

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ARTICLES IV-VII

Article IV: The States

(See Article IV, Sections 1-4)

In the first three Articles of the Constitution, the founding fathers established the physical structure of our government. But there were still other issues to be solved before the Constitution could begin its work.

The issues still remaining involved the roles of the states in the new government, how to make changes to the Constitution, and how to get the Constitution approved by the current states.

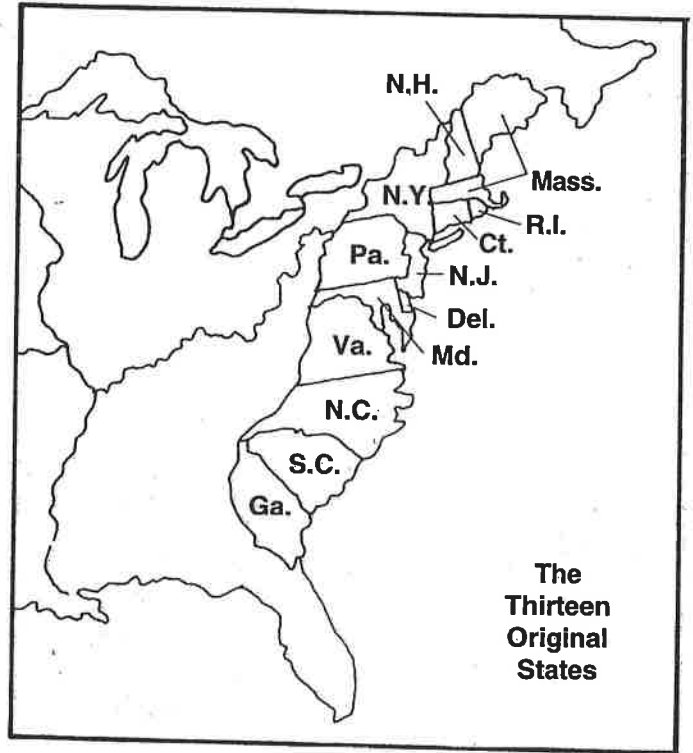
First, in Article IV, the Constitution addresses the states. Before the Constitution, each state acted individually on many issues. It was like having 13 separate countries with a mediocre friendship. The Articles of Confederation had supported this loose association of states. But by 1787, as we studied earlier, the loose friendship was in trouble.

The Constitution set forth a strong central government. The states were not going to be happy with giving up many of the rights they exercised during the previous years. So, the framers of the Constitution wrote Article IV.

The relationships between the individual states had been tense, so Article IV demanded that each state respect the laws and decisions of the other states. Each state is required to treat citizens of the other states the same way it would treat one of its own citizens. If a person broke a law in Missouri and escaped to Georgia, Georgia would be required to send the criminal back to Missouri. The states must work together and respect each other.

Article IV also provides a way for new states to be admitted into the union. Congress was given the power to admit new states, but no new state could come from the property of an existing state, and no two states could join together to form a larger one, unless both state legislatures and Congress approved.

Finally, Article IV guarantees each state a *republican* form of government. What this means is that each state will always have a government elected by the people and not a monarchy. The Federal government will also defend the states against invasion or attack because the states will no longer have individual militaries.



Article IV deals with the relationships between the states.