



BOX 4-1 THE POWERS OF CONGRESS

Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution grants Congress the following specific powers:

To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises

To pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States

To borrow money

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, among the states, and with the Indian tribes

To establish uniform rules for naturalization and bankruptcies

To coin money, regulate its value, and fix a standard for weights and measures

To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting

To establish a post office

To establish copyright and patent laws

To create lower courts

To define crimes on the high seas

To declare war

To raise and support armies

To establish and maintain a navy

To create rules regulating the land and naval forces

To call forth the militia to enforce the laws, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions

To organize, arm, and discipline the militia

To pass all legislation over the district that becomes the seat of government

To make all laws necessary and proper to the execution of the foregoing powers