

TABLE 1: The Spectrum of Federal Political Systems

<i>Unions</i>	polities compounded in such a way that the constituent units preserve their respective integrities primarily or exclusively through the common organs of the general government rather than through dual government structures. New Zealand and Lebanon are examples. Belgium prior to becoming a federation in 1993 was an example (when central legislators served also with a dual mandate as regional or community councillors).
<i>Constitutionally decentralized unions</i>	basically unitary in form in the sense that ultimate authority rests with the central government but incorporate constitutionally protected sub-national units of government which have functional autonomy. See Table 5 for examples.
<i>Federations</i>	compound polities, combining strong constituent units and a strong general government, each possessing powers delegated to it by the people through a constitution, and each empowered to deal directly with the citizens in the exercise of its legislative, administrative and taxing powers, and each directly elected by the citizens. Currently there are some 24 in the world that meet the basic criteria of a federation although in the cases of South Africa and Spain their constitutions have not adopted the label. See Table 2 for examples.
<i>Confederations</i>	These occur where several pre-existing polities join together to form a common government for certain limited purposes (for foreign affairs, defence or economic purposes), but the common government is dependent upon the constituent governments, being composed of delegates from the constituent governments, and therefore having only an indirect electoral and fiscal base. Historical examples have been Switzerland for most of the period 1291-1847 and the United States 1776-89. In the contemporary world, the European Union is primarily a confederation although it has increasingly incorporated some features of a federation. See Table 3 for other examples.
<i>Federacies</i>	political arrangements where a large unit is linked to a smaller unit or units, but the smaller unit retains considerable autonomy and has a minimum role in the government of the larger one, and where the relationship can be dissolved only by mutual agreement. Examples are the relationship of Puerto Rico to the United States and of Kashmir to India. See Table 4 for other examples.
<i>Associated states</i>	These relationships are similar to federacies, but they can be dissolved by either of the units acting alone on prearranged terms established in the constituting document or a treaty. The relationship between New Zealand and the Cook Islands is an example. See Table 4 for other examples.

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TABLE 1 (continued)

<i>Condominiums</i>	political units which function under the joint rule of two or more external states in such a way that the inhabitants have substantial internal self-rule. An example was Andorra which functioned under the joint rule of France and Spain 1278-1993.
<i>Leagues</i>	linkages of politically independent polities for specific purposes that function through a common secretariat rather than a government and from which members may unilaterally withdraw. See Table 6 for examples.
<i>Joint functional authorities</i>	an agency established by two or more polities for joint implementation of a particular task or tasks. The North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the International Labour Organization (ILO) are three of many examples. Such joint functional authorities may also take the form of transborder organizations established by adjoining sub-national governments, e.g. the interstate grouping for economic development involving four regions in Italy, four Austrian Länder, two Yugoslav republics and one West German Land established in 1978, and the interstate Regio Basiliensis involving Swiss, German and French co-operation in the Basle area.
<i>Hybrids</i>	Some political systems combine characteristics of different kinds of political systems. Those which are predominantly federations in their constitutions and operation but which have some overriding federal government powers more typical of a unitary system may be described as "quasi-federations." Examples are Canada initially in 1867 which was basically a federation but contained some unitary elements which have in the second half of the twentieth century fallen into disuse; India, Pakistan and Malaysia which are predominantly federations but whose constitutions include some overriding central emergency powers; more recently, South Africa (1996), which has most of the characteristics of a federation but retains some unitary features. On the other hand, Germany while predominantly a federation, has a confederal element in the Bundesrat, its federal second chamber which is composed of delegates of the Land governments. A hybrid combining much more fully the characteristics of a confederation and a federation is the European Union after Maastricht. This is basically a confederation, but has some features of a federation. Hybrids occur because statesmen are often more interested in pragmatic political solutions than in theoretical purity.