

Which Answer Choice Correctly Describes How The US Constitution Fixed A Problem Or Problems Of The Articles

Which Answer Choice Correctly Describes How The US Constitution Fixed A Problem Or Problems Of The Articles

The transition from the Articles of Confederation to the US Constitution marked a pivotal moment in American history, addressing critical weaknesses that threatened the survival and stability of the newly formed nation. Understanding how the Constitution fixed these issues is essential for grasping the foundation of American governance. This article explores the specific problems inherent in the Articles of Confederation and the ways in which the US Constitution provided effective solutions, ensuring a stronger, more unified federal government capable of managing the diverse needs of the states and citizens.

Background: The Articles of Confederation and Its Limitations

Before delving into how the Constitution addressed these problems, it is important to understand what the Articles of Confederation was and its primary shortcomings.

What Were the Articles of Confederation?

The Articles of Confederation, ratified in 1781, served as the first constitution of the United States. It established a loose union of sovereign states with a national government primarily responsible for foreign affairs, defense, and certain common interests.

Major Problems with the Articles of Confederation

Despite its initial purpose, the Articles had significant flaws:

- Weak Federal Government: It lacked the power to enforce laws or collect taxes.
- No Executive Branch: There was no president or executive authority to enforce laws.
- No National Judiciary: Absence of a federal court system to interpret laws.
- Unanimous Consent for Amendments: All states had to agree to amend the Articles, making change nearly impossible.
- Financial Difficulties: The government couldn't levy taxes, leading to debt and economic instability.
- Interstate Disputes: No effective mechanism to resolve conflicts between states.
- Limited Power to Regulate Commerce: The government couldn't regulate trade between states or with foreign nations.

These issues created a fragile national structure vulnerable to internal and external threats, prompting the need for a new, more effective framework—culminating in the drafting of the US Constitution.

How the US Constitution Fixed the Problems of the Articles of Confederation

The US Constitution, ratified in 1788, was designed to create a stronger federal government with the powers necessary to effectively govern the nation. Below are the key ways in which it addressed the Articles' critical shortcomings.

1. Establishment of a Strong Federal Government with Enumerated Powers

One of the most significant improvements the Constitution made was granting the federal government explicit powers.

- **Power to Tax and Raise Revenue:** Unlike under the Articles, the Constitution authorized Congress to levy taxes, providing a stable revenue source for the government.
- **Power to Regulate Commerce:** The Constitution allowed Congress to regulate interstate and foreign trade, promoting economic stability and growth.
- **Power to Maintain an Army and Navy:** This ensured national defense capabilities.

Impact: These provisions created a financially and militarily capable government, addressing the economic and security weaknesses of the Articles.

2. Creation of an Executive Branch

The Articles lacked a centralized executive authority, which hampered law enforcement and policy implementation.

- **The Presidency:** The Constitution established the office of the President of the United States, providing leadership and execution of federal laws.
- **Executive Powers:** The President has authority over foreign policy, military decisions, and executing laws passed by Congress.

Impact: The executive branch ensures swift decision-making and effective administration, a critical fix to the decentralized leadership under the Articles.

3. Establishment of a Federal Judiciary

The Articles had no national courts, leading to inconsistent interpretations of laws and disputes between states.

- Supreme Court and Federal Courts: The Constitution created the Supreme Court and allowed Congress to establish lower courts.

Impact: This ensures a uniform interpretation of laws, resolves disputes, and maintains the rule of law across the nation.

4. Ability to Amend the Constitution

The Articles required unanimity for amendments, making change impractical.

- Flexible Amendment Process: The Constitution allows amendments with ratification by three-fourths of the states.

Impact: This provides a workable process for adapting the government to future needs, fixing the rigidity of the Articles.

5. Enhanced Power to Regulate Commerce and Coin Money

Under the Articles, states could impose tariffs and trade restrictions, leading to economic conflicts.

- Commerce Clause: The Constitution grants Congress the authority to regulate interstate commerce.
- Coinage Power: Congress can coin money and regulate its value.

