Articles of Confederation

     The following chart lists some of the provisions of the Articles of Confederation with those in the Constitution. It's important to note that most commentators see the Articles period (1781-1789) as a weak one in terms of governmental power. Whether that is a positive or negative for the United States depends on one's point of view regarding the size and influence of a national government. Libertarians would view the Articles period as the pinnacle of American freedom, while those favoring a strong central government would see it as a failure.

  **Directions:** After reading the provisions of the Articles of Confederation list what problems could arise from each one.

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|  | **Articles of Confederation** | **Problems** |
| Levying taxes | Congress could request states to pay taxes |  |
| Federal courts | No system of federal courts |  |
| Regulation of trade | No provision to regulate interstate trade |  |
| Executive  | No executive with power. President of U.S. merely presided over Congress |  |
| Amending document | 13/13 needed to amend Articles |  |
| Representation of states   | Each state received 1 vote regardless of size   |  |
| Raising an army   | Congress could not draft troops, dependent on states to contribute forces   |  |
| Interstate commerce   | No control of trade between states   |  |
| Disputes between states   | Complicated system of arbitration   |  |
| Sovereignty   | Sovereignty resides in states   |  |
| Passing laws   | 9/13 needed to approve legislation   |  |
| Legislation | Unicameral |  |