**Government Distribution of POWER**

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|  | **Characteristics** | **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** | **Examples** |
| **Unitary** | **Central Government has ALL the Power.**  **There is a constitution that outlines the powers of the central government and the people.**  **Central government can give power to the lower levels like States/local government but, this power can be taken away at any time.** | **Central government can**  **easily to settle problems**  **(no interference with lower levels)**  **easily to know who makes decisions.**  **allows for a more unified (together) country.** | **Central government might not have all the answers to the problems/issues.**  **might not be able to handle ALL the problems.** | **United Kingdom**  **France** |
| **Confederation** | **A Confederation is a small group of states or communities that come together to help solve common problems.**  **Usually formed with a treaty that may have a constitution.**  **All participants are equal and must meet before taking action.**  **This is usually the first step toward creating a more powerful government.** | **Members can choose the best option or decision for local issues** | **Past governments have been unsuccessful.**  **Less unified**  **Do not have to agree with other laws.** | **European Union**  **Commonwealth of Nations** |
| **Federal** | **Have a constitution**  **Central government shares power with the lower levels (States)**  **Power cannot be taken for lower levels.** | **States/local governments can solve problems while the central governments focus on bigger issues.**  **Check each other for bad decisions**  **Efficient way to manage**  **Many opportunities for citizens to participate.** | **Confusion on roles/who has what power**  **Less unified (together)**  **Each state/local government have different laws**  **Slow to process/pass an amendment** | **United States**  **Germany** |