

Class notes on Articles of Confederation and the Constitution

1. After declaring independence the Founding Fathers now needed to create their own government, they wanted to create a government that:

- Had enough POWER to do its job
- Didn't give anyone too MUCH power
- Considered the needs of all States
- Let people have a Say
- Protected individual rights

These are problems Americans had with the King!

2. In 1777 the Americans wrote their first plan of government called the

Articles of Confederation

A confederation is a group of individuals united for a purpose.

- Each state was independent and had its own government.
- Each state sent representatives to the Congress of Confederation.
- Congress was the only central government. There was NO president.
- In Congress each state got 1 vote.

↑ scared of a King

3. Pro's and Cons' of the Articles.

Pro's	Con's
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> States kept their <u>independence</u> and <u>power</u>. No <u>government</u> telling states what to do. Congress had the power to create a <u>military</u> to protect all states. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Congress had no way to <u>enforce</u> its laws. Congress had no power to collect <u>taxes</u> to pay the military. The Articles could only be changed if <u>All</u> the states agreed.

4. New Idea

The Articles of Confederation	The Constitution
<u>1</u> branch had all the power in government.	Separate branches (3) with <u>equal</u> power.

5. Battle of the Plans

The Virginia Plan	The New Jersey Plan
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The <u>legislative</u> branch has <u>2</u> chambers Number of votes for each state depends on a state's <u>population</u>. <u>Larger</u> states had more power. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative branch has <u>1</u> chamber. Each state gets <u>1</u> vote. <u>Smaller</u> states would have more power.

6. The Constitutional Solution

A legislative branch of two chambers

- The Senate: each state gets 2 representatives (makes NJ happy).
- The House of Representatives: States get a different number of representatives based on population (makes VA happy).