

# WHAT PROBLEMS WITH THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION LED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION? A NO CHECKS

## WHAT PROBLEMS WITH THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION LED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION? A NO CHECKS

THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION SERVED AS THE FIRST CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED IN 1781, AND ESTABLISHED A FRAMEWORK FOR GOVERNMENT DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE. HOWEVER, AS TIME PROGRESSED, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE ARTICLES HAD SIGNIFICANT FLAWS THAT HINDERED EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE, ECONOMIC STABILITY, AND NATIONAL UNITY. THESE DEFICIENCIES CREATED A PRESSING NEED FOR A STRONGER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH ULTIMATELY LED TO THE DRAFTING AND ADOPTION OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION IN 1787. UNDERSTANDING THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WITH THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO THE FOUNDING FATHERS' MOTIVATIONS FOR CREATING A MORE BALANCED AND FUNCTIONAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

## MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION, WHILE PIONEERING IN ESTABLISHING A UNIFIED AMERICAN IDENTITY, CONTAINED SEVERAL CRITICAL SHORTCOMINGS THAT COMPROMISED THE COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY. THESE ISSUES RANGED FROM LACKING THE POWER TO TAX AND REGULATE COMMERCE TO DIFFICULTIES IN ENFORCING LAWS AND MAINTAINING NATIONAL SECURITY.

### LACK OF CENTRAL AUTHORITY AND POWER

THE ARTICLES INTENTIONALLY CREATED A WEAK CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO AVOID THE TYRANNY EXPERIENCED UNDER BRITISH RULE. HOWEVER, THIS RESULTED IN SEVERAL PRACTICAL PROBLEMS:

1. **NO EXECUTIVE BRANCH:** THERE WAS NO PRESIDENT OR EXECUTIVE LEADER TO ENFORCE LAWS OR LEAD THE NATION.
2. **NO FEDERAL JUDICIARY:** WITHOUT COURTS, THERE WAS NO MECHANISM TO INTERPRET LAWS OR SETTLE DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES.
3. **LIMITED CONGRESSIONAL POWER:** CONGRESS LACKED THE AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE LAWS DIRECTLY ON INDIVIDUALS OR STATES.

THIS LACK OF CENTRALIZED AUTHORITY MEANT THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT EFFECTIVELY COORDINATE NATIONAL INTERESTS OR RESPOND TO CRISES.

### INABILITY TO TAX AND GENERATE REVENUE

ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL FLAWS WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO RAISE FUNDS:

- **NO POWER TO TAX:** CONGRESS DEPENDED ON VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM STATES, WHICH WERE OFTEN INSUFFICIENT.
- **DEPENDENCE ON STATE PAYMENTS:** STATES WERE FREE TO IGNORE REQUISITIONS, LEADING TO CHRONIC SHORTAGES OF FUNDS.
- **FINANCIAL INSTABILITY:** THE GOVERNMENT STRUGGLED TO PAY DEBTS FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR OR FUND NATIONAL PROJECTS.

THIS FINANCIAL WEAKNESS UNDERMINED THE GOVERNMENT'S CREDIBILITY AND CAPACITY TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY.

## LACK OF POWER TO REGULATE COMMERCE

INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE WERE HAMPERED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S LIMITED AUTHORITY:

1. **NO POWER TO REGULATE TRADE:** CONGRESS COULD NOT IMPOSE TARIFFS OR REGULATE COMMERCE BETWEEN STATES OR WITH FOREIGN NATIONS.
2. **TRADE DISPUTES AMONG STATES:** STATES OFTEN IMPOSED TARIFFS ON EACH OTHER, LEADING TO ECONOMIC DISCORD.
3. **ECONOMIC INSTABILITY:** WITHOUT A UNIFIED TRADE POLICY, ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS HINDERED, AND INTERSTATE COMMERCE SUFFERED.

THIS LACK OF REGULATION LED TO ECONOMIC CHAOS AND DIMINISHED THE NATION'S PROSPERITY.

