

Articles of Confederation

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