

“A Document Created with an Eye to the Past”: The Articles of Confederation

Background:

Once independence was declared by America, it was realized some form of political government was needed. With the abuses of the English Government still fresh in the minds of the American citizens, a powerful central government was not favored by the people. The first national framework of government was known as the Articles of Confederation and was submitted to the states for approval in 1777. The idea that a strong central government was the enemy of liberty echoed throughout the Articles of Confederation. The Articles of Confederation gave few powers to the national government and created a confederation of states which retained most of the rights and privileges. The Articles of Confederation took four years to be ratified by the states. Soon the citizens of America would realize that Articles of Confederation was created with an eye looking to the past, looking at the Revolution. The needs of a post Revolution, independent America were different. America was now facing new financial crises and diplomatic problems that the Articles of Confederation was not equipped to deal with.

Students will learn that the Articles of Confederation was a carefully designed document created to avoid abuses that were brought by the English Government and reflect popular American political beliefs. Students will learn about problems America faced under the Articles of Confederation and through primary sources, students will learn how some Founding Fathers viewed the Articles of Confederation.

Frameworks:

USI.6 Explain the reasons for the adoption of the Articles of Confederation in 1781, including why its drafters created a weak central government; analyze the shortcomings of the national government under the Articles; and describe the crucial events (e.g., Shays’s rebellion) leading to the Constitutional Convention. (H, C)

Objectives:

- Analyze the Articles of Confederation and discuss how it reflected popular American political beliefs during the just prior and during the American Revolution
- Identify problems that arose under the Articles of Confederation
- Analyze primary sources to identify some of the founding fathers views concerning the Articles of Confederation

Procedures:

Part I: Establish historical context for lesson.

- A. Through lecture and class discussion familiarize students with the following:
 1. Proclamation of 1763
 2. Sugar Act
 3. Stamp Act
 4. Non Importation Agreement
 5. Declaratory Act
 6. Townshend Act
 7. Boston massacre
 8. Tea Act/Boston tea party
 9. Intolerable Acts
 10. Olive Branch Petition
 11. Declaration of Independence

Part II: Problem Analysis:

- A. Distribute handout I: Forming a New Government
 1. Read the document and discuss the political atmosphere in America in 1777
 - a. Have students read handout and answer the questions following the document

Part III. Primary Source Analysis:

- A. Distribute handout II: Primary Source: The Articles of Confederation
 1. Ask students to read the document and answer the questions following each article

Part III. Class Discussion: Comparing student created government to Articles of Confederation

- A. Students should review handout I and compare their answers to what actually happened in the Articles of Confederation(Handout II)
 1. Discuss why Articles of Confederation was structured this way
 2. What was the mindset of the states when they created the *Articles of Confederation*?
 3. What did small states fear?
 4. What did all states fear? Students should reflect on colonial experiences under the English king and parliament.

Part IV: Assessment:

- A. Students should write an essay on the following topic:

Historian Carol Berkin stated “the Articles of Confederation were created looking backwards at the abuses of the King and British Parliament. It is a perfect embodiment of popular colonial political beliefs after the Declaration of Independence “

Explain how the Articles of Confederation embodied the popular colonial beliefs of the time. Do you believe the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union were created more for guiding America through the future or more to avoid the abuses of the past? What possible problems do you believe could arise in the future because of the Articles of Confederation?

Part V: Using Primary Source Documents:

- A. Distribute handout 3A- 3G to students.
- I. Explain each documents expresses problems or concerns with the Articles of Confederation
 - a. students will read the documents and answer the questions following each document
 - b. Students will share indentified weakness of Articles of Confederation during a classroom discussion

Part VI. Assessment:

Students will choose one of the weaknesses that were compiled through document analysis and classroom discussion and create a political cartoon illustrating the weakness and the ramifications this weakness will have on the nation.

