

“The senate is too powerful and the House of Lords is too weak”.

Consider this view of the upper chambers of the U.S. congress and the U.K Parliament.

When the U.K Parliament was first instated it was the House of Lords that predominantly had all the large majority of power and was a lot more influential than the House of Commons, this role has in recent years has switched and it is now the House of Commons that has the majority of the power, this took place because of the Act of Parliament of 1911, which to a large degree reverted the two roles, It should also be remembered that Parliament has been around as long as the Monarchy has as well, but as before this was when the House of Lords and the Majority of the Lords held the majority of the power in the Country.

Congress was set up in the Late 18th Century and therefore is a much more modern establishment, it was set up too keep checks and balances and to make sure the Country was democratic and not a dictatorship, along with this The American Constitution was carefully set up and written out, this is still in existence today and still holds a massive role over the American people, and because of how the Constitution was set up it is very hard for the constitution to be altered, changed or amended. And as the Congress is set up to keep checks and balances on itself it is made even easier for possible changes to become entrenched.

The senate is only one part of Congress and even though it may seem overwhelming in its powers, due to the set up of congress it's powers and limitations are clearly written down and started and these 'rules' have to be followed and adhered to.

The powers of the senate were set up when America itself was set up along with the Constitution and it was the founding fathers upon whom decided how the power should lay, since then there has only been one amendment to the American Constitution for the powers of the senate which now includes the right to taxation and income which was amendment XVI.

The senate and the House of Lords also differs in many different ways, firstly and foremost the Senate is elected from the Inhabitants of each different state, so each different state elects who it wants to be there senators, this differs from the House of Lords because the House of Lords is not elected, 92 seats are inherited seats and the rest are people who have earned the title of Lord or Lordesses and are not where they are because the people want them there, so consequently they do have a small amount of Power but not as much as the comparison between Senate and the House of Lords because the House of Lords is NOT elected and not selected by

the people, it is a position awarded to them or earned by them not given to them by the people who they should be representing.

So the Senate has more power but deserves in this as the people they are representing elect it consequently they should hold more power, than that of the British House of Lords. The senate works together in conjunction with the House of Representatives to produce laws and a system fitting with the People of the United States of America.

Both the British system and the American system are different but so our are ways of Lives so consequently we need different systems to best suit the style of living and lifestyle so different systems work better for different people.

Where the Congress is relatively powerful in its role in passing Laws the House of Lords is not, they both have different roles to play in the passing of Laws. The House of Lords can merely delay a law id does not agree with for no more than 12months, this means if they don't like the Law they can only stop it from happening for 1 year after that there is nothing that they can do. And on top of that they can never delay or even hinder the passing a money bill that lies completely in the hands of the House of Commons. The 689 peers (92 heredity and 597 life peers) have very little power but the Senate plays a big role in stopping, delaying and opposing bills etc.

In relation the House of Lords does have less power than the Senate but there are reasons for that the first being that the Lords is not elected by the people where the senate is and secondly the American system is set up differently to our system and therefore needs to be different. So in conclusion yes the Senate does hold and have more power than that of the House of Lords but in reality it should because it is elected by the people and is used as a check and balance, if The House of Lords had elected members then it really should have the same amount of power and stopping power that the Senate does in America.