## DIFFICULTY IN AMENDING THE ARTICLES

THE PROCESS TO AMEND THE ARTICLES WAS INTENTIONALLY DIFFICULT:

1. **UNANIMOUS CONSENT NEEDED:** ALL 13 STATES HAD TO AGREE TO ANY AMENDMENTS, MAKING REFORMS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.
2. **RESISTANCE TO CHANGE:** STATES WERE RELUCTANT TO CEDE SOVEREIGNTY OR ACCEPT FEDERAL AUTHORITY, BLOCKING NECESSARY UPDATES.

THIS RIGIDITY PREVENTED THE GOVERNMENT FROM ADAPTING TO NEW CHALLENGES OR FIXING EXISTING FLAWS.

## INABILITY TO MAINTAIN NATIONAL SECURITY

THE WEAK FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS ILL-EQUIPPED TO DEFEND THE NATION:

1. **NO STANDING ARMY:** CONGRESS COULD NOT MAINTAIN A NATIONAL MILITARY FORCE.
2. **RELIANCE ON STATE MILITIAS:** DEFENSE DEPENDED ON INDIVIDUAL STATES' WILLINGNESS AND CAPACITY.
3. **VULNERABLE TO EXTERNAL THREATS:** WITHOUT A COORDINATED MILITARY STRATEGY, THE U.S. WAS VULNERABLE TO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE OR INVASION.

THIS WEAKNESS WAS EVIDENT DURING INCIDENTS LIKE THE SHAYS' REBELLION, WHICH EXPOSED THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO INTERNAL UNREST.

## PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED BY SHAYS' REBELLION

SHAYS' REBELLION (1786-1787) WAS A SIGNIFICANT EVENT THAT UNDERScoreD THE ARTICLES' SHORTCOMINGS:

- REVOLT BY FARMERS PROTESTING ECONOMIC INJUSTICES AND HIGH DEBTS.
- REBELLION REVEALED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO QUELL INTERNAL UNREST DUE TO LACK OF MILITARY POWER.

- GENERATED WIDESPREAD CONCERN ABOUT THE FRAGILITY OF THE UNION AND THE NEED FOR A STRONGER GOVERNMENT.

THIS EVENT ACCELERATED CALLS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

## HOW THESE PROBLEMS LED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE NUMEROUS ISSUES ARISING FROM THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION CREATED A SENSE OF URGENCY AMONG POLITICAL LEADERS AND CITIZENS ALIKE. THE DESIRE FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE, BALANCED, AND CAPABLE GOVERNMENT DROVE THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS DRAFTING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

### THE NEED FOR A STRONGER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

THE WEAKNESSES HIGHLIGHTED THE NECESSITY OF A GOVERNMENT THAT COULD:

1. ENFORCE LAWS UNIFORMLY ACROSS STATES.
2. COLLECT TAXES TO FUND NATIONAL NEEDS.
3. REGULATE COMMERCE TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC STABILITY.
4. MAINTAIN A STANDING MILITARY FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE.

### THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1787

IN RESPONSE TO THESE ISSUES, DELEGATES MET IN PHILADELPHIA TO OVERHAUL THE SYSTEM:

- INITIALLY INTENDED TO REVISE THE ARTICLES, THE CONVENTION ULTIMATELY DRAFTED A NEW CONSTITUTION.
- KEY DEBATES FOCUSED ON BALANCING POWER BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS.
- COMPROMISES, SUCH AS THE GREAT COMPROMISE, SHAPED THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF CHECKS AND BALANCES

ONE OF THE CORE INNOVATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION WAS THE CREATION OF A SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES:

1. SEPARATE BRANCHES (LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, JUDICIAL) TO PREVENT ANY ONE FROM BECOMING TOO POWERFUL.
2. SPECIFIC POWERS ASSIGNED TO EACH BRANCH TO REGULATE THE ACTIONS OF THE OTHERS.