Impact: These measures promote economic stability, uniform currency, and trade across states and borders.

6. Strengthening Federal Authority Over the States

The Articles granted too much sovereignty to individual states, resulting in disunity.

- Supremacy Clause: The Constitution establishes federal law as supreme over state laws.
- Federal Laws: The government can override state legislation that conflicts with national interests.

Impact: These provisions unify the states under a central authority, preventing individual states from undermining national policies.

Key Features of the US Constitution That Addressed Specific Problems

Below is a detailed look at certain constitutional features that directly remedied the Articles' issues.

Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances

- Problem Fixed: Lack of effective leadership and concentration of power.
- Solution: Dividing government into three branches—legislative, executive, and judicial—each with distinct powers and the ability to check others.

Impact: Prevents abuses of power and ensures effective governance.

Federalism

- Problem Fixed: Excessive state sovereignty leading to disunity.
- Solution: Power divided between federal and state governments, with clearly defined roles.

Impact: Balances local autonomy with national authority, creating a cohesive yet flexible system.

The Great Compromise

- Problem Fixed: Disputes over representation in Congress.
- Solution: Established a bicameral legislature with the House of Representatives (based on population) and the Senate (equal representation for each state).

Impact: Resolved conflicts between large and small states, fostering national unity.

Summary: The Impact of the US Constitution on American Governance

The US Constitution effectively fixed the fundamental problems of the Articles of Confederation by creating a balanced government with the necessary powers to govern effectively. It established a strong federal structure capable of managing economic policies, national defense, and interstate relations, while protecting individual rights and maintaining state sovereignty where appropriate. The Constitution's innovative features—such as the separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, and an adaptable amendment process—laid the groundwork for a durable and adaptable government.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the answer choice that correctly describes how the US Constitution fixed the problems of the Articles of Confederation is that it created a stronger federal government with specific powers, an executive branch, a federal judiciary, and a flexible amendment process, while also establishing a system of checks and balances and federalism. These reforms addressed the weaknesses of the Articles, such as lack of revenue, weak enforcement, and disunity among states, ensuring the stability and growth of the United States. The Constitution remains a foundational document that has enabled the nation to adapt and thrive for over two centuries.

Keywords: US Constitution, Articles of Confederation, federal government, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, constitutional amendments, government reform, American history, constitutional fixes

Frequently Asked Questions

How did the US Constitution address the lack of a strong central government under the Articles of Confederation?

The Constitution established a stronger federal government with separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches, enhancing authority over states and resolving the weak central authority problem.

In what way did the Constitution resolve the issue of Congress lacking the power to tax under the Articles?

The Constitution granted Congress the power to levy taxes directly on individuals and states, providing a reliable revenue source that was absent under the Articles.

How did the Constitution fix the problem of the Articles requiring unanimous approval for amendments?

The Constitution set a more practical amendment process requiring approval by two-thirds of Congress and three-fourths of states, making amendments feasible rather than impossible.

What provision in the Constitution addressed the Articles' failure to create a national judiciary?

The Constitution established the federal judiciary, including the Supreme Court, providing

a central judicial authority to interpret laws and settle disputes between states.

How did the Constitution resolve the issues related to representation in Congress that existed under the Articles?

The Constitution created a bicameral legislature with proportional representation in the House of Representatives and equal representation in the Senate, balancing the interests of large and small states.

In what way did the Constitution fix the problem of states having too much power and acting independently under the Articles?

The Constitution increased federal authority and established clear national priorities, reducing the ability of states to act unilaterally and ensuring a unified national policy.

How did the Constitution address the issue of currency and economic regulation that was problematic under the Articles?

The Constitution gave Congress the power to coin money, regulate interstate and international commerce, and establish a stable national currency, fixing the economic fragmentation caused by the Articles.

What constitutional provision helped resolve the problem of the Articles' weakness in military and defense matters?

The Constitution authorized the federal government to maintain a standing army and navy, providing effective national defense capabilities absent under the Articles.

