

Forms of Power Sharing

Chapter 13: Power-sharing · Topic 2

Key Concept

Horizontal power sharing distributes power among different government branches - the legislature, executive, and judiciary - ensuring checks and balances.

Vertical power sharing distributes power among different levels of government - national, state, and local - allowing decisions to be made closer to the people they affect.

Power can also be shared among different social groups, like community government (as in Belgium) or by ensuring political parties, pressure groups, and movements represent diverse interests.

These different forms of power sharing work together in most democracies, ensuring that power isn't concentrated, and that different perspectives and interests are represented in governance.

Quick Revision Notes

- Horizontal power sharing distributes power among government branches.
- This includes legislature, executive and judiciary.
- It ensures checks and balances.
- Vertical power sharing distributes power among government levels.
- This includes national, state and local levels.
- Vertical sharing allows decisions closer to affected people.
- Power can also be shared among social groups.
- Political parties and pressure groups also represent diverse interests.

Practice Questions

- 1 Explain horizontal power sharing with an example.
- 2 Explain vertical power sharing with an example.
- 3 Research how Belgium shares power among social groups.
- 4 Discuss how political parties represent diverse interests.
- 5 Compare horizontal and vertical power sharing.
- 6 Create a diagram showing different forms of power sharing.