

WHAT TYPE OF GOVERNMENT WAS THE ARTICLES?

Articles of Confederation

Who: this government was created by the delegates who serve on the 1st and 2nd Continental Congress. John Dickenson was the delegate who led the movement for a confederation and wrote most of the articles.

Where: The government under the articles operated out of Philadelphia as its capital

What: The Articles of Confederation was the first national plan of government for the US as a country. Each colony/state had created legislatures and constitutions prior to the Articles.

Why: The delegates chose to live under a Confederation because it was designed to allow the states to have greater power than the central government. They had learned that too much central government might lead to tyranny.

How: The national government under the articles was only one branch – the congress. It was a one house (unicameral) legislature. Each state, regardless of size had one vote, which was equal for all. However, most of the important powers lay with the individual states.

When: The Articles of Confederation were adopted in 1777, but not approved until 1781. The government lasted only until 1789.

Articles of Confederation: First written plan of government for the United States

How was the government organized under the Articles of Confederation?

It was a loose union of independent states. The states had more power than the federal government.

- 1 house congress (unicameral)
- Congress did not have power over trade
- In order to pass an amendment all 13 states had to approve
- No army or navy
- No power to tax
- No president
- Laws needed approval by 9 out of 13 states

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION:

Aim: What were the achievements of the Articles of Confederation (1781-1789)

- 1). raised, maintained and utilized the Continental Army
- 2). created an alliance with France
- 3). successfully negotiated the **Treaty of Paris 1783**, which recognized American independence and increased the borders to the Mississippi River
- 4). significant laws were passed such as the **Land Ordinance of 1785** (organized the new lands) and the **Northwest Ordinance of 1787** (prohibited slavery, made rules for statehood, and included a bill of rights for settlers who moved west)

What were the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?

- 1). No “separation of powers” because there was only one branch of government. (unicameral)
- 2). Central government was too weak due to state powers.
- 3). Congress did not have the power to tax.
- 4). Amending the articles required a unanimous vote of all 13 states.
- 5). Passage of laws requires 9 of 13 states approved, which was difficult to reach.
- 6). Congress had no powers to regulate trade, which caused problems between the states.

Articles of Confederation Accomplishments:

1). Organization and governing of the new western lands in the Northwest Territory: Land

Ordinance of 1785

- Congresses master plan for dividing the Northwest Territory
- Land was surveyed into squares 6 miles long on each side (Townships)
- Townships were then divided into 36 sections – 1 mile on each side
- Price of a section \$640 or per acre \$1
- The government set aside several sections for their use

2). **Northwest Ordinance of 1787:**

- This law established the rules for starting a territory and becoming a state
- When 5,000 freemen settled in an area, they could elect an assembly
- When the population reached 60,000 free citizens, it could apply for statehood
- This law guaranteed freedom of religion, speech, and due process. Slavery was banned in the Northwest Territory.