How did the Constitution improve upon the Articles' inability to effectively handle interstate disputes?

The Constitution created a federal judiciary and empowered Congress to resolve interstate disputes, establishing a legal framework for addressing conflicts between states.

Additional Resources

The US Constitution fundamentally transformed the American political landscape by addressing several critical problems inherent in the Articles of Confederation. Drafted in 1787 and ratified in 1788, the Constitution was designed to create a stronger, more effective federal government capable of managing the nation's economic, political, and

security challenges. This document not only replaced the Articles but also introduced innovative structures and principles that have endured over centuries. In this comprehensive review, we will explore how the US Constitution fixed the key problems of the Articles of Confederation, highlighting the specific provisions that addressed each issue, alongside their advantages and potential drawbacks.

Introduction: The Limitations of the Articles of Confederation

Before delving into how the Constitution fixed these problems, it is essential to understand the limitations of the Articles of Confederation. The Articles, ratified in 1781, served as the first constitution of the United States, creating a loose alliance of sovereign states. However, several critical issues became apparent:

- Lack of a strong central government
- No power to tax or regulate commerce
- Difficulty in passing legislation
- No executive branch to enforce laws
- No national judiciary
- Challenges in amending the Articles
- Financial instability and debt
- Interstate disputes and lack of uniformity

These shortcomings hampered the young nation's ability to function effectively, maintain order, and promote economic growth. The Constitution was crafted explicitly to address these problems.

How the US Constitution Fixed the Problems of the Articles of Confederation

1. Establishing a Stronger Central Authority

Problem in Articles:

The Articles created a weak central government with limited powers, primarily confining authority to the Congress of the Confederation. This led to inefficiencies and an inability to respond to national issues.

Constitutional Solution:

The Constitution established a federal system with a distinct national government comprising three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. It granted specific powers to the federal government, including the authority to tax, regulate commerce, and maintain national defense.

Features and Impact:

- Separation of Powers: Dividing government into three branches prevented any single entity from becoming too powerful.
- Enumerated Powers: Clearly listed powers for Congress (e.g., taxation, coinage, defense).
- Federal Supremacy: The Constitution's Article VI established that federal law takes precedence over state laws, resolving conflicts and ensuring uniformity.

Pros:

- Enabled the federal government to act decisively on national issues.
- Promoted stability and order.
- Provided a framework for effective governance.

Cons:

- Some states feared an overreach of federal power, leading to tensions.
- The balance of power has remained a contentious issue.

2. Power to Tax and Manage Federal Finances

Problem in Articles:

The Articles lacked the power to impose taxes; Congress could request funds from states but had no authority to enforce collection. This led to chronic financial problems, unpaid debts, and an inability to fund government operations.

Constitutional Solution:

The Constitution gave Congress the power to levy taxes, duties, and imposts (Article I, Section 8). This created a reliable revenue stream for national needs.

Features and Impact:

- Direct Taxation: Congress can impose taxes directly on individuals and corporations.
- Borrowing Power: Allowed the federal government to issue bonds and borrow money for national projects.
- Stable Revenue: Enabled consistent funding for military, infrastructure, and other programs.

Pros:

- Improved financial stability of the government.
- Allowed for national planning and development.

Cons:

- Increased federal power at the expense of states' autonomy.
- Taxation remains a politically contentious issue.

3. Regulating Commerce and Economic Uniformity

Problem in Articles:

States had the authority to regulate commerce within their borders, leading to trade

barriers, tariffs, and economic discord among states.

Constitutional Solution:

The Commerce Clause (Article I, Section 8, Clause 3) empowered Congress to regulate interstate and international commerce.

Features and Impact:

- Uniform Trade Policy: Eliminated tariffs and trade barriers between states.
- Protection of Commerce: Prevented states from enacting laws that hindered free trade.
- Economic Growth: Facilitated a cohesive economic system across the nation.

Pros:

- Promoted economic integration and growth.
- Enhanced national unity.

Cons:

- Federal regulation of commerce has sometimes encroached on state sovereignty.
- Debates over the scope of this power persist.

