

# Who's the Boss?

Comparing sovereignty, power, and responsibility in the **Articles of Confederation** and the **U.S. Constitution**

ISSUE	ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION	U.S. CONSTITUTION
<b>TAXATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Congress could request tax money from states</li> <li>• States had ultimate authority</li> <li>• Only states could tax individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Congress had direct authority to tax states, individual citizens</li> <li>• States could still tax citizens</li> </ul>
<b>COURT SYSTEM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No federal court system</li> <li>• Complicated system to determine jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State <b>and</b> federal courts</li> <li>• Federal courts could deal with issues between states</li> <li>• Crimes involving interstate commerce or federal property tried in federal court</li> </ul>
<b>TRADE BETWEEN STATES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congress had no authority to regulate interstate trade</li> <li>• States could charge tariffs for "imports" and "exports"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No taxation on interstate trade</li> <li>• Congress can regulate interstate trade</li> </ul>
<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President merely presides over congress</li> <li>• No chief executive</li> <li>• No executive branch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President is chief executive, commander-in-chief</li> <li>• Entire executive branch (cabinet, agencies) to enforce legislative will</li> <li>• Executive branch acts as a check on legislative, judicial branches</li> </ul>

ISSUE	ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION	U.S. CONSTITUTION
<b>HOW ARE STATES REPRESENTED?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congress consists of one house (unicameral)</li> <li>• One vote per state, regardless of size</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicameral legislature</li> <li>• Upper house (Senate) has two votes per state</li> <li>• Lower house (House of Representatives) is based on population</li> <li>• Consent of both houses required for legislation</li> </ul>
<b>RAISING AN ARMY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congress relies on states to contribute militia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congress can raise an army, by conscription if necessary</li> </ul>
<b>AMENDING THE DOCUMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unanimous (13/13) vote required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both houses must agree by 2/3 majority</li> <li>• States must agree by 75% majority</li> </ul>
<b>DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complicated system of arbitration between the states</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal court system handles interstate disputes</li> </ul>
<b>DISTRIBUTION OF POWER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sovereignty lies in state constitutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land</li> </ul>
<b>PASSING LAWS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required 9/13 of the states to agree</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple majority of both houses</li> <li>• 50% +1</li> <li>• President must sign off in agreement</li> </ul>