

Dr. VIPIN KUMAR SINGH

Assistant Professor

Subject- Legislative and Quasi Judicial Powers of Administration

Class- LL.M. II Semester

Topic- Difference between unitary and federal systems?

Difference between unitary and federal systems?

A unitary system is different from a federal system in that a unitary system is composed of one central government that holds all the power, while a federal system divides power between national and local forms of government.

The Unitary governing system:

- Places its power in one central governing system
- Very little political power exists outside the central government
- The powers of this governing system are uniformly applied throughout
- All major government decisions are made by the central government
- If smaller government units are established they are controlled by the central government and can be abolished by such without their consent
- Many unitary governments are either dictatorships or totalitarian
- France, although Democratic, is governed by a Unitarian body

- Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Barbados, Morocco, and Spain are examples of unitary monarchy government
- China, Afghanistan, Italy, Zambia, and the Ukraine are examples of unitary republic government

The Federal Governing System:

- Distributes power from the national government to local/state governments to adopt laws that are reasonable to the country as a whole and the localities
- Power may be diffused in the federal system
- Multi-national states often have a federal system
- Larger countries often adopt the federal system since constituents may live in areas remote to the location of the central government
- Ethnicities within a country may lead to a federal system as their rules and laws may vary. An example of this is the small country of Belgium which balances the needs of two distinct ethnic groups
- The United States has a federal governing system with a national government and Constitution, in conjunction with state governments and constitutions