

Principles of Government

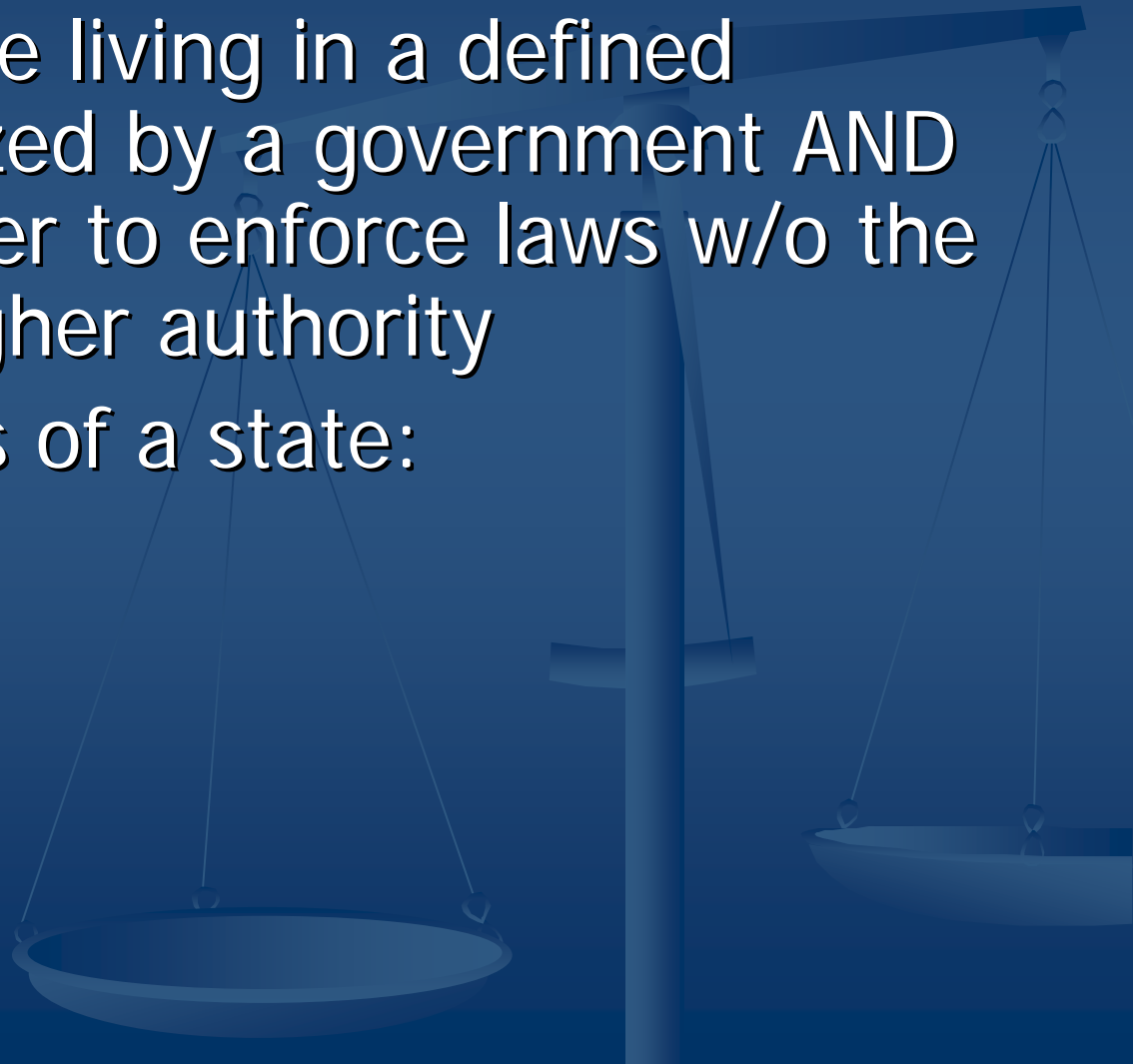


The State

How the State Came to Be
Classifying Governments

What is the State

- In government, not one of the 50.
- A body of people living in a defined territory organized by a government AND having the power to enforce laws w/o the consent of a higher authority
- 4 characteristics of a state:
 - population
 - territory
 - sovereignty
 - government