4. Creating an Effective Legislative Process

Problem in Articles:

Unanimous consent was required to amend the Articles, making change nearly impossible. Additionally, legislation required approval from all 13 states, leading to legislative gridlock.

Constitutional Solution:

The Constitution established a more flexible amendment process (Article V), requiring approval by two-thirds of both houses of Congress and three-fourths of state legislatures.

Features and Impact:

- Amendment Flexibility: Facilitated necessary changes while maintaining stability.
- Bicameral Legislature: Created the House of Representatives and Senate to balance representation.

Pros:

- Allowed adaptability to changing circumstances.
- Prevented arbitrary amendments.

Cons:

- The high threshold for amendments can hinder reform.
- The structure can lead to legislative stalemates.

5. Establishing Executive Leadership

Problem in Articles:

The Articles lacked an executive branch, leading to a decentralized and ineffective

leadership, especially in times of crisis.

Constitutional Solution:

The Constitution created the Presidency (Article II), granting the President executive powers, including enforcement of laws, command of armed forces, and diplomatic authority.

Features and Impact:

- Elected Leader: The President is elected via the Electoral College, providing legitimacy.
- Checks and Balances: The President's powers are balanced by Congress and the judiciary.
- Leadership in Crises: Enabled swift decision-making during emergencies.

Pros:

- Provided clear leadership.
- Enhanced the nation's capacity to respond to challenges.

Cons:

- Potential for executive overreach.
- Presidential power has been a subject of ongoing debate.

6. Creating a National Judiciary

Problem in Articles:

No national court system existed, leading to inconsistent interpretations of laws and disputes between states.

Constitutional Solution:

Article III established the Supreme Court and allowed Congress to create lower federal courts.

Features and Impact:

- Uniform Legal Interpretation: Ensures consistent application of federal law.
- Dispute Resolution: Provides mechanisms for resolving conflicts between states and individuals.

Pros:

- Strengthens the rule of law.
- Ensures federal laws are uniformly interpreted.

Cons:

- Judicial independence can be challenged.
- The scope of federal judicial power remains debated.

7. Facilitating Amendments for Flexibility

Problem in Articles:

Amendments required unanimity, which was virtually impossible, preventing necessary reforms.

Constitutional Solution:

The more achievable amendment process (Article V) allowed for changes with broad, but not unanimous, consensus.

Features and Impact:

- Gradual Adaptation: Allowed the Constitution to evolve without destabilizing the system.
- Balance of Power: Prevented hasty or capricious changes.

Pros:

- Ensures stability while permitting evolution.
- Reflects broad consensus.

Cons:

- Difficult to amend, potentially hindering progress.
- Some argue it makes the Constitution inflexible over time.

Conclusion: The Lasting Fixes of the US Constitution

The US Constitution addressed the fundamental shortcomings of the Articles of Confederation through a series of well-designed structural and procedural reforms. By establishing a stronger federal government with clear powers, creating mechanisms for revenue and regulation, instituting a balanced system of checks and balances, and providing methods for amendment, the Constitution laid the foundation for a resilient and adaptable nation. While some features have sparked debate and controversy, the overarching design has allowed the United States to grow from a fragile confederation into a global superpower with a stable political system. Its success lies in its ability to fix the critical problems of the Articles while maintaining flexibility for future generations to adapt and evolve.

Which Answer Choice Correctly Describes How The Us Constitution Fixed A Problem Or Problems Of The Articles

Which Answer Choice Correctly Describes How The Us Constitution Fixed A Problem Or Problems Of The Articles

Related Articles

- [Explain How Water Makes Its Way To The Leaves In The Tops Of The Tallest Trees Against The Force Of Gravity.](#)
- [A Boat Heading Out To Sea Starts Out At Point A, At A Horizontal Distance Of 1159 Feet From](#)

[A Lighthouse/the](#)

- [Audio Button Question The Volume Of A Cylindrical Container Is 251 Cubic Inches. The Radius Of The Container](#)

[Back to Home](#)