

Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

No chief executive, such as a king or president. As a result, government suffered from a lack of leadership.

New laws needed approval from 9 of the 13 states. Delegates from the Continental Congress wanted to protect rights of states and not allow the central government to get too big.

Congress did not have the power to tax citizens directly. Instead, it could only request money from the states which caused financial problems.

Congress did not have the power to draft men into the Continental Army. Instead, it could only request states to send men. Delegates from the Continental Congress were afraid a strong federal government would take away the rights of citizens.

No national court system. Each state had its own court system, they believed a national court system may be unfair to the rights of states.

Amendments (changes) to the Articles of Confederation required the approval of all 13 states. This caused any changes to become nearly impossible.

Congress did not have the power to collect state debts (money owed to them). Delegates from the Continental Congress did this so that Congress did not force states to pay for things they didnt want.

Congress did not have the power to settle disputes among states. Articles of Confederation guaranteed that each state would keep its individual power, freedom and independence so the federal government could not help work out conflicts among themselves.

** The Articles of Confederation gave more power to the states than the central Federal Government. **