How the state came to be

- By Force
- Evolution Theory
 - developed from the family
 - families united into a clan
 - clans united into tribes
 - government formed when moved from nomads to farmers



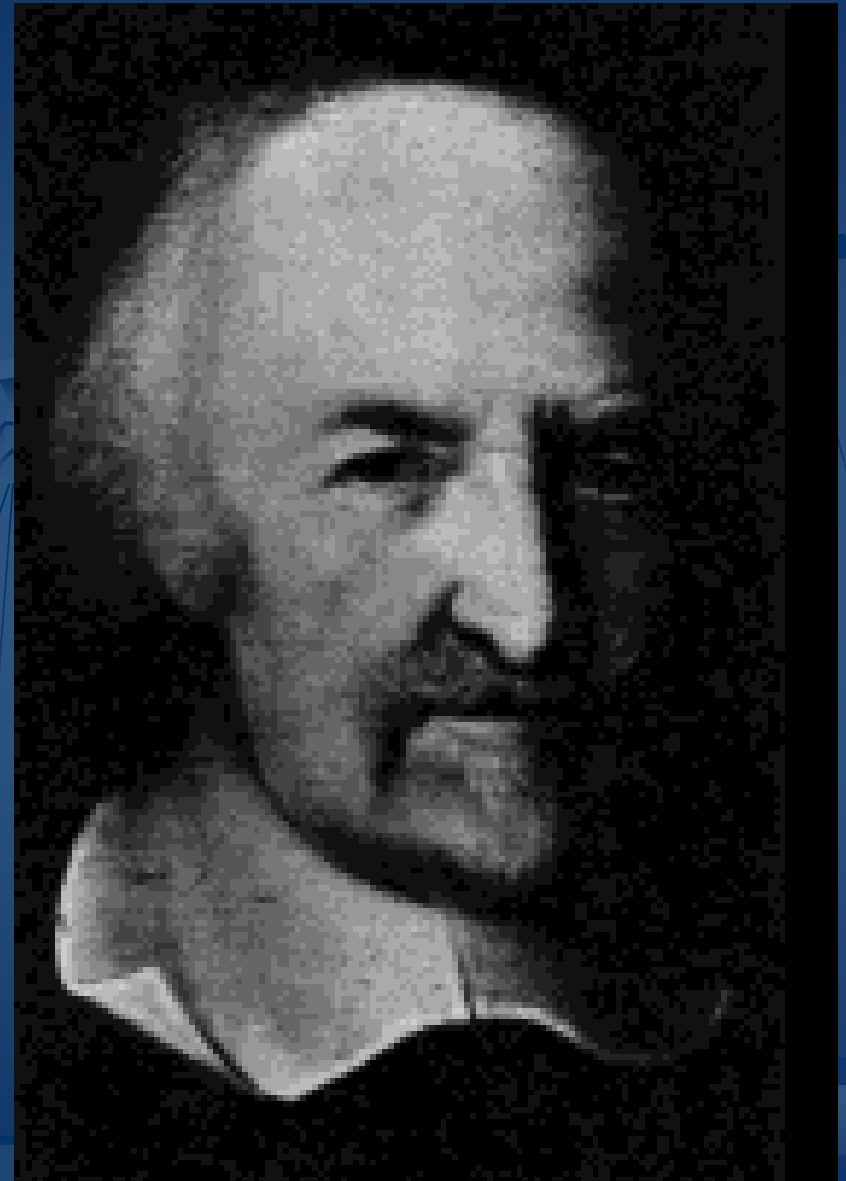
- Divine Right Theory
 - Western philosophy of 1400s-1700s
 - God created the state & gave royal birth to ruler
 - People bound to obey ruler as would God
 - Philosophers began to question theory in 1600s



Louis XIV I by Charles Lebrun (1677)

