Articles of Confederation

Why were the Articles of Confederation so weak?

| AoC writers disliked | So under the AoC |
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| Taxation without representation | The federal government could not tax |
| A large central government that had absolute power | States didn't have to follow federal laws and treaties |
| Having to follow British legislation | States had their own laws and didn't have to follow other states' laws |
| Lots of power was in the king's hands | No executive branch or national court system |
| The king could change laws at any time | Any amendment required all 13 states' approval |

What was the Problem?

- Since the federal government could not tax, it was very difficult to raise money
- Since states didn't have to follow laws and treaties, the federal government had no assurance that individual states would follow them
- Each state had its own laws, which made it difficult for the country to act in a united way. Congress couldn't pay back debts from the revolution and couldn't get states to work together to encourage commerce.

What was the Problem?

- Since there was no executive branch, the government could not defend its borders.
- Since there was no executive branch and national court system, the government could not enforce its laws
- Any amendment required all 13 states' approval, so the AoC was very difficult to modify