Handout 3A:

The Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States, Volume 4

John Jay to the President of Congress, 3 October 1781

Sir: My letter of the 25th of April last, by Mr. Toscan, Informed Congress that on the 30th day of January preceding I had the honor of receiving their letters of the 6th and 17th of October, 1780, the latter of which states particularly and ably the right of the United States to the free navigation of the river Misissippi, and enumerates the various reasons which induce them [Spain] to decline relinquishing it.

Among these reasons is the guarantee contained in the treaty with France. I hinted to Congress that it was more than probable that the contents of this interesting letter were well known to the French court before it came to my hands. I am well persuaded that this was the case. Shortly after receiving it I took occasion to converse generally with the ambassador on the subject of the Spanish pretensions to that navigation, and remarked, as it were inadvertently, how unreasonable it was for them to expect that we should relinquish a territorial right which both justice and the guarantee of France enabled us to retain. The thought did not appear new to him, but he strongly combatted this construction of the treaty, and endeavored to explain it away by observing that the guarantee could not comprehend claims whose objects we had never possessed, &c., &c. I mention this only to show how improper it would have been for me to have communicated this part of your excellency's letter to the Spanish minister...

The minister, however, did not at any time enter into the merits of these arguments, nor appear in the least affected by them. His answer to them all was, that the King of Spain must have the Gulf of Mexico to himself; that the maxims of policy adopted in the management of their colonies required it; and that he had hoped the friendly disposition shown by this court towards us would have induced a compliance on the part of Congress.

As to a free port below the northern limits of West Florida, or anywhere else in the vicinity, the minister sometimes wished certain regulations, some middle line might be devised to reconcile the views of both parties, but he did not see how it could be done. The king had always been accustomed to consider the exclusive navigation of the Gulf of Mexico as a very important object to Spain, more so indeed than even Gibraltar, and he was persuaded that his majesty would never be prevailed upon to change his ideas on that subject. At other times he spoke clearly and decidedly against it, saying that it was their desire to exclude all nations from the gulf, and that it made little or no difference whether they admitted all nations or only one...

Questions for Discussion:

What problem is being discussed in this document?

What would be the ramifications for United States if this problem was not addressed?

Handout 3B:

The Memorial from the Officers of the Army.

To the United States in Congress assembled.

The address and petition of the officers of the army of the United States, Humbly sheweth, that we, the officers of the army of the United States, in behalf of ourselves and our brethren the soldiers, beg leave, with all proper deference and respect, freely to state to Congress, the supreme power of the United States, the great distress under which we labor.

At this period of the war it is with peculiar pain we find ourselves constrained to address your august body, on matters of a pecuniary nature. We have struggled with our difficulties, year after year, under the hopes that each would be the last; but we have been disappointed. We find our embarrassments thicken so fast, and have become so complex, that many of us are unable to go further. In this exigence we apply to Congress for relief as our head and sovereign.

To prove that our hardships are exceedingly disproportionate to those of any other citizens of America, let a recurrence be had to the paymaster's accompts, for four years past. If to this it should be objected, that the respective states have made settlements, and given securities for the pay due, for part of that time, let the present value of those nominal obligations be ascertained by the monied men, and they will be found to be worth little indeed; and yet, trifling as they are, many have been under the sad necessity of parting with them, to prevent their families from actually starving...

Our distresses are now brought to a point. We have borne all that men can bear--our property is expended--our private resources are at an end, and our friends are wearied out and disgusted with our incessant applications. We, therefore, most seriously and earnestly beg, that a supply of money may be forwarded to the army as soon as possible. The uneasiness of the soldiers, for want of pay, is great and dangerous; any further experiments on their patience may have fatal effects...

Questions for Discussion:

What problem is being discussed in this document?

What would be the ramifications for the United States if this problem was not addressed?

