**Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation**

* Congress couldn’t enact or collect taxes
  + Couldn’t force states to pay taxes
  + Couldn’t get finances in order to pay war debts
* Every state only has one vote in Congress
  + Everyone not represented fairly – why should New York and Rhode Island have the same say?
* 9 out of 13 states agreed to pass any law
  + Too many states!
  + Made everything run too slowly b/c not everyone needed to agree to laws only affecting a couple states
* Articles could only be amended (changed) if ALL states approved
  + Too difficult!
  + One state – like Rhode Island – could stop an amendment from being passed
* No executive branch to enforce laws
  + Can’t force states to comply with laws
* No national court system to settle legal disputes
  + If a couple states have a disagreement, there are no courts to settle it
* **13 states lacked national unity**
* **The federal government was too weak to effectively rule**