

COMPROMISE OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Conflicting Groups	Disagreements	Compromise
Larger states vs. Smaller states	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Virginia Plan wanted representation in Congress to be based on population. 2. New Jersey Plan wanted equal representation of states. 	
Southern states vs. Northern states	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Southern states wanted slaves to be counted as part of the population. 2. Northern states objected to this plan. 	
Slave states vs. Free States	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slave states wanted to bring in as many slaves as they wanted. 2. Free states objected to this and wanted to limit the importation of slaves. 	
Agricultural states vs. Manufacturing states	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agricultural states were against giving Congress the power to tax imports and exports. 2. Manufacturing states favored giving Congress the power to levy tariffs. 	
Aristocracy vs. Democrats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aristocrats favored indirect election of the President, some wanting him elected for life. 2. Democrats favored his direct election for a single term. 	

As the following outline shows, the Constitution succeeded in remedying the major defects of the Articles and satisfied the great majority of the delegates at the Convention.

WEAKNESSES OF ARTICLES OF
CONFEDERATION

HOW REMEDIED BY CONSTITUTION

There was no separate executive branch to carry out the laws of Congress.

There was no national judiciary to handle offenses against national laws and disputes between states.

Congress did not have the power to levy taxes.

Congress could not regulate interstate and foreign commerce.

The states, as well as Congress, had the power to coin money.

Congress was in no position to support an army and navy, since it could not collect taxes. It had to depend on the support of state militias.