■ Social Contract

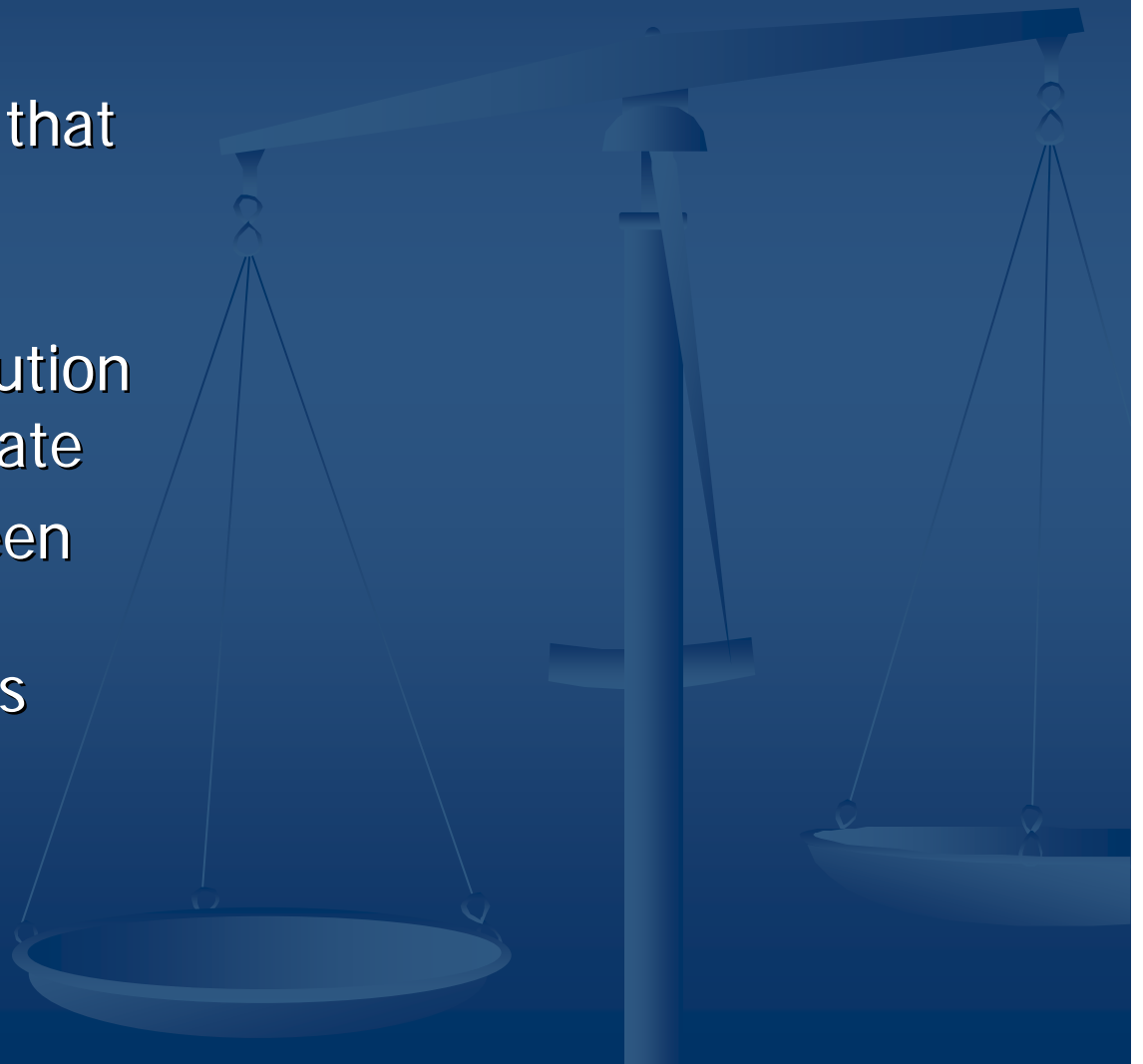
- theory developed in 1600s-1700s by philosophers
- Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau
- "State of Nature"
- state came from voluntary acts of free people
- Concepts
 - popular sovereignty
 - limited government
 - individual rights
 - Ex: *Declaration of Independence*



Thomas Hobbes

Forms of Government

- How to classify
 - number of people that are allowed to participate
 - geographic distribution of power within state
 - relationship between legislative and executive branches



Who can participate?

