

The Structure of the U.S. Government

The United States operates under a constitutional federal republic. Power is divided between a national government and individual state governments. The system is designed to balance authority so that no single institution dominates political decision-making. This structure emerged from debates during the Constitutional Convention of 1787, where the founders attempted to reconcile strong federal authority with protections for state sovereignty.

At the federal level, the government is divided into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Each branch has distinct responsibilities and powers, which are defined by the Constitution. This separation of powers is reinforced by a system of checks and balances that allows each branch to limit the authority of the others when necessary.