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| **Feature of the Articles of Confederation** | **Why This Was Included In the**  **Articles of Confederation** | **Possible Problems with**  **This Feature** |
| One feature of the Articles of Confederation was that the government had no chief executive, such as a president or king. As a result, the government under the Articles suffered from a lack of leadership since there was no single leader. |  | Lack of leadership from the central (federal) government. No single leader for the government. |
| One feature of the Articles of Confederation was that new laws needed to be approved by nine of the thirteen states. This was included in the Articles because the delegates to the Continental Congress wanted to protect the rights of states and did not want the central (federal) government to become too powerful. With this feature, new laws would have to be agreeable to nine of the states instead of a simple majority of seven. | Wanted to protect individual states’ power.  Fear of a strong central (federal) government. |  |
| One feature of the Articles of Confederation was that Congress did not have the power to tax its citizens directly; instead, it could only request money from the states. This created financial problems because states often did not pay what was requested of them by the federal (central) government. |  | States often chose not to pay taxes, and the federal (central) government didn’t have the funds to operate effectively. |
| One feature of the Articles of Confederation was that Congress did not have the power to draft men into the Continental Army; instead, it could only request states to send men into military service. The delegates to the Continental Congress were fearful that a federal (central) government with a powerful army might take away the rights of citizens, as the British army had done to them. | Fear of a central (federal) government with a strong army that might take away citizens’ rights. |  |

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| **Feature of the Articles of Confederation** | **Why This Was Included In the**  **Articles of Confederation** | **Possible Problems with**  **This Feature** |
| One feature of the Articles of Confederation was that there was no national court system. Instead, each state had its own court system. Disputes between states had to be settled in one of the states’ courts. The delegates to the Continental Congress provided for no national court system because they believed that a national court may be unfair to the rights of states. | Fear of a central (federal) government with a court system that might be unfair to the rights of states. |  |
| One feature of the Articles of Confederation was that any amendments, or changes, to the Articles required the approval of all 13 states. This made changes to the Articles nearly impossible – any single state could prevent a change that the rest of the nation wanted. |  | Nearly impossible to make changes to Articles. Any one state could stop an amendment that all the other states wanted. |
| One feature of the Articles of Confederation was that Congress did not have the power to collect state debts (money owed) to the federal (central) government. The delegates to the Continental Congress wanted to ensure that the federal government could not force states to pay for things that the states did not want. | Fear of a strong central (federal) government that could force states to pay for things they didn’t want. |  |
| One feature of the Articles of Confederation was that Congress did not have the power to settle disputes among states. The Articles guaranteed that each state would keep its individual power, freedom, and independence. As a result, Congress did not have the power to help states work out conflicts among them, and states became increasingly disunited. |  | Disputes among states often could not be resolved. Created disunity among states. |