

**FP.C&G.1.5**

**Evaluate the fundamental principles of American politics in terms of the extent to which they have been used effectively to maintain constitutional democracy in the United States (e.g., rule of law, limited government, democracy, consent of the governed, etc.).**

**Students will understand:**

1. A government system in which the structures, powers and limits of government are set forth in a constitution relies on its founding principles to maintain order. (Inalienable rights, structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances, frequent and free elections in a representative government, rule of law, equal justice under the law, private property rights, federalism, due process, individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights, individual responsibility)
2. A constitutional democracy allows competing ideas, values, and principles to compete in a peaceful manner. (Inalienable rights, structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances, frequent and free elections in a representative government, rule of law, equal justice under the law, private property rights, federalism, due process, individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights, individual responsibility)
3. The relationship between citizens and their government requires mutual consent. (social contract, rule of law, inalienable rights, equal justice under the law)

**Students will know:**

1. Basic principles of United States government and their purpose. (Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances, rule of law, equal justice under the law)
2. The concept of the social contract. (Inalienable rights)
3. Occasions when conflict within the United States has challenged the maintenance of constitutional democracy. (federalism, due process, Bill of Rights, rule of law, equal justice under the law, separation of power with checks and balances)
  - a. For example: Whiskey Rebellion, US Civil War, Jim Crow, Great Depression, Court packing, Civil Rights movement, differing political perspectives concerning liberty, power, and authority

**Key Terminology:**

- Principles of American Constitutional Democracy – Popular sovereignty and constitutional government. Constitutional government includes rule of law representative institutions, separated and shared powers, checks and balances, individual rights, separation of church and state, federalism, and civilian control of the military