Handout 3C

Letters of Delegates to Congress: Volume 22 November 1, 1784 - November 6, 1785

James McHenry to George Washington, 1 August 1785

...Since I have entered upon Congressional politics I must take the liberty to detain you a little longer. Congress have had it under consideration to recommend to the several States to vest them with the power of regulating the trade of the States as well with each other as with foreign nations. This power to constitute a part of the consideration and to be exercised by nine states in congress assembled. Its object to enable Congress to lay as heavy duties and restrictions upon the trade of foreign nations as foreign nations lay upon the trade of the United States. I apprehend that both the genius and interest of the Southern States will be found to be opposed to granting this power. I believe the Eastern States, New York & Pennsylvania are exceedingly anxious for it; but I do not wonder at their anxiety to obtain a monopoly of the carrying trade of the union. What would be the consequence to the Southern States in particular, were foreign vessels to be prevented from exporting their products. They would for example, having only American vessels to carry off their commodities of export, have fewer purchasers for them, hence their prices would be unavoidably lowered. They would also have less foreign goods imported, which would oblige the consumers to pay dearer for what they must buy...In the mean while however it may be said, that we ought to lay the foundation for a marine, and therefore ought to begin by discouraging foreign shipping and encouraging our own, for that the riches arising from buying what we want cheap and selling what we raise dear will avail us nothing without a navy to protect them. But is it true that a navy is at present necessary, and if necessary is it true that our people could go to the expence of supporting it? Would it be right to add to our present burthens; can we pay our present debts? Are we in a situation to enter into a war of imposts and prohibitions to force Great Britain or France to open to our shipping their West India possessions? Have we shipping enough to carry on our exports and imports? When Great Britain passed the navigation act she had in her harbours more than a sufficient number of vessels for her own trade. Great Britain too was well peopled at that period and the capital of her traders equal to the exportation and purchase of her products. But our situation is different in both respects, and yet it is said we ought to force a navy, that we ought to prohibit British ships from exporting our products...

Questions for Discussion:

What problem is being discussed in this document?

What would be the ramifications for United States if this problem was not addressed?

Handout 3D:

Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1786.

Congress assembled. Present as before. The committee, consisting of Mr. [Rufus] King, Mr. [William Samuel] Johnson, Mr. [James] Monroe, Mr. [John] Lawrance and Mr. [Charles] Pettit, to whom was referred an Act of the State of New York, passed on the 4th day of May last, entitled "An Act for giving and granting to the United States in Congress assembled, certain imposts and duties on foreign goods imported into that state, for the special purpose of paying the principal and interest of the debt contracted in the prosecution of the late war with Great Britain," having reported:

That by the act of Congress of the 18 April, 1783, it is recommended to the several states as indispensably necessary to the restoration of public credit, and to the punctual and honourable discharge of the public debts, to invest the United States in Congress assembled, with a power to levy certain duties upon goods imported into the United States...The exercise of this power by thirteen separate authorities would introduce different laws upon the same subject, ordain various penalties for the same offence, destroy the equality of the tax, and might in a great measure defeat the revenue. All the States, except New York, having in pursuance of the recommendation of the 18 April, 1783, granted the impost by acts vesting this power, with certain qualifications, exclusively in the United States in Congress assembled; the long continued embarrassments of the public finances, and the indispensable demands on the federal government, dictate the necessity of an immediate and unanimous adoption of this measure...Whereupon the Committee submit the following resolution: Resolved, That the Act of the State of New York, entitled "An act for giving and granting to the United States in Congress assembled, certain imposts and duties on foreign goods imported into that State, for the special purpose of paying the principal and interest of the debts contracted in the prosecution of the late war with Great Britain, so essentially varies from the system of impost recommended by the United States in Congress assembled on the 18th day of April, 1783, that the said Act is not, and cannot be considered as a compliance with the same."

The foregoing report being under debate, a Motion was made by Mr. [James] Monroe, seconded by Mr. [Samuel] Livermore, that the consideration thereof be postponed, in order to take up the following proposition, viz.

That a committee be appointed to draft an Ordinance to carry into effect the system of impost recommended to the several states for their adoption, on the 18th of April, 1783, in conformity with the acts of the twelve States which have complied with the said recommendation, and to take effect so soon as the State of New York shall have fully acceded to it...

