

Articles of Confederation

Why were the Articles of Confederation so weak?

AoC writers disliked...	So under the AoC...
Taxation without representation	The federal government could not tax
A large central government that had absolute power	States didn't have to follow federal laws and treaties
Having to follow British legislation	States had their own laws and didn't have to follow other states' laws
Lots of power was in the king's hands	No executive branch or national court system
The king could change laws at any time	Any amendment required all 13 states' approval

What was the Problem?

- *Since the federal government could not tax, it was very difficult to raise money*
- *Since states didn't have to follow laws and treaties, the federal government had no assurance that individual states would follow them*
- *Each state had its own laws, which made it difficult for the country to act in a united way. Congress couldn't pay back debts from the revolution and couldn't get states to work together to encourage commerce.*

What was the Problem?

- *Since there was no executive branch, the government could not defend its borders.*
- *Since there was no executive branch and national court system, the government could not enforce its laws*
- *Any amendment required all 13 states' approval, so the AoC was very difficult to modify*