

The Constitution Strengthens the National Government

Strengths of the Constitution	Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
Strong national government	Strong state governments/power with the states
Three branches of government	One branch of government
President/executive branch	No president
Supreme Court/New judicial system	No judicial system
Representation based on population/Every state has 2 senators	All states had 1 vote
Two houses in Congress	1 house in Congress

The Constitution Strengthens the National Government

Strengths of the Constitution

- ✓ most power held by national government
- ✓ three branches of government
- ✓ legislative branch has many powers
- ✓ executive branch led by president
- ✓ judicial branch to review the laws
- ✓ firm system of checks and balances

Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

- most power held by states
- one branch of government
- legislative branch has few powers
- no executive branch
- no judicial system
- no system of checks and balances

Federalists v. Antifederalists



Alexander Hamilton
Federalist

- Supported the Constitution as an excellent plan for government
- Defended his views in the *Federalist Papers*



George Mason
Antifederalist

- Opposed the Constitution
- Believed the Constitution needed a section guaranteeing individual rights



The Articles of Confederation

- first government of United States
- weak union of states
- weaknesses led to Shays's Rebellion



The Constitution

- framework of today's government
- strengthened national government
- three branches
- checks and balances



Bill of Rights

- first 10 amendments
- ensures basic rights





The U.S. Constitution sets up a federal system of government, with powers divided between the federal government and state governments.



The powers of government are divided among three branches: the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.



A system of checks and balances prevents any one branch from becoming too powerful.



The Bill of Rights guarantees important rights and freedoms for American citizens.



Along with rights, citizens have duties: to obey laws, pay taxes, register for the draft, sit on juries, perform community service, and vote.

