of Law

The US Government is divided into three branches so that no one branch has all the power. Each branch has its own purpose: to make the laws, execute the laws, and interpret the laws.

This is a power that allows the Supreme Court to decide whether acts and laws are unconstitutional. This was established with Marbury v. Madison in 1803.

Judicial. Review This is the idea that the central government does not control all the power in the nation. States also have powers reserved to them.

Federalism