

Name _____

Central Powers

During the early years of the United States, the Articles of Confederation served as the guiding document for the nation's governance. This document outlined the powers granted to the central government, which was intentionally limited in its authority to avoid the tyranny experienced under British rule.

Under the Articles of Confederation, the central government had several important powers, albeit with significant limitations. One of the primary responsibilities of the federal government was to declare war and make peace. This meant that Congress, the central legislative body, had the authority to decide when the nation would engage in conflicts with other countries and when hostilities would cease.

Additionally, the central government was responsible for managing foreign affairs and negotiating treaties with other nations. This included establishing diplomatic relations, conducting negotiations, and entering into agreements that affected the interests of the United States on the global stage.

The federal government also had the power to manage postal services throughout the country. This meant that Congress could establish post offices, designate postal routes, and set postage rates to facilitate communication and commerce among the states.

Furthermore, the central government had the authority to manage relations with Native American tribes. This included negotiating treaties with indigenous peoples, regulating trade and interactions, and addressing conflicts that arose between settlers and Native American communities.

However, it's important to note that while the central government had these powers, its authority was limited by the sovereignty of the individual states. The Articles of Confederation established a decentralized system of governance, with most authority residing within the states themselves rather than a strong federal government.

Despite these powers, the central government under the Articles of Confederation faced significant challenges in effectively exercising its authority. The lack of power to enforce laws or collect taxes, combined with the requirement for unanimous agreement among the states to amend the Articles, ultimately led to the realization that a stronger federal government was necessary to address the nation's needs.



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Multiple Choice Questions

1. What was one primary responsibility of the federal government under the Articles of Confederation?

- A) Regulating trade between states
- B) Declaring war and making peace
- C) Collecting taxes from citizens
- D) Establishing state governments

2. What authority did the central government have in managing foreign affairs under the Articles of Confederation?

- A) Negotiating treaties with other nations
- B) Regulating trade within the country
- C) Enforcing laws in the states
- D) Establishing state postal services

3. What was one power granted to the federal government in managing communication among the states?

- A) Declaring war
- B) Regulating trade with Native American tribes
- C) Establishing post offices and postal routes
- D) Collecting taxes from citizens

4. How did the central government under the Articles of Confederation manage relations with Native American tribes?

- A) By declaring war on indigenous communities
- B) By collecting taxes from tribal members
- C) By establishing state governments
- D) By regulating trade and interactions

5. What limited the authority of the central government under the Articles of Confederation?

- A) The sovereignty of the individual states
- B) The power to enforce laws and collect taxes
- C) The ability to declare war and make peace
- D) The unanimous agreement of foreign governments