

Devolution

ROBERT MITCHELL

CONNOR BOOK

HOLDEN LOVELESS

TYLER QUIGLEY

RYAN HENDRICKS

MARK GONZALES

REBECCA SEMRICK

Devolution (New Federalism)

Restoration to the state governments of autonomy and power which they lost during the expansion of the federal governments powers from programs such as FDR's New Deal – while reducing the power of the federal government.



Presidents



- Ronald Reagan (1981 - 1989)
- Bill Clinton (1993 - 2001)
- George W. Bush (2001 - 2009)





Ronald Reagan (1981 – 1989)



- Proposed federal cuts via block grants.
 - Block Grant: A broad grant with few strings attached; given to states by the federal government for specified activities, such as secondary education or health services.
- Lowered Income Tax by cutting federal programs.
 - One such program being the Community Development Block Grant which lost 2/3 of its funding.
- For the first time in 30 years, federal aid to state and local governments declined.
 - The federal government grouped many of the grants into categories. Those categories being: Health services, Income security, Education, and Transportation.
- Persuaded Congress to broaden block grants to allow states more choice in government spending for social services.
- Ended unrestricted funding for the states via general revenue sharing
 - This was an annual amount of federal tax revenue given to the states.
- Reaganomics (His economic policy goals)
 - Focused on reducing federal spending, federal taxation, federal regulation, and inflation.



Ronald Reagan (1981 – 1989)



- Effect on Federalism
 - By ending general revenue sharing, and replacing it with Block grants, the states reliance on the federal government was lessened.
 - This change from general revenue sharing to Block grants made it so that instead of being forced to pay for federal programs out of their own pocket, they received federal funding to help pay for these federal programs. This in turn gave the state governments more flexibility in their budgets to fund their own programs.



Bill Clinton (1993 – 2001)



- First democratic president in 12 years
- During his presidency there was a Republican house majority
 - Under Newt Gingrich, scaling back the federal government was a top priority
 - In other words, Devolution (New Federalism) was a top priority.
- Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995
 - Congress now had to debate costly spending on federal programs.
 - This gave the state governments a larger say in federal spending.
- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996
 - This replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Act (AFDC) with the Temporary Assistant for Needy Families Act (TANF).
- Clintonomics (His economic policy goals)
 - Dispersing the greater authorities to state governments
 - Reducing the federal deficit.



Bill Clinton (1993 – 2001)



- Effect on Federalism
 - The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 helped avoid imposing mandates on state governments – thus freeing the state governments from funding federal programs out of pocket.
 - The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 returned most of the administrative power for welfare programs back to the state.
 - The republican controlled Congress continued on with Reagans philosophies even through a democratic presidency.



George W. Bush (2001 – 2009)



- Planned to follow many of the defining characteristics of devolution.
 - Reducing Income Tax.
 - Believed state and local governments should have administrative power over education and welfare.
- He could not live up to these promises after the September 11th attack which caused massive increases in the federal governments size and power, resulting in the end of the devolution era.



Court Cases

- *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services (July 3, 1989)*
 - Vote: 5 - 4
 - William L. Webster challenged Missouri law that stated “the life of a human being begins at conception” and “unborn children are protectable interests in life, health, and well-being”.
 - The law prevented women from getting abortions if the abortion used anything government owned, and if the fetus was “viable”.
 - The ruling stated that all these laws were constitutional. This allowed the states to make new restrictions, thus giving them more power.
- *U.S. v. Lopez (April 26, 1995)*
 - Vote: 5 - 4
 - Alfonzo Lopez Jr. challenged the Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990 which prohibited a person from having a firearm in a school zone.
 - Congress argued that because Alfonzo brought a gun to school, the students did not feel safe, and would not learn as well, resulting in a less educated future, resulting in a weaker economy.
 - The ruling basically prevented Congress from using the Commerce Clause to get whatever they want.
 - First Supreme Court ruling since FDR that limited Congressional interpretation of the Commerce Clause.
 - Only states had the ability to regulate guns within 1000 feet of public schools.

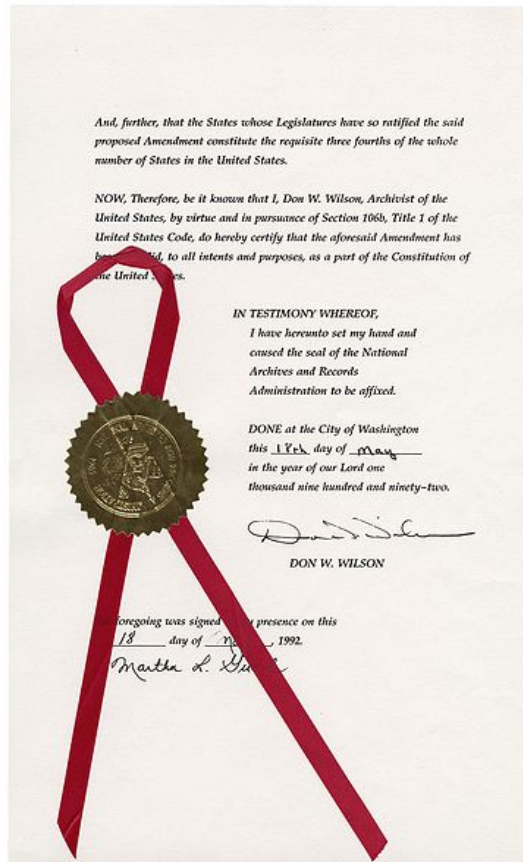


Court Cases

- *Printz v. U.S. (June 27, 1997)*
 - Vote: 5 - 4
 - J. Printz and Richard Mack challenged the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993.
 - Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 extended the Gun Control Act of 1968. The two combined basically stated that you could not sell firearms to people who would be considered threats to public safety, ex. Convicted criminals, fugitives, etc. Also when selling firearms, an electronic, or phone based background check is required.
 - The ruling stated that Congress lacked the power to force state officers to enforce federal laws, so the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act was ruled unconstitutional.



The 27th Amendment



- This prevented members of Congress from altering their salaries within their term. If they alter their salaries, the alterations will not take effect until the next term of office for Representatives.
- Originally submitted for ratification by the 1st Congress in 1789.
- After being brought up again by Gregory Watson in 1982, he wrote letters to all the state legislatures.
- In 1992 Michigan became the final state required to ratify the amendment, making it official.
- While this did not really give any power back to the states, it did limit the power of the federal government by preventing members of Congress from giving themselves lots of money.

House husbands making cake.



Sources

- O'Connor, Karen, and Larry Sabato. *American Government Continuity and Change*. 2006 edition. 114-118. Print. (The textbook)
- "Webster v. Reproductive Health Services - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Cornell University , n.d. Web. 14 Sept. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webster_v._Reproductive_Health_Services>.
- "United States v. Lopez - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Time Magazine, n.d. Web. 14 Sept. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._v._Lopez>.
- "Printz v. United States - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. N.p., 8 July 2013. Web. 14 Sept. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Printz_v._United_States>.
- Wikipedia, V.. N.p.. Web. 14 Sep 2013. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reaganomics>>.
- . N.p.. Web. 14 Sep 2013. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clintonomics>>.