### 3. FEDERALISM TO DISTRIBUTE POWER BETWEEN NATIONAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS.

THIS STRUCTURE ADDRESSED THE PROBLEM OF UNCHECKED POWER THAT PLAGUED THE ARTICLES.

## ENHANCEMENT OF FEDERAL POWERS

THE CONSTITUTION GRANTED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO:

- TAX AND COLLECT REVENUE DIRECTLY FROM CITIZENS.
- REGULATE INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE.
- MAINTAIN ARMED FORCES.
- ENFORCE FEDERAL LAWS UNIFORMLY ACROSS ALL STATES.

THESE CHANGES AIMED TO CREATE A MORE COHESIVE AND EFFECTIVE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

## CONCLUSION

THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION—RANGING FROM WEAK CENTRAL AUTHORITY AND FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS TO INADEQUATE REGULATION AND SECURITY—MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE YOUNG NATION NEEDED A MORE ROBUST GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORK. THE ADOPTION OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION WAS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THESE SHORTCOMINGS, INTRODUCING A SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES THAT PREVENTED ABUSES OF POWER, EMPOWERED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ACT DECISIVELY, AND FOSTERED A MORE UNIFIED AND PROSPEROUS NATION. THIS FOUNDATIONAL SHIFT HELPED ENSURE THE STABILITY AND GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES, SETTING THE STAGE FOR ITS EMERGENCE AS A GLOBAL POWER.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT WERE THE MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION THAT PROMPTED THE NEED FOR A NEW CONSTITUTION?

THE ARTICLES LACKED A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, HAD NO POWER TO TAX OR REGULATE COMMERCE, AND REQUIRED UNANIMOUS APPROVAL FOR AMENDMENTS, LEADING TO INEFFICIENCY AND INEFFECTIVENESS.

### HOW DID THE ABSENCE OF CHECKS AND BALANCES IN THE ARTICLES CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR FAILURE?

WITHOUT CHECKS AND BALANCES, THE ARTICLES DIDN'T PREVENT ANY BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT FROM BECOMING TOO POWERFUL OR ABUSING AUTHORITY, RESULTING IN WEAK GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONFLICTS.

## IN WHAT WAYS DID THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION'S INABILITY TO REGULATE TRADE CAUSE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS?

SINCE THE ARTICLES COULDN'T REGULATE INTERSTATE OR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, STATES IMPOSED TARIFFS ON EACH OTHER, LEADING TO ECONOMIC DISPUTES AND A LACK OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC UNITY.

## WHY WAS THE LACK OF A NATIONAL EXECUTIVE UNDER THE ARTICLES PROBLEMATIC?

WITHOUT A CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BRANCH, THERE WAS NO LEADER TO ENFORCE LAWS OR COORDINATE NATIONAL POLICIES, MAKING GOVERNANCE INEFFICIENT AND INCONSISTENT.

## HOW DID THE REQUIREMENT FOR UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS HINDER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ARTICLES?

REQUIRING ALL STATES TO AGREE MADE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO AMEND OR IMPROVE THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE, LEAVING CRITICAL ISSUES UNRESOLVED AND THE GOVERNMENT INEFFECTIVE.

## WHAT ROLE DID THE WEAKNESSES OF THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION PLAY IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION?

THE SHORTCOMINGS HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR A STRONGER, MORE BALANCED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, LEADING TO THE DRAFTING AND ADOPTION OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

WHAT PROBLEMS WITH THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION LED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION?  
A NO CHECKS

THE TRANSITION FROM THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION MARKS A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY. THE PHRASE "WHAT PROBLEMS WITH THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION LED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION?" ENCAPSULATES THE CRITICAL ISSUES THAT PROMPTED THE NATION TO OVERHAUL ITS FOUNDATIONAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE. THE ARTICLES, RATIFIED IN 1781, SERVED AS THE FIRST CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT THEIR WEAKNESSES SOON BECAME APPARENT, THREATENING THE STABILITY AND UNITY OF THE FLEDGLING NATION. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE CORE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION AND EXAMINES HOW THESE ISSUES DROVE THE PUSH FOR A STRONGER, MORE EFFECTIVE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

