

## Unit 1 Day 9: The Motivations and Problems of the Articles of Confederation

### The Articles of Confederation

**Goals:** The goal of the writers of the Articles was to create a loose union of states under a weak national government that would have authority over only a few things but would not have the ability or resources to enforce its decision and couldn't abuse its powers.

The document does not really talk about the United States as a nation but instead said, the states "enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense...to assist each other [from]...all attacks made upon them."

Characteristics and Elements of the Articles of Confederation	Reason for these decisions. Explain their reasoning and connect to prior experience
The system was a <i>confederation</i> of states that retained a lot of power for the states and gave some power to the national government but very little.  If the National Government and states disagreed, the states got their way. Each state's power > national government's power.	<i>Why trust state governments?</i>  <i>Why mistrust the national government?</i>
Each state had one vote in the Congress regardless of how big the state was.	<i>Why not give states unequal numbers of representatives based on population?</i>

**Participation in Government**  
**Mr. Lakhanev**

**Name:**  
**Date:**

John Hanson was President of the Congress. The position had only a one-year term and very little power.	<i>Why give the head of the government so little authority?</i>
The national government couldn't raise an army or levy taxes. It had to ask states for money and for soldiers and the states could (and did) say no.	<i>Why not give these powers (tax and military) to the national government?</i>
The national government was in charge of dealing with foreign countries and Native Americans	<i>Why trust the national government with this power?</i> <i>Why would it have been a bad idea for each state to do this themselves?</i>

**Participation in Government**  
**Mr. Lakhaney**

**Name:**  
**Date:**