So it was Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draft an Ordinance, to carry into effect the system of impost recommended to the several states for their adoption, on the 18th of April, 1783, in conformity with the Acts of such states as have complied with the said recommendation,

and to take effect so soon as the state of New York shall have passed an Act acceding to the said system, in like manner with the other states...

The Board of Treasury to whom was Referred the Motion of the Honorable the Delegates of the State of South Carolina of the 19th. Instant, Beg leave to lay before Congress an Estimate of Pay due to the Officers of the South Carolina Line, and others in similar circumstances for the Years 1782 and 1783:

By this Estimate Congress will observe that the whole amount of the Arrearages of pay due to the Officers so circumstanced is 37,066 $\frac{56}{90}$ ths. Dollars.

There can be no doubt that these Claimants are justly entitled to the same payment as was made to the Officers of the Main Army, and the presumption is, that nothing but the State of the Finances prevented the late Superintendant from putting the Southern Officers upon an equal footing with the other part of the Line.

The embarrassments of the Revenue so far from diminishing, have been daily encreasing; so that however anxious the Board have been to make provision for these claims, it has not hitherto been in their power to effect it generally, in a satisfactory manner...

Questions for Discussion:

What problem is being discussed in this document?

What would be the ramifications for United States if this problem was not addressed?

Handout 3E:

Shay's Rebellion

1. An address to the people of the several towns in the county of Hampshire, now it arms.

Gentlemen,

We have thought proper to inform you of some of the principal causes of the late risings of the people, and also of their present movement.

1st The present expensive mode of collecting debts which by any reason of the great scarcity of cash, will of necessity fill our goals with unhappy debtors; and thereby a reputable body of people rendered incapable of being serviceable either to themselves or the community.

2nd The monies raised by impost and excise being appropriated to discharge the interest of governmental securities, and not the foreign debt, when these securities are not subject to taxation.

3rd A suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus, by which those persons who have stepped forth to assert and maintain the rights of the people, are liable to be take and conveyed even to the most distant part of the commonwealth, and thereby subjected to an unjust punishment.

4th The unlimited power granted to Justices of the peace and sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and constables, by the Riot Act, indemnifying them to the prosecution thereof; when perhaps, wholly actuated from a principle of revenge, hatred, and envy.

Furthermore, be assured, that this body, now at arms, despise the idea of being instigated by British emissaries, which is so strenuously propagated by the enemies of our liberties: And also wish the most proper and speedy measures may be taken, to discharge both our foreign and domestic debt.

Per Order,

Daniel Gray, Chairman of the Committee

2. To the printer of the Hampshire Herald.

Sir,

It has some how or other fallen to my lot to be employed in a more conspicuous manner than some others of my fellow citizens, in stepping forth on defense of the rights and privileges of the people, more especially of the county of Hampshire.

Therefore, upon the desire of the people now at arms, I take this method to publish to the world or mankind in general, particularly the people of this commonwealth, some of the principal grievances we complain of.

In the first place, I must refer you to a draught of grievances drawn up by a committee of the people, now at arms, under the signature of Daniel Gray, chairman, which is heartily approved of; some others are also here added.

1st The general court, for certain obvious reasons must be removed out of the town of Boston.

2nd A revision of the constitution is absolutely necessary.

3rd All kinds of governmental securities, now on interest, that have been bought of the original owners for two shillings, and the highest for six shillings and eight pence on the pound, and have received more interest than the principal cost the speculator who purchased them — that if justice was done, we verily believe, nay positively know, it would save this commonwealth thousands of pounds.

4th Let the lands belonging to this commonwealth, at the eastward, be sold at the best advantage to pay the remainder of our domestic debt.

5th Let the monies arising from impost and excise be appropriated to discharge the foreign debt.

