

| Letter | Feature of the Articles of Confederation | Why this was included in the Articles of Confederation | Possible Problems with this feature |
|--------|---|--|--|
| A | No Chief Executive | | Lack of leadership from central government. No single leader for the government |
| B | Ideas needed to be approved by nine of thirteen states to become law. | Wanted to protect individual states' power. Fear of a strong central government. | |
| C | Congress did not have the power to tax citizens. It could only request tax money from states. | | States often chose not to pay taxes and the federal government did not have the funds to operate effectively. |
| D | Congress did not have the power to draft an army. It could only request states to send men for military services. | Fear of a central government with a strong army that might take away citizens' rights. | |
| E | No national court system | Fear of a central government with a court system that might be unfair to the rights of states. | |
| F | Any amendments to the Articles must be approved by all 13 states. | | Nearly impossible to make changes to Articles. Any one state could stop an amendment that all the other states wanted. |
| G | Congress did not have the power to collect money owed by the states to the federal government. | Fear of a strong central government that could force states to pay for things they did not want. | |
| H | Congress did not have the power to settle disputes between the states. | | Disputes among states often could not be resolved. This created disunity among states. |

Comparison of Constitution and Articles of Confederation

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

1. States are sovereign
2. No independent executive
3. No federal courts—all laws enforced by state courts.
4. No taxing power given to Congress.
5. Congress has no power over interstate or foreign commerce.
6. Congress consists of one body and each state has one vote.
7. Amended only by approval of ALL the states.
8. Congress has only specific, delegated powers.
9. Only state governments act directly on the people.

CONSTITUTION

1. People of the whole nation are sovereign—exercise of sovereignty is divided between states and the central government.
2. Independent executive chosen by electoral college.
3. Separate federal court system, with power to resolve disputes between the states.
4. Congress has power to "lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises."
5. Congress has power to regulate commerce with other nations and among the states.
6. Congress consists of two bodies. Number in House is based on population and each state has two Senators.
7. Amended with approval of 3/4 of states.
8. Congress has implied as well as specific powers.
9. Both central government and state governments acts directly on the people.