power – The Administrations gave states money in blocks for them to do with as they saw fit rather than the Federalist Government dictating what it was to be spent on – this system continued into the Clinton Administration with the phrase ‘The Era of Big Government is Over’ after the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994

- **George W. Bush Administration** began very much in this light; small government with Bush as an ex-governor focusing on States rights – yet after 9/11, War on Terror, Homeland Security, Hurricane Katrina and No Child Left Behind Act resulted in a more federal Government intervention than the classic Republican administration *(Katrina however did damage the federal government; Bush’s actions were condemned as poor and incoherent, and when he publicly praised the chief of the FEMA Michael Brown, he had to resign 10 days later which made Bush and his administration look out of touch)*

**Advantages of Federalism:**

- It provides an extra layer of Checks and Balances upon the exercise of power and acts as a safeguard against tyranny
- The diversity, culture and traditions of all 50 states can be expressed and reflected
- Provides the opportunity for citizens to be politically involved at a more local level
- State Politics are often the training grounds for those who rise to the Presidency and other leading political roles; Bush Jr (Governor of Texas) Clinton (Governor of Arkansas Obama (State Senator then US senator for Illinois)
- States can be used as autonomous beings for new ideas; New York state and California applying a trial of Carbon Emissions Capping or Education Vouchers in Wisconsin
- Well suited to a large nation geographically

**Disadvantages of Federalism:**

- Too much fragmentation can cause a state of gridlock – States can also refuse to conform with the wishes of the Federal Government – *Brown v Board 1954*
- Variety of laws within one nation causes confusion and the lack of coherence in the nation
- Economic differences between states yet still are within one nation causes discontent but also forces the federal government to provide funds for equality
- Potential democratic overload with too many elective offices and therefore by extension too many elections
- Can mask racial differences between people in each individual states
- Extremely expensive to operate and run effectively