6th Let that act, passed by the General Court last July by a small majority of only seven, called the Supplementary Act, for twenty-five years to come, be repealed.

7th The total abolition of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace.

8th Deputy Sheriffs totally set aside, as a useless set of officers in the community; and Constables who are really necessary, be empowered to do the duty, by which means a large swarm of lawyers will be banished from their wonted haunts, who have been more damage to the people large, especially the common farmers, than the savage beasts of prey.

To this I boldly sign my proper name, as a hearty well-wisher to the real rights of the people.

Thomas Grover

Worcester, December 7, 1786

Questions for Discussion:

What problem is being discussed in this document?

What would be the ramifications for United States if this problem was not addressed?

Handout 3F:

**George Washington to Benjamin Harrison
18 January 1784**

The disinclination of the individual States to yield competent powers to Congress for the Fœderal Government--their unreasonable jealousy of that body & of one another--& the disposition which seems to pervade each, of being all-wise & all- powerful within itself, will, if there is not a change in the system, be our downfall as a Nation. This is as clear to me as the A, B.C.; & I think we have opposed Great Britain, & have arrived at the present state of peace & independency, to very little purpose, if we cannot conquer our own prejudices. The powers of Europe begin to see this, & our newly acquired friends the British, are already & professedly acting upon this ground; & wisely too, if we are determined to persevere in our folly. They know that individual opposition to their measures is futile, & *boast* that we are not sufficiently united as a Nation to give a general one! Is not the indignity alone, of this declaration, while we are in the very act of peace-making & conciliation, sufficient to stimulate us to vest more extensive & adequate powers in the sovereign of these United States? For my own part, altho' I am returned to, & am now mingled with the class of private citizens, & like them must suffer all the evils of a Tyranny, or of too great an extension of fœderal powers; I have no fears arising from this source; in my mind, but I have many, & powerful ones indeed which predict the worst consequences from a half starved, limping Government, that appears to be always moving upon crutches, & tottering at every step. Men, chosen as the Delegates in Congress are, cannot officially be dangerous--they depend upon the breath--nay, they are so much the creatures of the people, under the present Constitution, that they can have no views (which could possibly be carried into execution), nor any interests, distinct from those of their constituents. My political creed therefore is, to be wise in the choice of Delegates--support them like Gentlemen while they are our representatives--give them competent powers for all fœderal purposes--support them in the due exercise thereof--& lastly, to compel them to close attendance in Congress during their delegation. These things under the present mode for, & termination of elections, aided by annual instead of constant Sessions, would, or I am exceedingly mistaken, make us one of the most wealthy, happy, respectable & powerful Nations, that ever inhabited the terrestrial Globe--without them, we shall in my opinion soon be every thing which is the direct reverse of them.

I shall look for you, in the first part of next month, with such other friends as may incline to accompany you, with great pleasure, being with best respects to Mrs Harrison, [\[1\]](#) in which Mrs Washington joins me, Dear Sir, Your Most Obedt & affecte hble servant

Questions for Discussion:

What problem is being discussed in this document?

What would be the ramifications for United States if this problem was not addressed?

Handout 3G:

Journals of the Continental Congress,

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 1786.

Unless some Aid can be derived from this Quarter, we see not the least prospect of our being able to make good the payment of Interest, which will become due on the Dutch Loans in the ensuing Year. All hope of our being able to succeed in making in season the Payments to France in the Year 1787, is now at an end: but the importance of making every Exertion to fulfil the Contracts we have entered into with the Money Lenders in Holland must be very apparent. In this point of view only, we have taken the liberty to suggest to Congress, the object abovementioned. With respect to the Requisitions for the present Year, which we have Reported to Congress, it becomes necessary for us to Observe That we consider it merely as an expedient to evince the dispositions of Congress to do all the Justice in their power to their Foreign and Domestic Creditors, 'till the States feel the absolute necessity there is of furnishing the United States with adequate means to Support their Rank and Character as a Nation.

