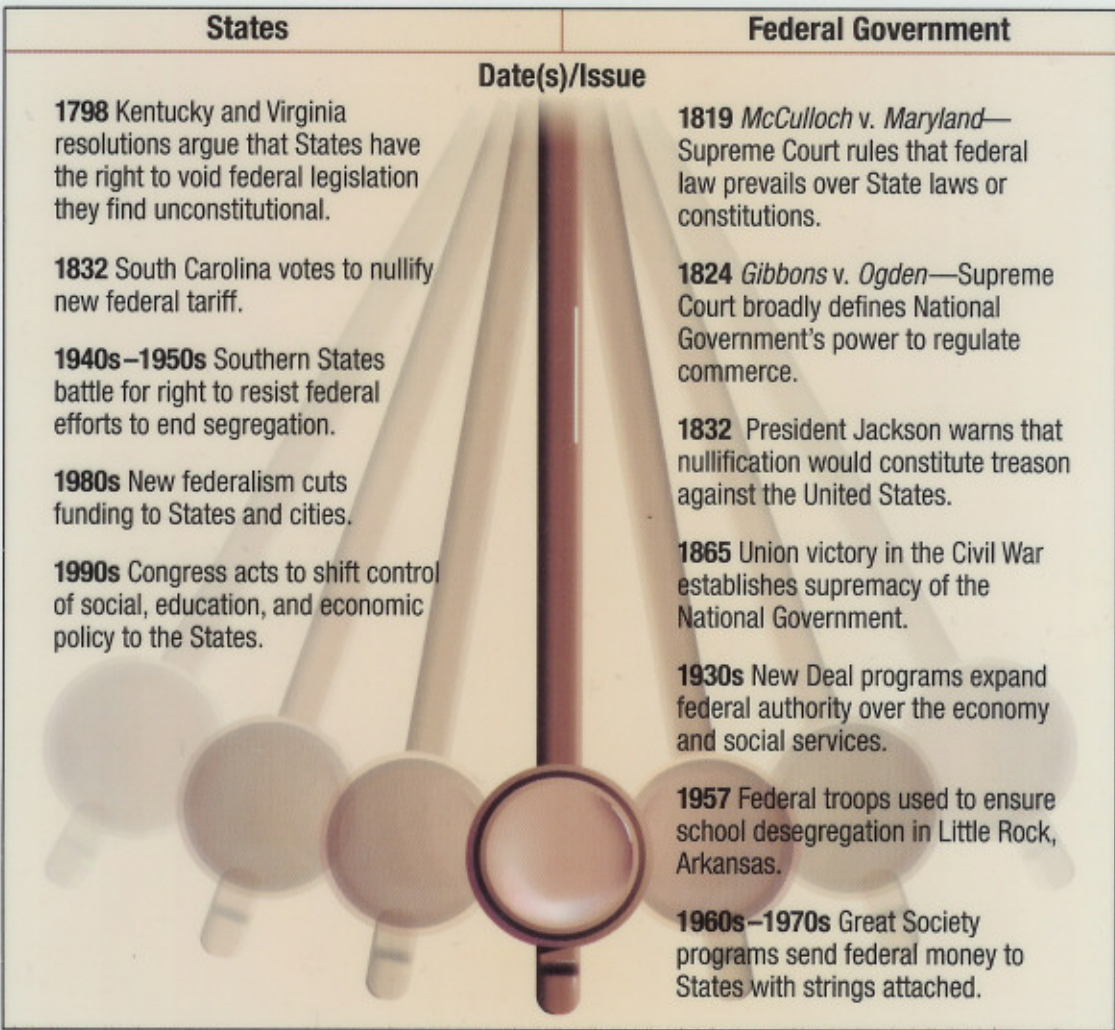


# Shifting Powers

Throughout American history, the pendulum of power has swung between the Federal Government and the States. In recent years, the swing has been toward giving power back to the States.



States	Date(s)/Issue	Federal Government
<b>1798</b> Kentucky and Virginia resolutions argue that States have the right to void federal legislation they find unconstitutional.		<b>1819</b> <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> —Supreme Court rules that federal law prevails over State laws or constitutions.
<b>1832</b> South Carolina votes to nullify new federal tariff.		<b>1824</b> <i>Gibbons v. Ogden</i> —Supreme Court broadly defines National Government's power to regulate commerce.
<b>1940s–1950s</b> Southern States battle for right to resist federal efforts to end segregation.		<b>1832</b> President Jackson warns that nullification would constitute treason against the United States.
<b>1980s</b> New federalism cuts funding to States and cities.		<b>1865</b> Union victory in the Civil War establishes supremacy of the National Government.
<b>1990s</b> Congress acts to shift control of social, education, and economic policy to the States.		<b>1930s</b> New Deal programs expand federal authority over the economy and social services.
		<b>1957</b> Federal troops used to ensure school desegregation in Little Rock, Arkansas.
		<b>1960s–1970s</b> Great Society programs send federal money to States with strings attached.

1. What are the advantages of a system of government in which the States and their local governments hold much of the power?
2. What might be a negative consequence of increased power for the States?