This work examines the role of Union governors in the Civil War and how these politicians were pivotal in securing victory. In a time of limited federal authority, governors were an essential part of the machine that maintained the Union while it mobilized and sustained the war effort. Charged with the difficult task of raising soldiers from their home states, these governors had to also rally political, economic, and popular support for the conflict, at times against a backdrop of significant local opposition. It argues that the relationship between these loyal-state leaders and Lincoln’s administration was far more collaborative than previously thought. While providing detailed and engaging portraits of these men, their state-level actions, and their collective cooperation, the work brings into new focus the era’s complex political history and shows how the Civil War tested and transformed the relationship between state and federal governments.

Introduction
David J. Bodenhamer
in The Revolutionary Constitution

This introductory chapter sets out the book’s purpose, which is to explore the dynamic of power and liberty by examining seven major themes in American constitutional history—federalism, balance of powers, property, representation, equality, rights, and security. The book does not contain everything that readers might want to know about constitutional history and interpretation. Instead, it examines core concepts historically, ending with their contemporary expression. The
goal is to explain the Constitution as an organic, contested, and dynamic frame for government in which past concerns and experiences influence present understanding.

It Is Your Business to Rise Up and Preserve the Union
Stephen D. Engle

in Gathering to Save a Nation: Lincoln and the Union's War Governors

This chapter presents an overview of Lincoln’s journey to the White House, and the governors he met along the way. In addition to introducing the main themes, the chapter also advances the cooperative federalism aspects of Civil War governance and the diffusion of the northern political culture. It sets the stage for nation-state relationship that Lincoln will use to develop armies and establish policies aimed at winning the military contest and establishing reunion.

The Founding Fathers Reconsidered
R. B. Bernstein

This book presents an overview of the brilliant, flawed, and quarrelsome group of lawyers, politicians, merchants, military men, and clergy known as the “Founding Fathers” — who got as close to the ideal of the Platonic “philosopher-kings” as American or world history has ever seen. The book reveals Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, Hamilton, and the other founders not as shining demigods but as imperfect human beings — people much like us — who nevertheless achieved political greatness. They emerge here as men who sought to transcend their intellectual world even as they were bound by its limits, men who strove to lead the new nation even as they had to defer to the great body of the people and learn with them the possibilities and limitations of politics. Bernstein deftly traces the dynamic forces that molded these men and their contemporaries as British colonists in North America and as intellectual citizens of the Atlantic civilization's Age of Enlightenment. It analyzes the American Revolution, the framing and adoption of state and federal constitutions, and the key concepts and problems — among them independence, federalism, equality, slavery, and the separation of
church and state — that both shaped and circumscribed the founders' achievements as the United States sought its place in the world.

Federalism
David J. Bodenhamer

in The Revolutionary Constitution
Published in print: 2014 Published Online: March 2015
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:osobl/9780199360444.003.0005
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the theme of federalism in American constitutional history. Federalism was the most novel doctrine to emerge from the Constitutional Convention. It addressed two pressing issues: how to expand republican government to a national scale and how to grant national government sufficient power to act with energy and dispatch yet limit its ability to threaten liberty.

Balance
David J. Bodenhamer

in The Revolutionary Constitution
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Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the theme of balance in American constitutional history. The problem of power is the longest-lived issue in American constitutionalism. It was a central focus of the American Revolution; it became the critical problem of the Constitutional Convention; and it is a constant refrain in American politics. Two perennial questions govern debates on the subject: How much power can be trusted to government? What restraints on power are necessary to protect liberty? History and experience converged to suggest a guiding theme, the division of power, which popular sovereignty, or the people as ultimate authority, made possible. Federalism was one division of power; another was to separate and balance the powers of the central government among its branches.