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THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

BEFORE DIVING INTO THE PROBLEMS, IT'S ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION ENTAILED. DRAFTED DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND RATIFIED IN 1781, THE ARTICLES CREATED A LOOSE CONFEDERATION OF STATES WITH A WEAK CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. THE PRIMARY GOAL WAS TO PRESERVE

THE INDEPENDENCE OF INDIVIDUAL STATES WHILE COORDINATING COLLECTIVE EFFORTS SUCH AS WAR DEFENSE AND MUTUAL AID. HOWEVER, THIS STRUCTURE HAD SIGNIFICANT LIMITATIONS THAT BECAME INCREASINGLY PROBLEMATIC AS THE NEW NATION STRUGGLED TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY.

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## MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

### 1. LACK OF CENTRAL AUTHORITY AND WEAK FEDERAL POWER

ONE OF THE MOST GLARING ISSUES WAS THE MINIMAL POWER GRANTED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. UNDER THE ARTICLES:

- THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAD NO EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO ENFORCE LAWS.
- THERE WAS NO NATIONAL JUDICIARY TO INTERPRET LAWS.
- CONGRESS LACKED AUTHORITY TO REGULATE COMMERCE OR LEVY TAXES DIRECTLY.

THIS DECENTRALIZATION MEANT THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON THE STATES FOR REVENUE AND ENFORCEMENT, LEADING TO A FRAGMENTED AND OFTEN INEFFECTIVE SYSTEM.

### 2. INABILITY TO LEVY TAXES AND RAISE REVENUE

"NO CHECKS" ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL POWER MEANT THAT CONGRESS COULD REQUEST FUNDS FROM STATES BUT COULD NOT COMPEL THEM TO COMPLY. AS A RESULT:

- THE GOVERNMENT FREQUENTLY FACED FINANCIAL CRISES.
- IT STRUGGLED TO PAY DEBTS FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.
- IT LACKED THE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT A STANDING ARMY OR FUND ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

THIS WEAKNESS IN REVENUE COLLECTION HAMPERED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEFENSE.

### 3. NO POWER TO REGULATE COMMERCE

THE ARTICLES DID NOT GRANT CONGRESS THE AUTHORITY TO REGULATE INTERSTATE OR INTERNATIONAL TRADE. CONSEQUENTLY:

- STATES IMPOSED TARIFFS ON EACH OTHER, DISRUPTING TRADE.
- THERE WAS A LACK OF UNIFORM TRADE POLICIES.
- ECONOMIC INSTABILITY AND INTERSTATE CONFLICTS AROSE, WEAKENING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND UNITY.

THIS INABILITY TO CONTROL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY WAS A SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLE TO NATIONAL PROSPERITY.

### 4. DIFFICULTIES IN AMENDING OR CHANGING THE ARTICLES

THE ARTICLES REQUIRED UNANIMITY AMONG STATES TO AMEND ANY PART OF THE DOCUMENT. THIS HIGH THRESHOLD:

- MADE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ADAPT OR IMPROVE THE GOVERNMENT.
- LED TO STAGNATION AND INFLEXIBILITY.
- PREVENTED NECESSARY REFORMS IN RESPONSE TO EMERGING ISSUES.

THE RIGIDITY OF THE ARTICLES UNDERScoreD THE NEED FOR A MORE ADAPTABLE CONSTITUTION.

### 5. LACK OF A STANDING ARMY AND MILITARY POWER

WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN A STANDING ARMY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD NOT:

- EFFECTIVELY DEFEND AGAINST EXTERNAL THREATS.
- SUPPRESS INTERNAL REBELLIONS.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO QUELL SHAYS' REBELLION IN 1786-1787 HIGHLIGHTED THE WEAKNESS OF THE ARTICLES AND THE DANGER OF AN UNARMED FEDERAL AUTHORITY.

