

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE 50 STATES

TEXT SUMMARY

The Constitution says that the National Government must guarantee a “Republican Form of Government” and protect the States “against Invasion” and against “domestic Violence.” This last statement allows federal officials to enter a State to restore order or to help in a disaster.

The National Government may create new States but not from the territory of an existing State without permission from that State’s legislature. To become a new State, an area’s residents must first ask Congress for admission. Congress passes an **enabling act**, which approves the writing of a State constitution. The area’s residents write the constitution and submit it to Congress. Congress makes the area a State with an **act of admission**. When the President signs the act, the State is admitted to the Union.

The National Government and States cooperate in many ways. From 1972 to 1987, Congress gave the States and their local governments a share of federal tax money through **revenue sharing**. Through the three types of **grants-in-aid program**, the National Government gives resources to the States or their local governments. **Categorical grants** are made for specified purposes. **Block grants** are given for much broader purposes. **Project grants** are made to States, localities, and even private agencies that apply for them.

In turn, States assist the National Government in many ways. For example, the State and local governments carry out and pay for national elections.

THE BIG IDEA

The Constitution allows and requires the National Government to help the States in certain ways.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: National and State Cooperation



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REVIEW QUESTIONS

- How does an area become a State?
- Diagram Skills** What are two ways in which States may help the National Government?