

The American Citizen

Chapter 4: Federalism

Vocabulary Terms

Section 1: Powers and Responsibilities

expressed power: a governmental power that is specifically granted in a constitution; also called an enumerated or delegated power

implied power: a power that is implied, or suggested, by the expressed powers in a constitution

Elastic Clause: a clause in Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution; also called the Necessary and Proper Clause, it grants Congress the authority to enact all laws that are “necessary and proper” to carrying out its other powers

inherent power: a power that is not specifically granted in or implied by a constitution, but that belongs to the governments of all sovereign nations

reserved power: any power that the U.S. Constitution does not expressly or by implication give to Congress; the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution specifically reserves such powers to the states or to the people

concurrent powers: a power or authority that is held by more than one level of government

Section 2: Growth of Federalism

revenue sharing: the distribution by a government of a portion of its income to lower levels of government

grant-in-aid: a federal payment to a state, or a federal or state payment to a local government, for a specific purpose

categorical grant: a payment that the federal government distributes to a state or local government to fund specific activities

block grant: a payment that the federal government distributes to a state or local government and for which the recipient determines the specific use

federal mandate: a federal requirement that state or local governments take a specific action, offer a particular program, or pay for a program the federal government establishes

Section 3: Relations Among the States

enabling act: a federal law that allows the residents of a territory to draft a constitution and take other steps necessary in preparing for statehood

act of admission: an act of Congress that, when signed by the president, makes a territory a state

civil law: the body of law that governs relationships among individuals and that defines people’s legal rights

extradition: the process by which one state or nation returns a person accused or convicted of a crime to the state or nation where the crime was committed

interstate compact: a formal agreement approved by Congress between two or more states to jointly operate mutually beneficial programs

Section 4: Federalism and the Public Good

(none)