



## 4.7 Forms of Government

## Objective and Essential Learning

4.7 Define federal and unitary states. Explain how federal and unitary states affect spatial organization.

- Forms of governance include unitary states and federal states.
- Unitary states tend to have a more top-down, centralized form of governance, while federal states have more locally based, dispersed power centers.



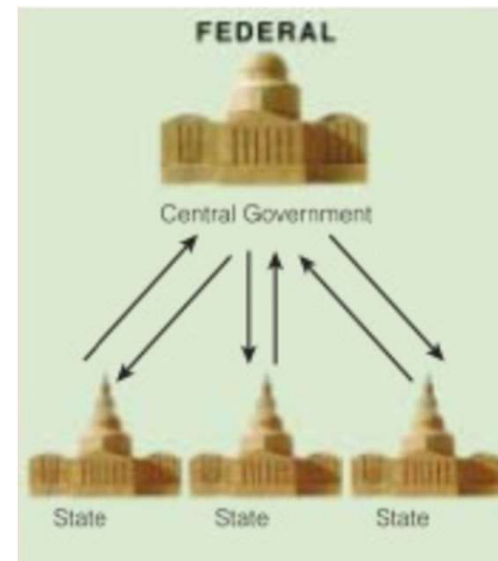
# Forms of Government

## Where is power held?

### FEDERAL

A style of government in which power is shared between central, regional, and local governments.

Regional and local governments have autonomy and authority to administer their spaces in order to account for needs of diverse groups.

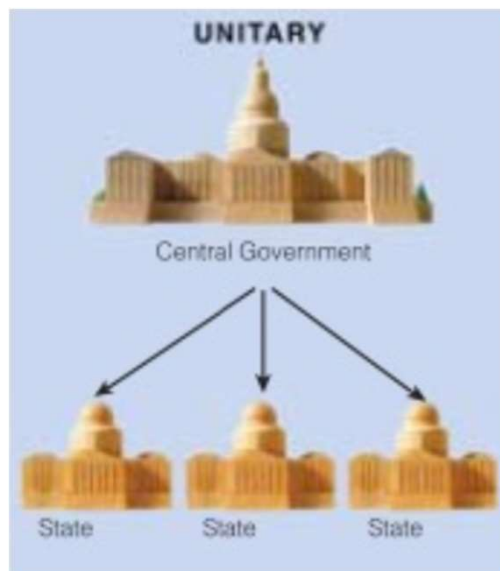


[https://youtu.be/60G6oT2h\\_w4](https://youtu.be/60G6oT2h_w4)



# Forms of Government

## Where is power held?



### UNITARY

A style of government in which the power is located centrally and the purpose of regional or local units is to carry out policy.

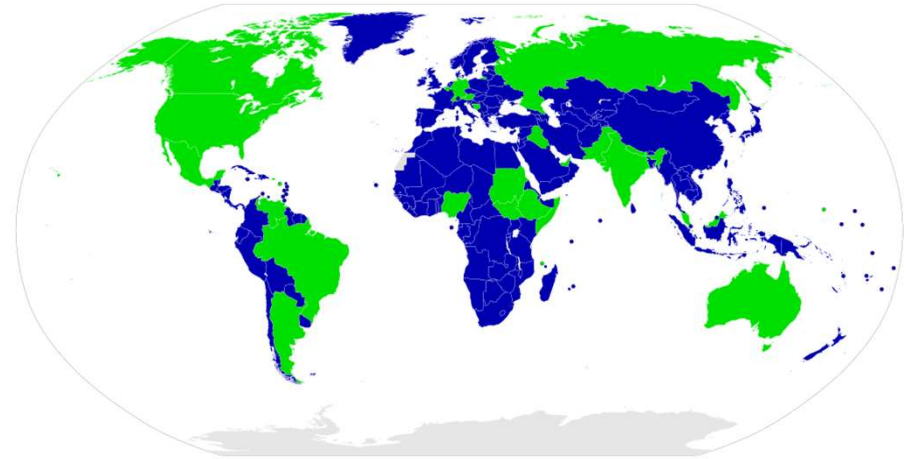
Regional and local political units exist, but often do not act independently to MAKE laws or policy. The units are an extension of the central government.