The mode of Certifying the Interest on the Domestic Debt is undoubtedly liable to objection; though it may be brought into a more manageable state than it is at present, by reducing the various Evidences of the Debt to one Form, and by calling in annually some part of the Principal. This latter object would we conceive, be compassed with great ease to the several States; and would have a powerful effect in Establishing our Credit with Foreign Nations.

But after all, what we have taken the liberty to suggest, are still Expedients, should they even be Successful.

The more our Reflections are employed on this Subject, the more we are impressed with a Conviction, that nothing but an immediate and general Adoption of the Measures recommended by the Resolves of Congress of the 18th. April, 1783, can rescue us from Bankruptcy, or preserve the Union of the several States from Dissolution.

With all due respect etc.¹

[Note 1: 1 This letter, transmitting the report on the Requisitions for 1786, is signed by Samuel Osgood, Waiter Livingston, and Arthur Lee, and is in No, 139, folio 245. According to indorsement it was read, with the report itself June 27 and Wednesday July 5 assigned. The report and the letter were printed and July 6 referred to a committee. The report was adopted August 2 and spread on the Journal of that day. It is in No. 39, folio 233. The enclosures follow it.]

His Excellency
The President of Congress

Questions for Discussion:

What problem is being discussed in this document?

What would be the ramifications for United States if this problem was not addressed?

Handout #1

I. *Forming a New Government:*

The year is 1777. The war for independence has been going on for a year and fighting against the British is continuing. The 13 states have set up state governments and have been acting like 13 independent countries. Although the war has brought about some unity among the states, most feel no real strong ties to states other than their own. An example of this is when George Washington, as commander in chief, asked a New Jersey militia troop to swear loyalty to the United States, they refused “New Jersey , they said ,is or country”(Berkin 18). Some American political leaders have realized that some form of national government is needed. But with the abuses of the British King and Parliament still fresh in their minds, popular sentiment is against a powerful central government.

Some prominent political figures argue for a powerful government. Alexander Hamilton pleaded for Americans to “think continentally” (Berkin 17). He argues a strong national government is necessary to prevent anarchy. He believes a strong government is needed to regulate trade and prevent problems between the states.

The time has come to form some kind of national government. You have been appointed to the Continental Congress to create a new national government. You must decide what powers to give the new national government.

Questions to be determined:	Your Answer
1. Should there be a President	
2. How many branches should the new Governments have?	
3.	
4. Who should have the power to tax: National government or state government?	
5. Should the national government have a standing army	
6. Who should control trade: National government or state government?	
7. Who should negotiate treaties with foreign countries: National government or state government?	
8. How should voting in the new government be determined: 1 vote per state or based on population of state	
9. Who should have the power to determine a currency (money): National government or state government?	
10. How many votes are needed to pass amendments : majority(1 more than half, 2/3 majority, unanimous	

Handout II: Primary Source Analysis:

The Articles of Confederation

Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts-bay Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia

Does it tell you that all states are listed individually to begin the Articles of Confederation? Explain

II. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.

What powers do the states get?

III. The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever.

“enter into a firm league of friendship” Does this statement make you think of a powerful unified nation? Explain

What is the reason for this firm league of friendship” between the states

V. For the most convenient management of the general interests of the United States, delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the legislatures of each State shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year, with a power reserved to each State to recall its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their stead for the remainder of the year.

No State shall be represented in Congress by less than two, nor more than seven members; and no person shall be capable of being a delegate for more than three years in any term of six years; nor shall any person, being a delegate, be capable of holding any office under the United States, for which he, or another for his benefit, receives any salary, fees or emolument of any kind.

...In determining questions in the United States in Congress assembled, each State shall have one vote.

Who appoints delegates to the national government?

When will the delegates meet?

How many delegates can a state have?

How many votes does each state get?

