



*The U.S. & The World: SS.7.CG.3.1*  
**Forms of Government**  
**VIDEO #3 SCRIPT**



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## **The Principles of Our Constitutional Republic**

1. So we know that a form of government is how a government is structured. We looked at many different forms of government and wonder if our own constitutional republic may do the best job in protecting our freedom and liberty.
2. By watching this last video, we will be able to
  - ✓ We will be able to explain how our own constitutional republic does the best job protecting our freedom and liberty
3. Remember that for all forms of government, even ours, there are three basic powers:
  - the power to make the laws, known as the legislative power
  - the power to enforce the laws, known as the executive power
  - and the power interpret laws, known as the judicial power
4. How we address these powers is an important question in our own form of government. We have a constitutional republic, and our form of government best helps safeguard liberty, freedom, and our rights in a representative government. What distinguishes us from these other forms of government and authoritarian and totalitarian nations? It is our principles, in our Founding documents like the Declaration, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, that ensure our freedoms. You've likely been learning about many of these already, so some of this may just be a review, but let's dive in!
5. Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances: each branch of government has their own separate powers and responsibilities, and they balance the powers of each other. For example, only the legislative branch can pass laws, but the executive branch has the power to approve or reject the law. But the legislative branch can override the objection! This all keeps any one branch or person from getting too powerful.
6. Republicanism, Democracy, Representative Government, Consent of the Governed: All of these principles are related to the voice and power of WE THE PEOPLE. In our republican form of government, we have the responsibility to elect representatives to make good decisions for us.
7. When we don't like what they do, we remove our consent by voting them out of office! This ensures that WE THE PEOPLE are ultimately in charge.
8. Limited Government, Due Process of Law, Individual Rights, and the Rule of Law: Our government is limited by our national and state constitutions, and we have a bill of rights in those constitutions that ensure and protect our individual rights and liberties.
9. These rights can only be taken from us through what is known as due process, which means certain steps and requirements must be followed that are dictated by the Constitution. Every person in the country, from the president on down to you, must follow and obey the law. This is known as the importance of rule of law.

10. Finally, we have federalism. Federalism divides government power across different levels in our form of government. That is, power is shared between the national, or federal, government, and state governments. This ensures that no one level is too powerful, though of course the US Constitution is the supreme law of the land.

11. Taken together, all these principles in our Founding documents help protect us from authoritarianism and totalitarianism and protect our rights and liberties in our constitutional republic.

12. Let's Check In: What are the principles that protect our freedoms and liberties?

ANSWER TO QUESTION

13. So in these three videos, we learned a great deal about different forms of government. Remember though, that ours is a constitutional republic, and it's important that we understand our founding principles to ensure that we can protect that form for all generations of Americans.