

Comparing the Confederation & the Constitution

Name _____

Issue	Articles of Confederation	Article & Section of Constitution	How the Constitution “fixed” the Problem
Executive	Executive function (power to enforce laws) performed by a committee in Congress. One member of Congress would be elected President of the committee each year.		
Judiciary	No system of national courts was established. A committee of Congress would handle any necessary judiciary issues.		
Taxation	Congress did not have the power to tax. Congress could raise money by requesting payments from states, but it could not force them to pay. Congress had the power to borrow money to meet its debts.		
Power to Force Compliance	Congress had no way to force states to obey the Articles of Confederation or the Laws made by Congress.		
Foreign Trade	Only Congress had the power to control trade with foreign nations. The states were not supposed to negotiate directly with foreign countries.		
Interstate Trade	Congress had no power to regulate interstate trade (trade between states).		

Congress	A unicameral Congress was set up with 1 vote per state, regardless of size. Delegates were chosen yearly according to state rules.		
Military	Congress had the power to make war and peace. In addition, it could build a navy and raise an army by asking the States to voluntarily contribute troops.		
Disputes between States	A complicated system of arbitration was used by Congress to settle disputes, but there was no mechanism to force states to obey rulings.		
Sovereignty	States retained almost all of the power of the nation, so sovereignty remained in the states.		
Passage of Laws	Any act or law of Congress required the approval of 9 of the 13 states.		
Amending the Document	Unanimous approval of all 13 states was needed to amend the articles.		