

Characteristic	Articles of Confederation	U.S. Constitution
Federal government		
- Powers granted to	Federal government can take these actions only if 9 states agree: Wage war, deal with pirates, enter treaties, coin money	Regulate interstate commerce, regulate army and navy; govern “national” affairs
- Powers reserved by	None	Any powers not granted to the states
- Powers forbidden	Article II Any powers not <i>expressly</i> granted to the federal government	10 th Amendment any powers not <i>implicitly</i> granted to federal government
Legislative branch		
- Creation and powers	States send delegates to Congress; Congress makes decisions unanimously; need agreement of 9 states to take action	Two houses based on population and State; Vested with legislative power
Executive branch		
- Creation and powers	No separate executive branch; Does have executive council that is part of legislative branch	Separate executive branch; Vested with executive power
Judicial branch		
- Creation and powers	No judicial branch	Separate judicial branch; Vested with judicial power
State governments		
- Powers granted to	Regulate intrastate commerce; Control State based militias	Govern “local” affairs
- Powers reserved by	Article II <i>expressly</i> reserves powers to State	10 th Amendment <i>implicitly</i> reserves some powers for the States
- Powers forbidden	Enter treaties, conduct foreign affairs, enter alliances between States, create interstate taxes, regulate interstate commerce; Engage in War	Enter treaties, conduct foreign affairs, enter alliances between States, create interstate taxes, regulate interstate commerce; Engage in War