

	Articles of Confederation	United States Constitution
Executive Branch	No Executive with any power. President of US presided over Congress; John Hancock never even showed up.	President & Cabinet has designated powers and various checks on the Legislative & Judicial Branches.
Judicial Branch	No system of Federal Courts	Provisions to create Federal Court System, including Supreme Court. Idea of Judicial Review implied.
Legislative Branch	Unicameral Congress is ultimate political authority; Each state has one vote; Term of one year; Could serve no more than 3 out of every 6 years; Salaries paid by the States	Bicameral Legislature— House and Senate. State representation proportional and equal, respectively; Terms of 2 & 6 years for House & Senate; No term limits; Salary paid by the national government.
Powers & Rules of Central Government		
Ultimate Authority	Sovereignty resides in States	Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land
Levying taxes	Congress could only request that States pay taxes for the good of the country	Congress has the right to levy taxes on individual citizens,
Regulating Trade	Congress could regulate external trade, including the use of duties & tariffs; Could not regulate trade between States.	Congress regulates external trade and may regulate Interstate Commerce.
Raising Army	Congress was dependent on States to provide troops and make militias available in times of need.	Congress can create a national, standing army. President is Commander in Chief, but only Congress can declare war.
Settling Disputes among States	Accomplished through a complicated system of arbitration.	Congress has power to regulate Interstate Commerce, and the Federal Court System & Supreme Court decide in cases involving states.
Passing Laws	9 out of 13 states were needed to approve any legislation.	Simple majority needed for most legislation, plus signature of President. 2/3 vote needed for certain things veto override.
Amendments	All states must agree on any changes.	Amendment process includes 2 mechanisms— one congressional, one popular—for proposing and ratifying amendments. 2/3 and 3/4 vote, respectively, required to amend the Constitution.