

American Constitution

The Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation was created by the victorious members of the American Revolution to address the needs of a country. The Articles of Confederation seeks to stabilize the foundation of the political, economic, and social strata of America. However, due to lapses inscribed in its documents and failure to address key issues, the Articles of Confederation was abolished and a new Constitution was drafted by statesmen. This paper seeks to elaborate on the synopsis of the American Confederation.

The United States government, after defeating the British and the Declaration of Independence, during the revolution needed a firm and legally binding document that will ensure the stability of a country recovering for a war. Thus, the Articles of Confederation was created. “In the heat of battle (the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the subsequent Revolutionary War) the Articles of Confederation were created.” (Ermory, 1993, p. 1) Looking at the features of the Articles, it can be seen that its philosophy is imbedded by the values of equality and freedom. There is a “concern for freedom given higher importance than providing commercial advantage or making government easy.” (Ermory, 1993, p. 1) The Articles also promote the equality among men, especially in the process of suffrage. There is an “equal suffrage for all economic classes without built-in control of local government by elites in control of the central government.” (Ermory, 1993, p. 1) The concentration of power was on the states. “Most Federal action required a consensus of the States.” (Ermory, 1993, p. 1) The Articles’ downfall came when it failed to address several issues that were important during that time. “Philosophically, no solution to the slavery problem, no recognition of Indian rights (in fact, no guarantee of any individual rights), and the Confederation would only be a defender of individual liberty if the individual States were” (Ermory, 1993, p. 1).

Amendments of the American Constitution

To conclude, the Articles of Confederation served as a stepping stone in drafting the United States Constitution that will address the needs of the people during that time. The Articles had its share of its success and failures but in the end, it indeed served its benefit.

The creation of Amendments in the United States Constitution was an initiative of the original drafters to address future changes in American Society. These changes vary from the fields of the economy, politics, and society.

The Amendments in the United States Constitution are measures attempted by drafters to enable future legislators to amend and include statutes that are deemed applicable during the time. Currently, there are 27 amendments in the Constitution which seek to address the issues that are not incorporated in the original document. These amendments vary according to the issues in question. For example, the First Amendment seeks to incorporate the idea of individual freedoms of Americans. “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances” (Maisel, 1998, p. 1). The articles in amendments are made for making the law suitable for people and society. The Amendments also highlight several economic issues that seek a legislature to standardize and formalize functions. An example of this is the 16th Amendment. “The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States and without regard to any census or enumeration” (Maisel, 1998, p. 1).

In conclusion, the paper elaborated on the summary of the Amendments in the United States Constitution. It was mentioned that these Amendments seek to address the issues that need to be incorporated. This statute in the Constitution makes it very flexible in situations that Amendments need to be done. The capability of the US Constitution to address changes through amendments creates the idea of continuity compared to the Articles of Confederation.

References

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