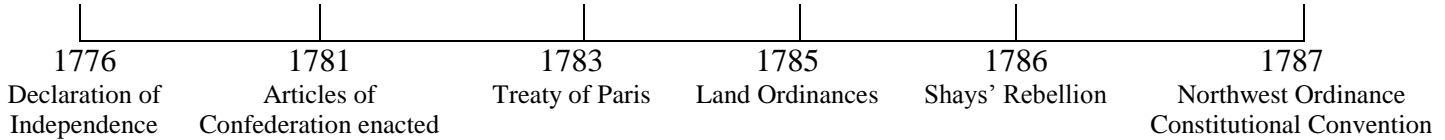


US History & Government

Articles of Confederation

During the Revolutionary War, Congress created the Articles of Confederation to unite the states. The Articles of Confederation was our first form of government. It created a weak central government, while most of the power remained with the states. This weak structure was due to the struggle for political control that existed between Congress and the states at that time.

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION



Types of Government: Confederation vs. Federation

Federation	Confederation
National Government	State Government
State Government	National Government

Explain the difference between a Federation and Confederation:

Organization of the Articles of Confederation:

- Congress (a single house or unicameral legislature) represented 13 states on a national level
- Each state had one vote
- 9 of 13 states needed to pass laws
- Unanimous approval needed for changing the Articles of Confederation

Would it have been easy or difficult to make laws under the Articles of Confederation? Why?

In 1781, the white area of this map was known as the Northwestern Territories.



Identify the following on this map

1. Mississippi River
2. Ohio River
3. Canada
4. Michigan
5. Ohio
6. Indiana
7. Michigan
8. Wisconsin

Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation:

Under the Articles of Confederation:	Strength or Weakness?	Why?
Congress couldn't tax people directly		
The union of 13 states was kept together		
The Revolutionary War was fought and won		
Foreign trade could not be regulated by the national government		
Trade between states was not regulated by the national government		
Land Ordinance of 1785 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveyed and set up townships for sale of land in the Northwest Territory • Provided one section of each township to be sold for money for public education 		
There was no executive (president) to carry out the laws		
Although Congress could issue money, it had no power to prevent each state from issuing its own currency		
Provided for extradition from state to state		
The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up rules of government for townships in the Northwest Territory • Set up a plan for new states to be admitted to the Union • Outlawed slavery in the Northwestern Territory 		
No national court system existed		
Congress could only ask for troops, not demand them – No national army or navy		
Congress had no power to enforce its laws		

Did the Articles of Confederation have more strengths or weaknesses? _____

Would you like to live under a government like this? Why?



Shays' Rebellion: *From 1786-1787, debt-ridden farmers in Massachusetts asked the state government to stop foreclosures on mortgages on their properties. When the government did not help them, they led an armed uprising against the state government to prevent further foreclosures. State troops proved unable to stop the rebellion for almost one year.*

How do you think Shays' Rebellion influenced how Americans viewed the government under the Articles of Confederation?

Why did George Washington call the Congress under the Articles of Confederation "a shadow without a substance."
