

Magruder's American Government

CHAPTER 11 *Powers of Congress*

Powers of Congress

SECTION 1 The Scope of Congressional Powers

SECTION 2 The Expressed Powers of Money and Commerce

SECTION 3 Other Expressed Powers

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The Scope of Congressional Powers

- What are the three types of congressional power?
- How does strict construction of the U.S. Constitution on the subject of congressional power compare to liberal construction?



Congressional Power

The Constitution grants Congress a number of specific powers in three different ways.

- (1) The **expressed powers** are granted to Congress explicitly in the Constitution.
- (2) The **implied powers** are granted by reasonable deduction from the expressed powers.
- (3) The **inherent powers** are granted through the Constitution's creation of a National Government for the United States.



Strict Versus Loose Construction

Strict Constructionists Conservative/Libertarian

- **Strict constructionists**, led by Thomas Jefferson, argued that Congress should only be able to exercise (1) its expressed powers and (2) those implied powers absolutely necessary to carry out those expressed powers.

Loose Constructionists Progressive/Liberal

- **Liberal construction** led by Alexander Hamilton, favored a liberal interpretation of the Constitution, a broad interpretation of the powers given to Congress.



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