

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

Created in a scramble during the war due to a need for formal government during wartime while also not giving too much power to the government.

Most of the power lied within the state's hands, with some being given up to the national government. It was at this time that debates over "more people = more votes" or "everyone gets one vote" began to fire up, although it is likely that that has been a topic for a bit before this event.

DOCUMENT SUMMARY:

States retain all powers granted to them unless explicitly stated otherwise. Every state gets one vote and one vote only, regardless of population and other demographics. Congress does however have some powers such as declaring war, and having the last and final say in interstate conflicts that rise above the local level.

WHY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION WERE TERRIBLE

Because of rising fear of tyranny, founders made extra sure to make sure that no national level authority had too much power.

The book points out specific weaknesses, those being:

- 9 of the 13 states must agree to enact nation wide laws
- No direct taxation is permitted
- No military is to be raised or maintained by the national government
- National currencies and national court systems were forbidden.
- Directly influencing and regulating interstate commerce is not allowed.

This resulted in things such as:

- A generally weak central government as well as the weakening of several states
- Remaining soldiers were inadequately paid thus weakening the States militarily.
- Because of the "every state must agree" rule to important policies taxes were not a thing.

SHAYS REBELLION

After people, especially Revo. War veterans, had gone unpaid and had their lands taken away and failing to pay slightly high taxes at the state level, people created unrest and undid some things, such as:

- Suspending mortgages
- Disrupting government and trade
- Physically destroying and taking infrastructure

Shay's Rebellion was an example of one of these, led by Daniel Shays and fueled by the fact that there was no general defense; most of the forces that rolled up were privately funded and unable to control the uprising.

This signified that it was time to raise some form of national defense as well as upping national unity; the risk of this kind of event happening again was too great to ignore.