

**The Declaration of Independence says GOD Endowed Us with Rights.
To secure the Rights GOD gave us, WE The People ordained and established
The Constitution for the United States of America**

**Wherein WE *Created* the “Federal” Government:
An Alliance of Sovereign States associated together in a “Federation” for the
limited purposes enumerated in The Constitution.**

**Federal government of 3 branches
(legislative, executive, judicial):**

**1. Has lawful power *only* over these objects
(for the Country at large):**

External:

- International trade & diplomacy
- War – national defense
- Make Treaties, but *only* on objects authorized by Constitution!

Internal:

- Establish uniform commercial system:
 - weights & measures
 - patents & copyrights
 - money system (gold & silver)
 - bankruptcy laws
 - mail delivery & road building
- Laws on naturalization & immigration
- Certain civil rights (in the Amendments)
- Make & enforce only a few criminal laws
- Federal courts for specific purposes only
- Miscellaneous “housekeeping”: census, etc.
- May borrow money & levy taxes, but only for purposes authorized by Constitution!

2. God given Rights secured by federal gov’t:

- **Life** (military, pirates, traitors, secure borders)
- **Property rights:** honest money, weights & measures, patents & copyrights, bankruptcy law
- Limited & enumerated powers secure **right to be left alone!**
- **Fair trials in federal courts** (e.g., Dt 1:16-17; Dt 19:15-20 & Mt18:16; Ex 18:13-26; don’t bear false witness) (5th - 8th Amendments)

The States and The People:

**1. Retain all powers except those few delegated *exclusively* to federal gov’t or prohibited to the States
(Art. I, § 10):**

- [Federalist Paper No. 45](#) (3rd para from end) by James Madison, Father of our Constitution:

“The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite. The former will be exercised principally on external objects, as war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce ... the powers reserved to the several States will extend to all the objects which ... concern the lives, liberties, and properties of the people, and the internal order ... and prosperity of the State.”

- Tenth Amendment.

2. State gov’ts secure rights God demands that gov’ts honor (e.g., fair trials) & protect us from those who seek to deprive us of God-given rights in Bible. E.g.,

- **Our Right to Life** (prosecute murderers, ban abortion, euthanasia, drunk driving; quarantines for dangerous diseases, etc.)
- **Sanctity of our persons** (prosecute rapists, muggers, kidnappers, child molesters)
- **Our property rights** (prosecute robbers; punish negligence, fraud, & breach of contract; courts available for dispute resolution.)

The federal gov’t. & State gov’ts. have **different spheres of operation**. The federal gov’t. is “supreme” *only* in those few & enumerated objects delegated *exclusively* to it. **The States and The People retain supremacy in all other matters**. When the federal gov’t. usurps powers retained by the States or The People, it becomes unlawful & illegitimate: [Nullification](#) is proper. Send comments to publiushuldah.wordpress.com (revised, June 2013)

