Checks and balances and balance of power

Author name

Affiliations

**Checks and balances and balance of power**

The U.S. government is divided into different branches; the legislative, executive, and judicial. To ensure the equal distribution of power among these branches, there is a system of separation of powers assimilated into the U.S. Constitution (Rosenbloom, 2016). This system consists of a series of checks and balances to certify a balance of power. This system allows one branch to "check" the power of the other branches.

Presidential veto of legislation is an example of these checks and balances. The President of the United States under the executive branch has the power to veto laws that are passed by Congress under the legislative branch. However, here Congress also a power to dominate over presidential vetoes as it can have the two-thirds vote of both houses.

**Balance of power example**

In the context of the balance of power, the courts have the power to scrutinize the activities of the legislative as well as executive and administrative arms of government. The Supreme Court under the judicial branch can invalidate laws that are approved by Congress. Conversely, this power is balanced by allowing the president to appoint the presiding judges with the sanction of the Senate. This balance of power is giving equal right to all branches of government.

**The Constitution directly protecting individual and group rights**

The U.S constitution has ten amendments known as the Bill of Rights that are aimed to protect the rights of all citizens by limiting the powers of the federal government. The first Eight Amendments of the Bill of Rights are related to the protection of individual freedoms. Individuals and groups have the right to free speech (Denniston, 2017). Recently the Constitution has also directly protected individual and group rights of transgender people. There are federal appeals courts that are protecting transgender people rights (Denniston, 2017). These do not allow discrimination based on gender identity.

References

Denniston, L. (2017). Appeals court: Constitution protects transgender rights. Retrieved from https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/appeals-court-constitution-protects-transgender-rights

Rosenbloom, D. H. (2016). 3a. Public Administrative Theory and the Separation of Powers. *The Constitutional School of American Public Administration* (pp. 78–94). Routledge.