■ Many

■ **Democracy**—political authority rests with the people

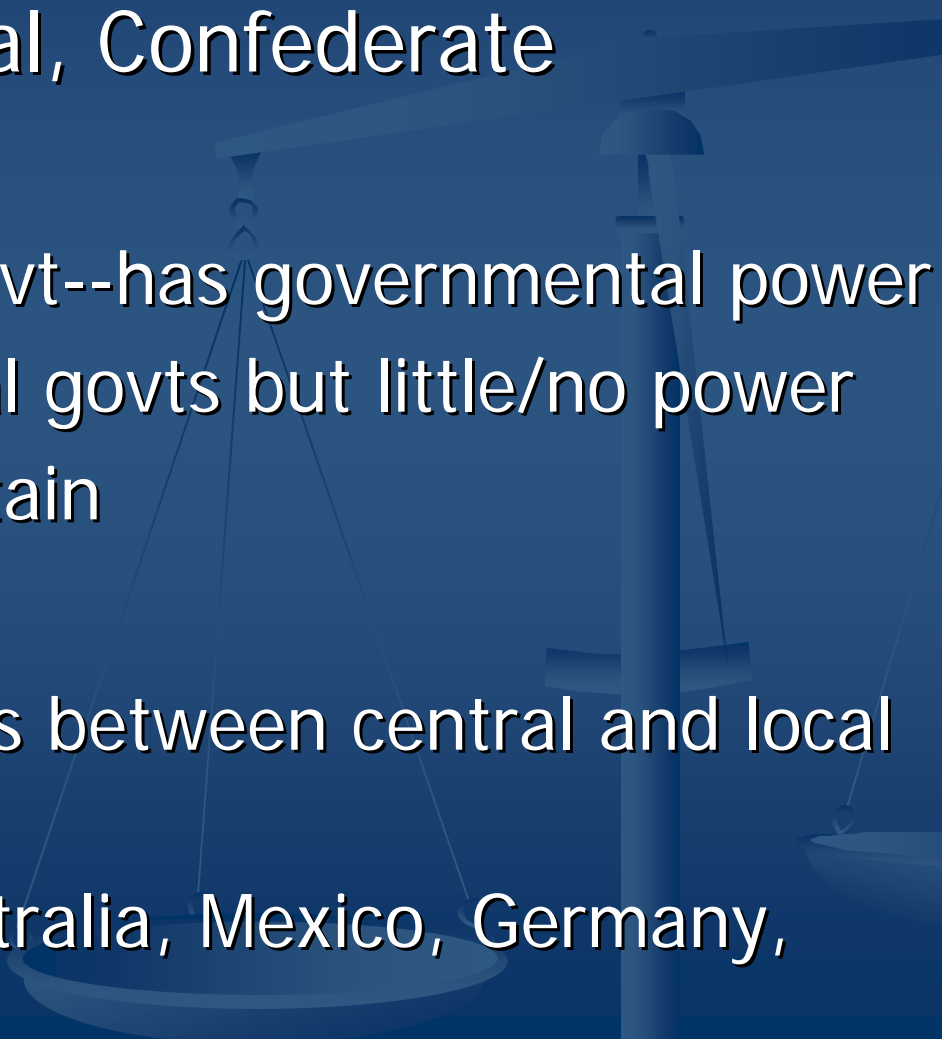
- Direct: pure, will of the people becomes law by themselves in mass meetings.
- Indirect: representative, chosen people represent the community. Govt by popular consent.

■ Few

■ **Dictatorship**--those who rule not held responsible by the will of the people

