





What are the Articles of Confederation



Once the war against Great Britain began, each state was like a separate nation. Each state had its own constitution and government. To the people, there state was their country. The founders believed that a national government was needed.

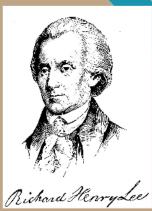
Why did the Founders believe that a national government was necessary?

- l. To unify the states
- 2. To conduct war.
- 3. Control trade and manage conflicts among states.
- 4. To relate to the rest of the world.





June 7, 1776



Richard Henry Lee introduced two proposals to the Second Continental Congress. He proposed:

- 1. Independence from Great Britain.
- 2. A national government to unify the states.
- *Both resolutions were adopted.



The Articles of Confederation created our first national government. Congress Adopted the Articles in 1777. Final approval by the states occurred in 1781, and then the Articles

came into effect.



What problems did the Founders face in writing the Articles of Confederation?

When the Founders came together to write and agree upon a constitution for the United States, they dealt with many questions.



Read each question, and discuss with your shoulder what you think the Founders answered each question.

- 1. What type of national government should they create?
- 2. How much power should they give it?







Problem #1

The people feared a strong national government. They believe with a national government that was both powerful and far away will lead to a government that will take away the peoples' rights.





Problem #2

The Founders feared that some states would have more power in a national government that other states. The leaders in each state wanted to make sure that a national government would not threaten their state's interests.





How did the Articles of Confederation organize the national government?



Solution #1

Create a weak national government.

- The National government under the Articles of Confederation was simply legislature, Congress.
- · No executive or judicial branch.
- · Powers were limited
- The powers were left to the states. Meaning the National government had little power over the states and the citizens.



Solution #2:

Representation

- Articles gave each state one vote in Congress. (the more populous states did not have more than one vote.)
- On important matters such as declaring war, 9 states would have to agree. (This was perfect because the seven less populated states could not outvote the six larger states.





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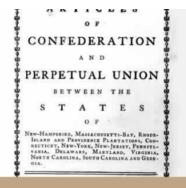
Lets take a look at the achievements and failures of the Article of Confederation!











Achievements

- 1. Waged war for independence against Britain.
- 2. Negotiated the peach treaty, known as the Treaty of Paris, to end the American Revolution.
- 3. Provided each state to recognize the laws of the other states. Example: marriage in one state would be valid in all other states, travel freely from state to state and criminals were sent back to their state in which crime was committed.



4. Passed the Northwest Ordinance North western lands were given the organize their own government. Als provided public education and forbac The western settlers were guarantee of worship, the right to trial by jury, process of law.

Weaknesses

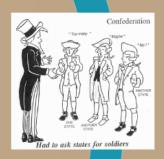
Congress did not have any money and it did not have the power to raise (MONEY) money.



Congress had no power over the state governments over their citizens.

Congress could not make the states live up to trade agreements with other nations





Congress had no power to regulate trade among the states.



were threatened



