

Outline and Summary of the Articles of Confederation

Article I: The name of the new confederacy is “The United States of America”

Article II: Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, independence, and every power not specifically granted to the new Congress.

Article III: This confederacy is a “league of friendship” among the states for

- *common defense
- *securing their liberties
- *their shared welfare

They will protect each other from attack.

Article IV: All free inhabitants of the different states (except paupers, vagabonds, and fugitives from justice) are entitled to the same privileges and immunities that the inhabitants of each state have. For example, people can come and go freely among the states, may trade in all the states, must pay the same taxes and follow the laws within each state.

Any person who commits a crime in one state and flees to another must be returned to the state he fled from.

Each state must respect the records, acts, and judicial proceedings of the other states.

Article V: To manage the shared (national) interests of the states, they will send 2 – 7 delegates each year to meet in Congress. No one can be a delegate for more than three of every six years. No delegate may simultaneously hold another office for which he is paid. Each state delegation has one vote in Congress.

Members of Congress have free speech in Congress or outside it and are also not subject to arrest or imprisonment unless they commit treason, a felony, or a breach of the peace.

Article VI: Limits on State Powers, with a few other notes

- *States may not send an embassy or make an alliance or treaty with another country.
- *U.S. officials may not receive presents, offices, or titles from another government.
- *Neither states nor Congress may grant titles of nobility.
- *No two or more states may make a treaty or alliance with each other without consulting Congress.
- *No state may impose taxes that interfere with existing treaties or proposed treaties with France or Spain.
- *No state may keep a standing army or navy except to garrison forts; but every state must keep up a well-regulated and disciplined militia.
- *No state may engage in a war without consent of the Congress unless it is actually invaded or if it is about to be invaded by Indians.

Article VII: When a state raises an army for national defense, all officers ranked colonel or below will be appointed by the state legislature.

Article VIII: Costs of war or other national expenses will be paid from a common treasury. Each state will pay into the treasury in proportion to the value of land in that state.

Article IX: Powers of the United States in Congress Assembled

- *Congress has the sole and exclusive right to wage war and peace;
- *send & receive ambassadors;
- *enter into treaties or alliances;
- *decide how captured prizes in war will be divided;
- *grant letters of marque and reprisal (that is, create privateers);
- *appoint courts for dealing with crimes on the high sea and for captured prizes.

*Congress is also the court of last resort in case of a dispute between states.

- *Congress also has the sole and exclusive right to regulate the value of coins;
- *set standard weights and measures;
- *regulate affairs and trade with Indians outside individual states;
- *establish and regulate post offices;
- *make rules to govern army and navy.

- *Congress may appoint a committee to serve as an executive when it is in recess.;
- *determine how much money the Congress needs and appropriate it;
- *borrow money
- *build and equip a navy;
- *arrange to develop an army based on quotas from each states (states must raise and equip the officers and men).

*Congress must never act on these matters without the consent of at least nine states.

- *Congress may adjourn for up to six months at a time;
- *Congress will publish a journal of their minutes.

Article X: The executive committee, which operates when Congress is in recess, may be given any of these powers as long as they don't act without the consent of at least nine states.

Article XI: Canada may join this Union. Any other colony wishing to join must be agreed on by at least nine states.

Article XII: The new United States will be responsible for all debts that Congress contracted before these articles were signed.

Article XIII: Every state will respect the decisions of the United States in Congress assembled. The Union will be perpetual. No changes may be made to these articles unless Congress agrees and every state legislature also agrees.