

# Articles of Confederation

What Congress Could Do	Powers Denied to the Central Gov.	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congress was single branch of govt.</li> <li>• Congress has authority to conduct wars and foreign relations</li> <li>• power to appropriate, issue &amp; borrow money</li> <li>• power to make laws</li> <li>• settle controversies involving settlement &amp; development of Western lands</li> <li>• Northwest Ordinance of 1787 - greatest success under the Articles as it established the criteria for statehood for the territories in the NW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• could not regulate trade</li> <li>• draft troops</li> <li>• levy taxes directly on the people</li> <li>• had no chief executive</li> <li>• national courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• could not resolve disputes between states</li> <li>• could not wage war effectively with no \$ or chief executive</li> <li>• couldn't raise \$ to pay the national debt &amp; states refused to give enough \$</li> <li>• no strong leader to make decisions</li> <li>• without national courts, no way to interpret law or resolve disputes between states</li> <li>• each state had 1 vote regardless of size = small states has disproportionate power</li> <li>• at least 9 states had to approve important measures; unanimous for amendments = difficult to legislate and govern</li> </ul>