

Weaknesses of Articles of Confederation

- Why a Confederation/Weak Central government?
- Colonists were Scared of creating what they just had experienced

Articles of Confederation

- There was no *executive* branch (President)
 - there was no one to enforce or carry out laws made by Congress.
- There was no *judicial* branch
 - there were not national courts to settle disputes between states, or between people of different states.
- Each state had only one vote in Congress
 - This meant that states with small populations had just as much power as states with large populations.
- 9 out of 13 states had to agree before Congress could make a law
 - All 13 had to agree before the *Articles* could be changed. It was hard for Congress to get anything done.

Weaknesses of Articles of Confederation

- Congress could not tax
 - The government of the U.S. had to ask the states for money, and the states could refuse. Congress could borrow money, but had no way to repay the money it borrowed.
- Congress could declare war, but it lacked the power to raise a national army
 - It could ask the states to provide troops from the state militias, but the states could refuse.

Weaknesses of Articles of Confederation

- Congress could not regulate (control) trade
 - Individual states often placed high taxes on goods from other states. This made it difficult to do business.
- Congress could issue money for the U.S., but each state could also print and issue its own money
 - People from one state would often not accept money from another state, and almost no one wanted the national government's money. This made it even more difficult to do business in the U. S.

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