## 6. INTERSTATE CONFLICTS AND LACK OF NATIONAL UNITY

DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES OVER BOUNDARIES, TRADE, AND SOVEREIGNTY WERE COMMON. THE ARTICLES DID NOT PROVIDE MECHANISMS TO RESOLVE THESE CONFLICTS EFFICIENTLY, LEADING TO:

- DIPLOMATIC CHALLENGES.
- EROSION OF NATIONAL COHESION.
- DIFFICULTY IN PRESENTING A UNITED FRONT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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## HOW THESE PROBLEMS LED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE NUMEROUS ISSUES WITH THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION CREATED A SENSE OF CRISIS AMONG LEADERS AND CITIZENS ALIKE. THE INADEQUACIES UNDERMINED THE STABILITY AND CREDIBILITY OF THE YOUNG NATION, PROMPTING CALLS FOR REFORM. SEVERAL KEY EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS HIGHLIGHT THIS SHIFT:

- THE FAILURE TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC INSTABILITY AND INTERSTATE DISPUTES.
- THE INABILITY OF CONGRESS TO MANAGE NATIONAL DEBT AND TRADE.
- THE THREAT OF INTERNAL REBELLION, EXEMPLIFIED BY SHAYS' REBELLION, WHICH REVEALED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S IMPOTENCE IN MAINTAINING ORDER.

THESE CHALLENGES SPURRED THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1787, WHERE DELEGATES SOUGHT TO CRAFT A NEW FRAMEWORK THAT BALANCED POWER BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE STATES WHILE ADDRESSING THE WEAKNESSES OF THE ARTICLES.

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## THE KEY FEATURES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS

THE CONSTITUTION INTRODUCED SEVERAL CRITICAL FEATURES THAT RESOLVED THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED UNDER THE ARTICLES:

- STRONG FEDERAL AUTHORITY: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH LED BY THE PRESIDENT, A FEDERAL JUDICIARY, AND CONGRESS WITH ENUMERATED POWERS.
- POWER TO TAX AND REGULATE COMMERCE: CONGRESS GAINED THE AUTHORITY TO LEVY TAXES, REGULATE INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN TRADE, AND RAISE REVENUE.
- AMENDMENT PROCESS: THE CONSTITUTION INCLUDED A FLEXIBLE PROCESS FOR AMENDMENTS, ALLOWING THE GOVERNMENT TO ADAPT OVER TIME.
- MILITARY POWER: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD MAINTAIN A STANDING ARMY AND NAVY.
- CHECKS AND BALANCES: A SYSTEM DESIGNED TO PREVENT ANY ONE BRANCH OR FACTION FROM GAINING UNCHECKED POWER, ENSURING A SYSTEM OF "CHECKS."

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## CONCLUSION: THE LEGACY OF THE PROBLEMS WITH THE ARTICLES

THE PROBLEMS WITH THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION—WEAK CENTRAL AUTHORITY, INABILITY TO LEVY TAXES, LACK OF REGULATION OVER TRADE, DIFFICULTY IN AMENDING THE DOCUMENT, AND INSUFFICIENT MILITARY POWER—CREATED A CRISIS THAT NECESSITATED A FUNDAMENTAL REFORM. THE ADOPTION OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ADDRESSED THESE ISSUES HEAD-ON, ESTABLISHING A MORE BALANCED AND CAPABLE FEDERAL SYSTEM. THIS SHIFT NOT ONLY STRENGTHENED THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE PERFECT UNION, CAPABLE OF ENDURING CHALLENGES FOR CENTURIES TO COME.

UNDERSTANDING THESE PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF A FLEXIBLE YET STRONG GOVERNMENTAL FRAMEWORK AND UNDERScores HOW EARLY CHALLENGES SHAPED THE ENDURING PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN

DEMOCRACY. THE TRANSITION FROM THE ARTICLES TO THE CONSTITUTION REMAINS A TESTAMENT TO THE NATION'S COMMITMENT TO CREATING A GOVERNMENT THAT SERVES THE COLLECTIVE GOOD WHILE RESPECTING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF INDIVIDUAL STATES.

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