

Explain Checks and Balances System of US Constitution

" In framing a government in which men are to govern men, you must enable it to govern the governed, and then enable it to govern itself "

James Madison in Federalist 51

While framing the constitution, forefathers of US came up with a system of checks and balances of each branch of government on the other. The goal was to make government as efficient as possible by keeping the power of each organ in check. These checks are discussed in detail below.

1- Checks of executive on legislature

The checks of executive on legislature are as follows.

- (i) Power to veto the legislations

The executive has power to veto any legislation passed by legislature.

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(ii) Power to send messages to legislature.

The executive can send messages to members of legislature regarding any legislation, he intends to propose or pass.

(iii) Executive enjoys power of patronage

Executive is responsible for a lot of federal appointments. Hence he wields a lot of patronage over legislature.

(iv) Executive is responsible for implementation of laws approved by legislature.

Any law that is passed by legislature, it is dependant on executive branch of government for its execution.

2. Checks of legislature on executive

(i) legislature can override veto of executive

with absolute majority in both houses, legislature has power to over-ride veto of executive

(ii) legislature can impeach the president

legislature has the power to impeach president or vice president with absolute majority of senate

(iii) legislature controls the budget of executive branch

legislature wields the power over executive as it depends for the approval of its budget on legislature

3. Checks of legislature on Judiciary

(i) legislature along with executive is responsible for appointment of judges and judicial staff.

Assent of legislature is required by executive while appointing judges

(ii) legislature controls the budget of judiciary

legislature's approval is required for passing the budget of judicial branch.

(iii) Power to make amendments in constitution regarding judiciary

legislature has power to make amendments regarding structure of judiciary

(iv) power to impeach judges

4. Checks of Judiciary on legislature

(i) Judiciary can declare laws passed by legislature null and void

Judiciary has power to declare laws of legislature null and void if it finds them against spirit of legislature

5. Checks of Judiciary on executive

(i) Judiciary ~~can~~ can declare executive ~~laws~~ ^{orders} passed by executive null and void

Actions taken by executive can be declared null and void by judiciary if it finds them against spirit of constitution

6. Checks of executive on Judiciary

(i) Executive appoints Judges

Executive is responsible for appointment of judges

1 (ii) Courts depend on executive for implementation of their orders

Judgements passed by judiciary are implemented by executive branch

Conclusion

The checks and balances system of US constitution makes the working of government smooth. The success of this system is depicted in the prestige US enjoys on world stage and its political stability.