

# Devolution 1980 - 2001

Austen Alvarado, Connor Sampson, Carissa Barrett,  
Dylan Keeton, Charlie Mendyk

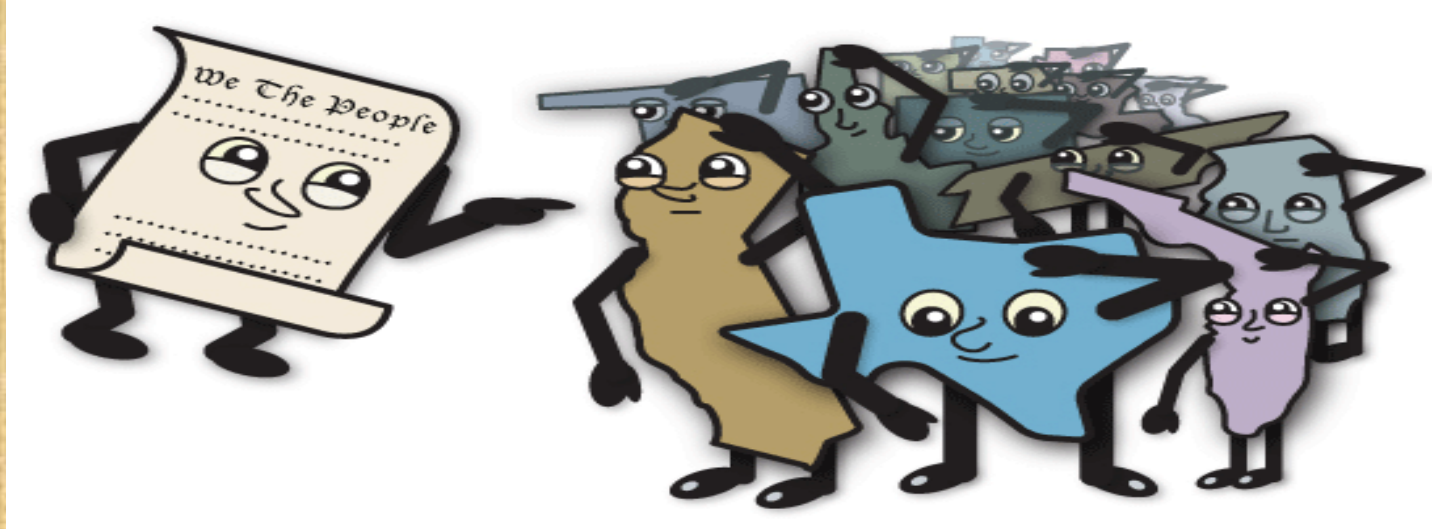
# What is Devolution?

- the transfer or delegation of power to a lower level, especially by central government to local or regional administration
- Within the U.S., a large change was seen where power was moved from the federal level, over to the states, giving them more freedom and responsibility



# Overview of Devolution...

In 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected president. "A New Federalism" was put into effect to return power to the states. His order of devolution was maintained throughout the 80's and 90's by both Bill Clinton and George W. Bush until the attacks of 9/11, after which people were willing to give power back to the federal government to protect them and restore order. Reagan's giving of powers to the states was significantly different than the era of federalism before, where the national government had large amounts of power and control over most aspects of the country.



# Reagan Revolution

- Reagan once said, “The federal government did not create the states; the states created the federal government.”
- Reagan began his revolution with massive cuts to federal domestic programs and income taxes
- Relationships between the federal, state, and local governments changed dramatically
- Reagan persuaded Congress into the use of block grants, allowing states to use federal aid with fewer restrictions
- Block grants included things such as health, education, transportation, and other broad categories



# Bill Clinton's Presidency

- Republicans dominated nearly all aspects of Congress in 1994, winning a majority in both houses and reelections for every single Republican governor
- Clinton put into effect the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, giving administrative power of welfare programs back into the hands of the states
- With devolution policies and economic prosperity, states were able to enjoy increased spending and lower taxes, causing the people to become even more supportive of power in the hands of the states instead of the national government



# Amendments during the Devolution Era

- After 1980, there was only one amendment added to the Constitution, making it what it is today.
- However, it had no effect on the powers of states and the national government or their relationship
- The 27<sup>th</sup> amendment, ratified in 1992, states that no law affecting the salaries of Senators and/or Representatives shall take effect until after the next election for that position has been conducted



# Supreme court cases

## 1. Webster vs Reproductive Health Services (1989)

- Ruled state abortion restrictions as constitutional
- Allowed the states to impose new restrictive abortion laws (spousal consent, waiting periods, etc.) with encouragement of the Supreme Court
- Gave the states the ability and power to decide how abortion should be handled



# Supreme court cases

## 2. United vs Lopez (1995)

- Case involved the conviction of a student charged with carrying a concealed handgun onto school property
- Court ruled Congress lacked constitutional authority under the commerce clause to regulate guns within 1,000 feet of a school
- Local gun control in schools ruled a state matter





# Supreme Court cases

## 3. United States vs Morrison

- In 1994, at Virginia Tech, freshman student Christy Brzonkala was allegedly assaulted and raped repeatedly by fellow students Antonio Morrison and James Crawford. Brzonkala filed suit under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- The act provided that a federal remedy for victims of gender-motivated violence needed to in order
- In a 5-4 decision, U.S. V. Morrison held that Congress lacked authority to provide a federal remedy, under either the Commerce Clause or the Fourteenth Amendment
- VAWA deemed unconstitutional



# Works Cited

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