



1970 Nixon Administration Builds on “Great Society.” New federal programs continue the expansion of the federal power over states and localities. Clean Air and Water Acts are enacted in the form of direct orders. Others are funded through “block grants” which give states more discretion over spending.

1980s Reagan and “New Federalism.” Reagan attempts to limit the powers of the federal government to impose its policies on state governments -- *Devolution*. However, as the budget deficit begins to soar, the ability of the national government to fund state programs becomes limited. Mandates like the Americans with Disabilities Act are unfunded.

1990s Clinton Administration Declares “The era of big government is over.” Clinton and a Republican dominated Congress shift the responsibility of welfare away from the federal government to the states in the form of block grants with strings attached.

2000s George W. Bush and the “9-11 Era.” Greater federal control over law enforcement, education, and security (examples No Child Left Behind Act, USA Patriot Act).