**1. “Modern government has greatly extended its range, assuming responsibility for improving social conditions by regulating economic activity and providing a wide range of public services. This great expansion poses a major challenge to the very idea of constitutionalism: devised as commitments to ‘limited government.’”\* Do you agree or disagree with this assertion by a British scholar? Why? What evidence can you offer to support your position?**

When the quaking minds of the founding fathers split in a windfall of mammoth genius, they cleaved the government into a confederate shape; this form didn’t last long though. National supremacy was surreptitiously jetted into place following the constitutional convention and landmark cases such as *McCulloch V. Maryland*, in which Marshall’s court ruled that the national government has implied powers not directly stated in the constitution.

Incorporated within the enumeration of the constitution are legal fortifications such as the supremacy clause and the elastic clause, that have been determined, through the temporal gradient our country has followed, to have more power each decade. During the early 20th century this pacing hastened. *Commonwealth V. Hunt* dragged the federal government into issues of labor unions, a struggle that developed in tandem with United States antitrust laws. These are clear instances of the federal government stepping in that were necessary. Adam Smith’s pure free market would backlash against the people, as it is quixotic in form. The government’s involvement during the Great Depression was important too. Public works projects, the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), and the SSA (Social Security Act) were all products of the era, and are acts that have helped protect the nation and people in the event of emergency. America has moved further and at a more rapid rate away from dual federalism to cooperative federalism, but in these cases it has been a necessary ejection.

The government has dropped huge bridges between these two spheres of power.. The national government has implemented The Highway Act of 1956, and has dug its hands deeply into school systems, welfare, and public projects.In school systems, legislators so detached from the school systems themselves, devise acts like No Child Left Behind that are of more harm to the school systems than helpful.

Through mandates the government has developed a hypnotic influence over state legislation. A lot of the federal government’s help is necessary for the country to run, or at least run at its most superlative, but there are plenty of areas that it can mitigate its influence in, or quit altogether. Mandates, SPECIFICALLY are a devious way of quelling state rights.

**• How would you explain the concept of constitutionalism?**

Constitutionalism is the principle that the government should be limited through a series of rules and parameters. Limited government is a tell-tale of many important political philosophies, ranging from John Milton’s early critiques, such as *The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates* in which he puts high value on the execution of Charles I as a form of limitation, to John Locke who proclaimed that the government had to have the consent of the governed. Constitutionalism relies on a constitution, a body of principles that outline how or what a state will govern, making the constitution the centerpiece of government.

**• What can citizens do if and when they believe government is overstepping the bounds of constitutional government?**

The U.S. Government is founded upon the use of checks and balances to maintain the integrity of the country as a whole. A major way of protecting your rights is through the courts. If a law abridges the rights of a citizen, that person may take the issue to the courts, as in the case of *Shelby County v. Holder*, in which Shelby County of Alabama sued the attorney general claiming that Section 4 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act was unconstitutional. Another way citizens can protect their rights is through voting. Voting is a constitutional guarantee as shown in 15th, 19th, and 26th amendments. Through voting citizens can directly decide on state and local legislation as well as pick the men and the women who will represent them in congress.

Protesting, petitions, and lobbying are expedients of the small scale decision process, in which the people make their voices heard. Protesting was exigent to the developments of the civil rights movement. Rosa Parks once said, “I'm tired of being treated like a second-class citizen,” and she sustained this value through a refusal to give up her seat on a bus, a now symbolic moment in American history. Petitions and lobbying give the people a way to show their representatives or other government officials how they feel about problems. With issues of particular importance many citizens will asseverate the criticality of said issues through referendums: a binary treatment of problems that the people feel need to be solved.

The most important right we have though is the Right of Revolution. We can find examples of the founder’s agreeance with the Right of Revolution in both *Common Sense* and *The Declaration of Independence.* If there is truly no way to protect yourself against the government then Revolution is a final maneuver the people can take.