

APNSL NOTES

THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

We have the constitution because we did this BEFORE. These events led to our current constitution.

This is what we set up and decided upon after declaring Independence. One of the main concerns was the central government having too much power. Therefore, we are going to give states a lot of power instead of the nationwide government.

This will essentially form a league of friends under the same name and unifiable in emergency; they can regulate their own trade and print their own money and do taxes themselves. The central government gets to do none of these things. They don't want another King George.

When they set this up there was only the Legis. branch. There was no national court system or executive position. There is only Congress and it was a simple one house system (our current one being two houses).

IF ANY IMPORTANT DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE NATIONWIDE, ALL STATES MUST AGREE. (a yes vote must come from everyone). This was a bad idea because of differing interests (slavery, industry, etc.).

AS A RESULT, the national government was very weak which caused problems in postwar America, as well as including:

- Missing representation from many states
- No army, national currency, conflict resolution, etc. Look at how much of that that we take for granted today.
- States hold too much power and because of local interests, which tended to result in a lot of inconsistencies.
- Requiring all states to agree, which means hundreds if not millions of compromises that people don't like.
- It wasn't really a country; it was a bunch of countries that are connected by name and this document.
- An example of an inconsistency was taxes; different states had different taxes. And plus, we were oftentimes unable to pay our allies back.
- This resulted in a weak sense (internally and to outsiders) of national unity and strength. This also inhibits our ability to perform on the world stage.
- States losing trust in each other and starting local level conflicts.
- There was no national currency which resulted in a lot of counterfeit and inflation and economic crap.
- It was essentially "ok just do what you want don't be dumb let's meet again in a week, got it?"

Think of this like a group project: everyone meets on one day, assigns task, and then nobody know what anyone is doing, there is no conflict resolution, and if there's any inconsistencies there is no way to resolve them quickly.

SIMILARITIES TO OUR ISLAND PROJECT

- Both ones had to use compromises. Nobody has ever agreed fully with someone else.
- Both ones required improvisation. We had to use what we have and take into consideration lots of factors to create something.
- Both ones were highly isolated. The United States wasn't so united back then, and so were the societies that we tried creating. Yes, we coexisted but there was no sense of islandwide unity.
- Adding on to that point, a lot of people didn't think of other groups in creating the constitution.
- Both were pretty much "every state / local group for themselves don't die good luck"
- Both required a way to resolve disputes and differing interests between interest groups. The U.S. does so through policies and voting systems, we did it by enacting a 60% majority + emergency meeting shell rule.

THE CONSTITUTION (THE GOOD ONE)

- Sets out how disputes and whatnot are resolved.
- Unifies and creates only one code and one government.
- Sets out compromises such as the "house and senate" system.
- **Federalism: if it's in the constitution it's for the national level, if it's not in the constitution it's a local or state right and decision to make.**
- Fun fact: it was at one point 50,000 people per one house representative, but then they realised that was a really bad idea.

COMPRISES LOCATED ON PAGES 33-35 NOTES.

FEDERALISM

Apparently this idea is important so:

- Federalism was the support of creating a constitution at the national level deciding what the national government had to do.
- At one point someone wrote a bunch of essays called the Federalist Papers. These are papers in support of a national government and constitution. They were used in an attempt to convince people.
- This man sweated essays so hard over 50 came out. (Hamilton)
- Anti-federalism was in opposition of a strong national government and a national constitution.
- This side also had sweats that wrote many essays (Brutus)

- We compromise (like always) by creating a document that entails how everything should work and what powers each level gets, so no side holds ALL the power.