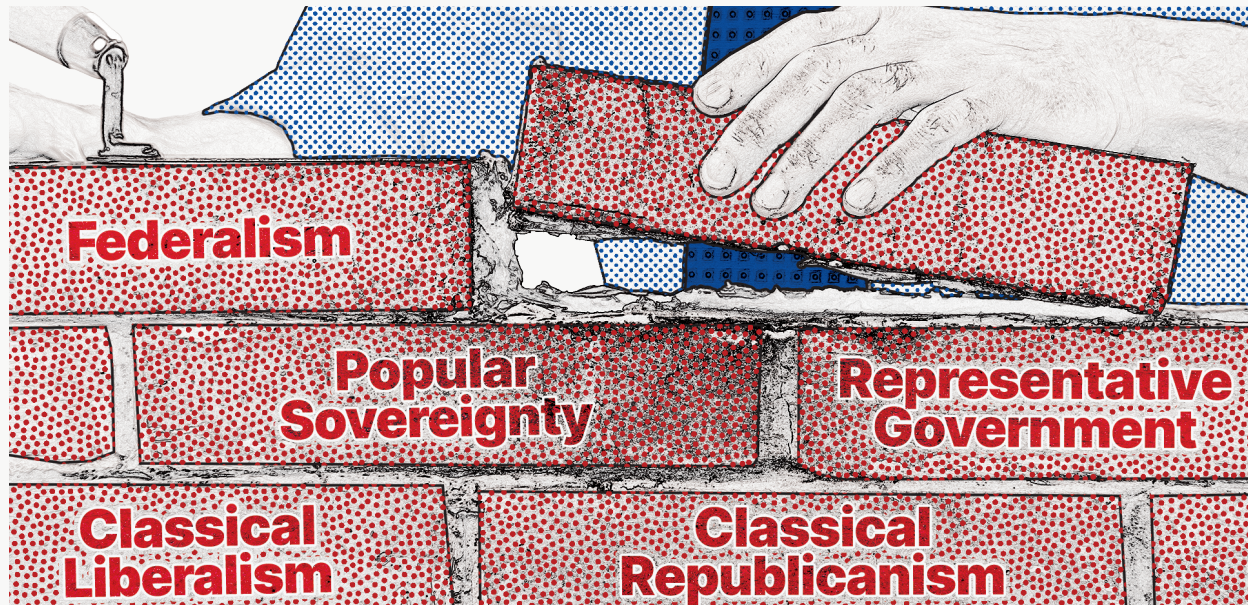




Understanding Foundational Principles



In groups of three, develop answers to the following questions. Prepare a presentation to discuss your answers with the entire class.

1. Give examples from the American political system of each of the five concepts—classical republicanism, classical liberalism, federalism, popular sovereignty, and representative government—that you have studied.
2. What other terms or concepts might you use to describe the American political system (i.e., democracy, rule of law, etc.)?
3. What is the difference between a right and a responsibility? Give examples of each of these.
4. What is civic virtue? Do you believe most Americans practice civic virtue when participating in public life? Why or why not?
5. What is enlightened self-interest? How is enlightened self-interest connected to civic virtue? How are they different?
6. What are some real-life examples where individual rights and the common good might conflict with each other?
7. Why was it important for the U.S. Constitution to divide powers between the national and state governments?