VI. No State, without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, shall send any embassy to, or receive any embassy from, or enter into any conference, agreement, alliance or treaty with any King, Prince or State; nor shall any person holding any office of profit or trust under the United States, or any of them, accept any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatever from any King, Prince or foreign State; nor shall the United States in Congress assembled, or any of them, grant any title of nobility.

Who holds the power to make treaties: state governments or United States Congress?

No vessel of war shall be kept up in time of peace by any State, except such number only, as shall be deemed necessary by the United States in Congress assembled, for the defense of such State, or its trade; nor shall any body of forces be kept up by any State in time of peace, except such number only, as in the judgment of the United States in Congress assembled, shall be deemed requisite to garrison the forts necessary for the defense of such State; but every State shall always keep up a well-regulated and disciplined militia, sufficiently armed and accoutered, and shall provide and constantly have ready for use, in public stores, a due number of filed pieces and tents, and a proper quantity of arms, ammunition and camp equipage.

No State shall engage in any war without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, unless such State be actually invaded by enemies, or shall have received certain advice of a resolution being formed by some nation of Indians to invade such State, and the danger is so imminent as not to admit of a delay till the United States in Congress assembled can be consulted;.

Who has the power to declare war: State governments or United States Congress?

VIII. All charges of war, and all other expenses that shall be incurred for the common defense or general welfare, and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled, shall be defrayed out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several States in proportion to the value of all land within each State, granted or surveyed for any person, as such land and the buildings and improvements thereon shall be estimated according to such mode as the United States in Congress assembled, shall from time to time direct and appoint.

The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several States within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled

Who holds the power to tax: State governments or United States Congress?

IX. The United States in Congress assembled, shall have the sole and exclusive right and power of determining on peace and war, except in the cases mentioned in the sixth article -- of sending and receiving ambassadors -- entering into treaties and alliances, provided that no treaty of commerce shall be made whereby the legislative power of the respective States shall be restrained from imposing such imposts and duties on foreigners, as their own people are subjected to, or from prohibiting the exportation or importation of any species of goods or commodities whatsoever -- of establishing rules for deciding in all cases, what captures on land or water shall be legal, and in what manner prizes taken by land or naval forces in the service of the United States shall be divided or appropriated -- of granting letters of marque and reprisal in times of peace -- appointing courts for the trial of piracies and felonies committed on the high seas and establishing courts for receiving and determining finally appeals in all cases of captures, provided that no member of Congress shall be appointed a judge of any of the said courts.

List three powers that the United States Congress has the sole and exclusive to do.
1.
2.
3

The United States in Congress assembled shall also have the sole and exclusive right and power of regulating the alloy and value of coin struck by their own authority, or by that of the respective States – fixing the standards of weights and measures throughout the United States –

The United States in Congress assembled shall never engage in a war, nor grant letters of marque or reprisal in time of peace, nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expenses necessary for the defense and welfare of the United States, or any of them, nor emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the United States, nor appropriate money, nor agree upon the number of vessels of war, to be built or purchased, or the number of land or sea forces to be raised, nor appoint a commander in chief of the army or navy, unless nine States assent to the same: nor shall a question on any other point, except for adjourning from day to day be determined, unless by the votes of the majority of the United States in Congress assembled

Who holds the power to issue money?

How many states must agree for Congress to declare war or enter into a treaty with a foreign nation?

- XI. Canada acceding to this confederation, and adjoining in the measures of the United States, shall be admitted into, and entitled to all the advantages of this Union; but no other colony shall be admitted into the same, unless such admission be agreed to by nine States.**

How many states must agree to allow a colony to be admitted to the Union?

XIII. Every State shall abide by the determination of the United States in Congress assembled, on all questions which by this confederation are submitted to them. And the Articles of this Confederation shall be inviolably observed by every State, and the Union shall be perpetual; 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 afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of every State.

How many state legislatures must agree to change the Articles of Confederation to allow the change?

Agreed to by Congress 15 November 1777 In force after ratification by Maryland, 1 March 1781

How many years did it take for the Articles of Confederation to be ratified?

Sources:

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