

The Articles of Confederation

[Side 1]

Directions: Read through the first two columns (original Article from the document and the explanation) and for each one, determine if this is a strength or weakness of the new government of the United States of America.

Original Article	Explanation	Strength or Weakness
<p>Article 9: <i>“The United States in Congress assembled shall have the sole and exclusive right and power of determining on peace and war, ... of sending and receiving ambassadors; [and] entering into treaties and alliances...”</i></p>	<p>The federal Congress (<i>a legislature made of one representative from each state</i>) has the power to declare war or make peace with other nations. Only the federal Congress can send representatives [ambassadors] to, or receive representatives from, other nations.</p> <p>The individual states do not have the power to make treaties or create alliances with other nations - only the Congress can enter the USA into alliances or treaties with foreign powers.</p>	<p>Circle one: Strength Weakness</p> <p>Explain why this is a strength or weakness for the new country: (Hint: Should the states be allowed to individually negotiate with foreign countries?)</p>
<p>Article 9: <i>“The United States in Congress assembled shall also have the sole and exclusive right and power of ... fixing the standard weights and measurements throughout the United States... [and] establishing ... post-offices from one state to another throughout all of the United States...”</i></p>	<p>The Congress has the power to set standard weights and measurements to keep a consistent and uniform system of measuring and weighing products (ex: using pounds to weigh an object or inches to measure length of an object).</p> <p>The Congress will create a post-office system that is available through all of the states.</p>	<p>Circle one: Strength Weakness</p> <p>Explain why this is a strength or weakness for the new country: (Hint: Are there benefits to having a uniform system for measurements? Post office?)</p>
<p>Article 9: <i>“The United States in Congress assembled shall have authority to... build and equip a navy; to agree upon the number of land forces and to make requisitions from each state for its quota, in proportion to the number of white inhabitants in such a states; which requisition shall be binding, and thereupon the legislature of each state shall appoint the regimental officers, raise the men and clothe, arm, and equip them in a soldier-like manner...”</i></p>	<p>The federal Congress has the power to create a naval force for the common defense of the country.</p> <p>The federal Congress can create an army by requesting troops from the individual states. The states will be responsible for choosing the officers that will lead the units of soldiers.</p> <p>The states will provide the training and equipment to prepare the soldiers for defense.</p>	<p>Circle one: Strength Weakness</p> <p>Explain why this is a strength or weakness for the new country: (Hint: Does the USA need a navy and army?)</p>

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[Side 2]

Directions: Read through the first two columns (original Article from the document and the explanation) and for each one, determine if this is a strength or weakness of the new government of the United States of America.

Original Article	Explanation	Strength or Weakness
<p>Article 8: <i>“All other common expenses... shall be defrayed out of the common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several states in proportion to the value of all land within each state... The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several states...”</i></p>	<p>Any expenses of the United States will be paid for from a treasury that will hold the money for the country. This treasury will be filled by the states. The states are responsible for the collection of taxes. The Congress does not have the power to directly tax the citizens so the responsibility for collecting taxes lies with the states. If the states fail to collect taxes, the treasury will not have any money and the Congress has no power to force states to pay.</p>	<p>Circle one: Strength Weakness</p> <p>Explain why this is a strength or weakness for the new country: (Hint: What would happen if the government could not collect taxes?)</p>
<p>Article 5: <i>“For the more convenient management of the general interests of the United States, delegates shall be annually appointed in such a manner as the legislature of each state shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year... In determining questions in the United States in Congress assembled, each state shall have one vote.”</i></p>	<p>There will be one branch of government, a legislative (law-making) body called a Congress. Each state will have one vote in the Congress, regardless of the size of the state or the wealth it carries.</p> <p>There will not be an executive branch (president) to enforce laws or a federal judiciary (court system) to determine if laws are fair or unfair.</p>	<p>Circle one: Strength Weakness</p> <p>Explain why this is a strength or weakness for the new country: (Hint: Should states with larger populations have more representatives? Does a country need a President or a Supreme Court?)</p>
<p>Article 13: <i>“The Articles of Confederation shall be inviolably observed by every state... nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them; unless such alteration be agreed to in a Congress of the United States and be afterward confirmed by the legislatures of every state...”</i></p>	<p>The Articles of Confederation will be the official national government of the United States.</p> <p>If any changes need to be made to the Articles, the states must unanimously (<i>ALL</i> thirteen states) agree to make the change (alteration). If one state does not agree with a change then it cannot be made, even if it is a necessary alteration.</p>	<p>Circle one: Strength Weakness</p> <p>Explain why this is a strength or weakness for the new country: (Hint: What would happen if you went to the movies with 12 strangers and the only way you could see the movie is if <u>all</u> 12 people agreed on one film? Would that be easy?)</p>