# Federal Governments

## Spatial Organization

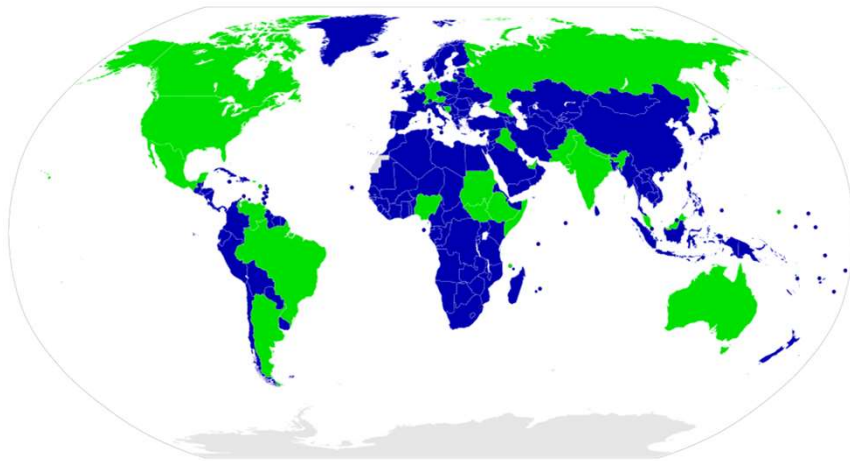
### FEDERAL

- Power is diffused to state and local governments on multiple levels.
- Multinational & geographically large -> local power helps balance the needs of a diverse population.
- Substate -> County -> City/Local



# Forms of Government

## Spatial Organization



### UNITARY

- Very little political power outside of the central government. Limited diffusion of power.
- States are more likely geographically compact with less cultural differences and minority groups. (\*generally)

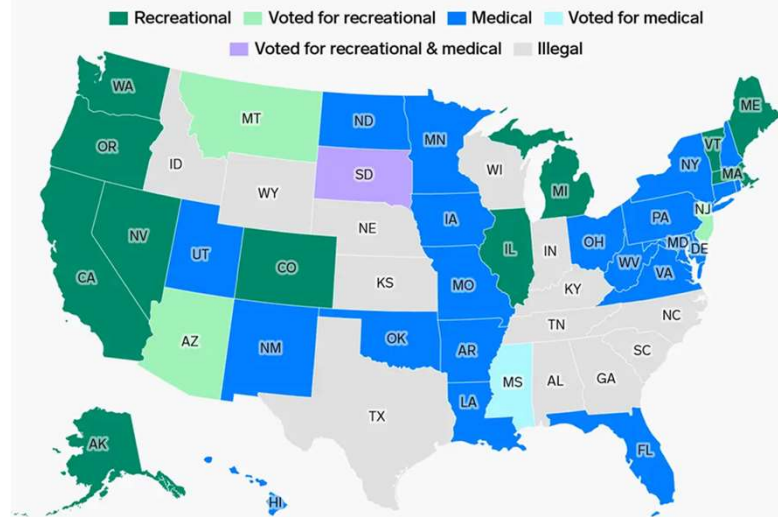
# Federal Governments

## Positives

### FEDERAL

- Reduction of conflict around specific issues because each substate can legislate differently.
  - Death penalty or legalization of marijuana
- Local issues resolved more quickly by regional/local governments.

States where cannabis is legal





# Forms of Government

## Positives



### UNITARY

- Efficiency in the creation and implementation of laws.
  - All from one central authority.
- Change happens quickly - only has to go through the central government.
- Sense of unity.

# Federal Governments

## Negatives

### FEDERAL

- Slow to enact change.
  - Amending the Constitution - 3/4 of states needed to ratify. That means 38 states have to agree!
- Conflicts between national, state, and local level governmental units can cause confusion and stall progress.



# Forms of Government

## Negatives



### UNITARY

- More vulnerable to corruption or authoritarianism.
  - May only serve the interests of the dominant group.
- Central government may not be in touch with local issues.
  - Slower to respond to local issues