

# 3 Constitutionalism: authority that answers to something – Part 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary 词汇

Write each word three times. 把每个单词抄写三遍。

| English           | 中文   | Write it 3 times (English) |
|-------------------|------|----------------------------|
| Constitutionalism | 立宪主义 | _____                      |
| social contract   | 社会契约 | _____                      |

## Recall

- You know a contract binds both sides.
- You have seen a rule that limits the person who made it.
- You know a question can be settled differently in two countries.

## New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

### ■ 1 The alternative

**Constitutionalism** 立宪主义 placed sovereignty in a body or in law rather than in a person. It answered the same question as absolutism and gave a different answer.

*Worked example.* Two states in one century, one placing authority in a king and one in a parliament, were disputing the same problem.

### ■ 2 Contract

The **social contract** 社会契约 argued that authority comes from an agreement among the governed, which makes it conditional. A ruler who breaks the terms can be resisted.

*Worked example.* If authority is granted, it can be withdrawn - which is the argument's whole force.

### ■ 3 Why commerce mattered

States with commercial elites and representative bodies had groups able to bargain with the crown. Where such groups were weak, the crown's claim met less resistance.

*Worked example.* A merchant class that lends the government money has a lever no peasant has.

**Watch out:** Absolutism and constitutionalism are two answers to one question - where sovereignty lies. Treating them as unrelated national styles loses the argument they were both part of.

## Practice

2.1 State where constitutionalism placed sovereignty. [2]

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2.2 State the social contract's claim and its consequence. [2]

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2.3 Explain why a granted authority can be withdrawn. [2]

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2.4 Explain why commercial elites strengthened representative bodies. [2]

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2.5 State the question both systems answered. [1]

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