

CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES: 1787

1) CONSTITUTIONALISM -- We would have governments of limited and enumerated powers.

2) REPUBLICANISM -- The powers of government would be exercised, not by the people directly, but by representatives chosen by the people. These representatives would likely be the right kind of people.

3) FEDERALISM -- The power of government generally would be divided between a national government and a number of state governments, and the states would remain sovereign in their own domain.

4) SEPARATION OF POWERS -- To further check the power of the national government executive, legislative, and judicial powers would be entrusted to separate institutions, and these institutions would have to agree before government could act.

5) BICAMERALISM -- To further check the power of the most dangerous branch, the legislative branch, Congress would be divided into two chambers responsive to different electorates, and these two chambers would have to agree before laws could be passed.

6) CHECKS AND BALANCES -- To further check the power of the national government, each of the three branches would be given bits and pieces of the powers belonging in the main to the other branches.