

Civics: A Christian Worldview.
How Does This Protect Liberty? (15-20 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Instructions

1. **Objective:** Students review the Articles of Confederation basics (***DON'T TELL THEM THE HANDOUT IS ABOUT THE AOC YET!***) and discover its strengths in preserving more limited government and liberty.
2. Print out this page for yourself and copies of Page 2 for students.
3. Hand out Page 2 to students.
4. Read the instructions together and tell students they have 10 minutes to BRIEFLY write how each of the 10 parts of the document described would protect individual liberties.
5. Review together as a class; get volunteers!

Answer Key

1. Prevents executive power from concentrating in one person.
2. Protects citizens from national taxation.
3. Keeps economic control in the states.
4. Reduces risk of military control or coercion.
5. Prevents national judges from overruling state decisions.
6. Makes power expansion extremely difficult.
7. Preserves local control.
8. Limited enforcement power of the center.
9. Decisions made nearer to citizens' daily lives.
10. Built-in resistance to nationwide domination.

Wrap-Up

- Tell students: "This document describes the Articles of Confederation."
- Tell students: "Many historians who favor limited government prefer the AOC over the U. S. Constitution, which created the powerful centralized government that we have now. Many of the features of the AOC listed below were not continued in the U. S. Constitution."

Civics: A Christian Worldview. How Does This Protect Liberty?

Briefly explain in the spaces how a document that includes each below each element would protect liberty.

1. There is no president with strong executive authority.
2. Congress has no power to tax citizens directly.
3. The central government may not regulate trade between states.
4. There is no permanent national army.
5. There is no federal court system over the states.
6. The document may not be changed unless all states' representatives agree to.
7. There is no single national authority able to overrule state laws.
8. The national government may not force states to obey its policies.
9. Power stays closest to the people in their own states.
10. The system makes it very difficult for one group of leaders to gain nationwide control.