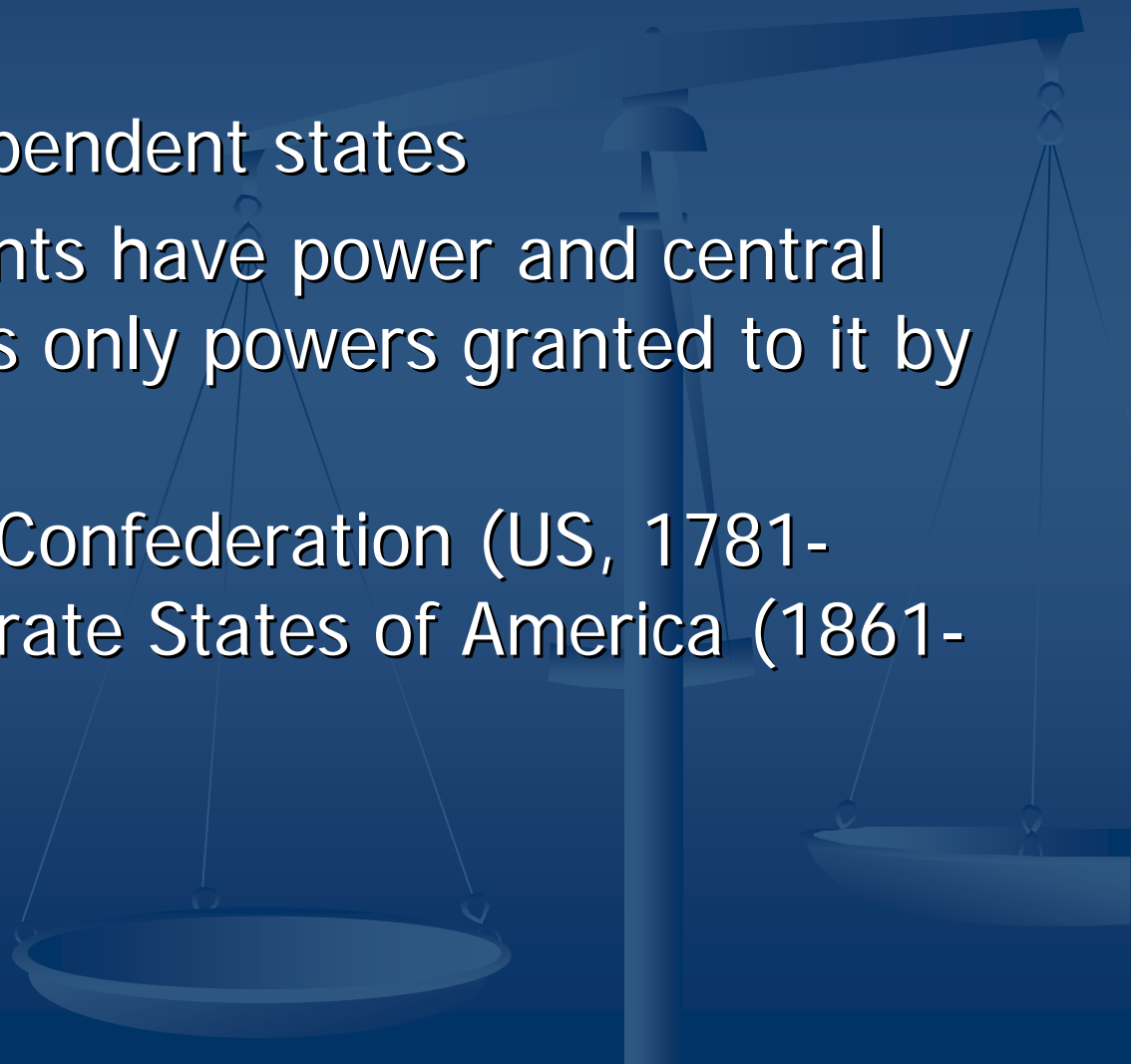
- authoritarian system: absolute power can't be challenged
- Often totalitarian: controls every aspect of human affairs
- Elections--may have them, but controlled by group in charge. May use force to maintain control

Geographic Distribution of Power

- Unitary, Federal, Confederate
 - Unitary
 - Centralized govt--has governmental power
 - may have local govts but little/no power
 - EX: Great Britain
 - Federal
 - divided powers between central and local govts
 - EX: USA, Australia, Mexico, Germany, India
- 

■ Confederate

- alliance of independent states
- local governments have power and central government has only powers granted to it by the states
- EX: Articles of Confederation (US, 1781-1789), Confederate States of America (1861-1865)



Relationship between Legislature/Executive Branches

Presidential Govt

- separation of powers-
-each has own duties,
coequal
- president chose
separately from
legislature
- USA created system

Parliamentary Govt

- Prime Minister and
cabinet is exec
branch (ok'd by
Parliament)
- PM is leader of
majority party in
parliament
- Vote of no
confidence
- no checks/balances