

Comparing the Changes in American Government: 1607-1789

	Colonial Governments 1607-1776	Articles of Confederation 1781-1789	Constitution 1789-present
Who had the power to tax?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Colonial assemblies had the power to tax & pay governors ○ After the French & Indian War, taxes imposed by British crown & enforced by governors & tax collectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taxes were the expressed power of individual states ○ Central gov't did not have power to tax but could request funds from states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both the federal gov't and the states have the power to tax (Federalism!)
Who had the power to make laws? How was this legislature organized?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Salutary neglect allowed for the colonies to create legislative assemblies ○ Assemblies used unicameral or bicameral legislatures ○ After French & Indian War, parliament increased control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Congress is intentionally weak to give the states most law-making decisions ○ Unicameral legislature ○ Each state has one vote in Congress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laws made by a strong national gov't (Congress) & by each state's legislature ○ Bicameral legislature with House of Reps & Senate ○ One vote per Congressman
How are legislators (law makers) chosen?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Qualification for election to colonial assemblies varied ○ Process was democratic but favored the elite (religious leaders in NE or gentry in Middle & Southern colonies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delegates are appointed by state legislatures ○ States sent between 2-7 representatives to Congress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 Senators chosen by state legislatures serve 6-years ○ Reps in the House are popularly elected from states based on state population size & serve 2-year terms
Who was the executive authority (to enforce the laws)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Royal governors & king enforced laws ○ Royal governors were weak because colonial assemblies paid their salaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No president ○ No one held veto power over the states ○ State governors are powerless as well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President is determined by an Electoral College to serve a 4-year term ○ Has veto power over Congress & states ○ Each state has a governor
Who had the power to create courts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Colonies created their own courts to determine tax-rates & judge criminal & civil cases ○ Judges were often chosen by the royal governor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Judicial authority was left up to state courts ○ There was no national court system; but the Confederate Congress had power to settle disputes between the states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution created a Supreme Court & Congress created lower federal Courts to enforce federal laws ○ Each state has its own civil & criminal court system
Who had power to regulate trade?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ England regulated colonial trade (mercantilism via the Navigation Acts of 1660, 1663) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Congress regulated foreign trade but did not have the power to regulate state trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Congress regulates foreign and interstate trade
What were some advantages of this type of government?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allowed the colonies to rule based on regional differences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The states were sovereign and could represent the peoples' wishes ○ No fears of tyranny because of a strong central gov't 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More powerful central gov't provided economic, political, & foreign policy stability ○ The states maintained their own sovereignty
What were some disadvantages of this type of government?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Colonies gradually lost the ability to make local decisions in favor of parliamentary sovereignty ○ Diversity in colonial gov'ts made inter-colonial unity & inter-colonial trade difficult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No power to tax ○ No national leadership ○ Difficult to amend the constitution or pass laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ States cannot act in ways that conflict with national laws (Supremacy Clause)