

A/C vs. The Constitution



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.— That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct or indirect Object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be supposed to be presented to a candid and impartial World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inextinguishable and inalienable.

He has refused to assent to Acts of the Legislature, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the People.

He has refused to receive by Message, or to answer in Person, the most urgent Addresses and Petitions of the united Colonies.

He has kept standing Armies in the Colonies without their Consent.

He has endeavored to bring over the Colonies, by the Arms of a foreign Prince, King, or State, to unite them with his Majesty's Crown, and to make them a part of another Empire, subject to the Dominion of a foreign Power, and of the Statutes of that Kingdom.

He has excited the Malignant Passions of one Part of our Colonies, against another, and has endeavored to bring on the Colonies, by the Arms of a foreign Prince, King, or State, to unite them with his Majesty's Crown, and to make them a part of another Empire, subject to the Dominion of a foreign Power, and of the Statutes of that Kingdom.

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THEN (1781 to 1788)

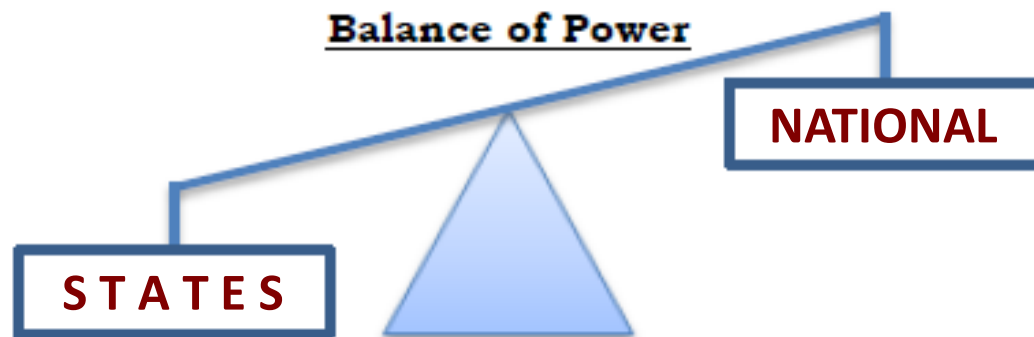
Type of Government: CONFEDERATION

Articles of Confederation (A/C)

Do the states have governments? Yes No

Is there a central (national) government? Yes No

This central government was WEAK by design.



Executive Branch

Is there a Chief Executive? Yes No

A/C vs. The Constitution

Legislative Branch

Known as the CONGRESS

Structure: *Bicameral* *Unicameral*

Number of votes per state: ONE

Congress had these powers:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

PLEASE WRITE THESE ON THE BACK...

Congress did NOT have these powers:

- 1.
- 2.

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Fraction of states needed to pass a law: 9/13

Judicial Branch

Is there a national court to settle disputes? Yes No

A/C vs. The Constitution

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Articles of Confederation

Legislative Branch

Congress had these powers:

1. manage foreign affairs
2. keep up armed forces
3. borrow money
4. issue money

Congress did NOT have these powers:

1. control trade
2. force citizens to join army
3. impose taxes

A/C vs. **The Constitution**

NOW (1788 to Present)

Type of Government: CONST. REPUBLIC

The Constitution

Do the states have governments? Yes No

Is there a central (national) government? Yes No

This system of government: FEDERALISM

Balance of Power



Executive Branch

Is there a Chief Executive? Yes No

A/C vs. **The Constitution**

Legislative Branch

Known as the CONGRESS

Structure: Bicameral Unicameral

Number of votes per state: VARIES

Based on POPULATION + 2 (Senate)

Powers of Congress:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Percent of votes needed to pass a law: > 50%

Judicial Branch

Is there a national court to settle disputes? Yes No

Top court: SUPREME COURT

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1776.
of America
which have connected them with respect to the opinions of mankind are created equal; that they are endowed with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever a Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, dictates that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, we have recourse to the remedy only when a long train of abuses, usurpations, and injuries, pursuing the same object, evinces a design to reduce us to absolute Tyranny, and that a prudent People will not tolerate such a continuation. The history of the United States is a history of the struggle for liberty and justice under the Constitution. To prove this, we have forbidden his Majesty, King George the Third, to suspend the Liberty of the Press, or the right of the People to assemble peaceably, or to petition the Legislature, a right in which they have never been invaded. We have also declared that the right of the People to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and that the right of the People to be free from the oppression of a standing Army in time of peace, shall not be violated. We have also declared that the right of the People to be free from the oppression of excessive Bail, excessive Fines, and cruel and unusual Punishments, shall not be violated. We have also declared that the right of the People to be free from the oppression of the Government, shall not be violated. We have also declared that the right of the People to be free from the oppression of the Government, shall not be violated.

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PLEASE WRITE THESE ITEMS ON THE BACK!!

The Constitution

Legislative Branch

Powers of Congress:

1. Levy, or collect, taxes
2. To borrow money
3. Coin (make) money
4. To declare war
5. Establish post offices
6. Fix (set) standard weights and measures

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He has refused to assent to Acts of the Legislature, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the Colonies.

He has refused to receive by Message, or to answer to Inquiries, the most important Messages and Answers sent to him in the most urgent and significant manner that is known to Man.

He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States, by obstructing and prohibiting the Importation of new Settlers, and by cutting off the Trade of these States to all the Ports of the World except those of Great Britain.

He has kept standing Armies of Soldiers in our Colonies in times of Peace.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Removal and Appointment of them.

He has endeavored to bring the Power of the Judiciary under the Control of the Executive.

He has attempted to deprive us of the Benefit of Trial by Jury.

He has destroyed the Rights of the Colonies in several other Instances, which it is necessary to enumerate at large in the following Article.