

Lesson #3

- Articles of “CONFEDERATION”**
- Structure of the Articles**
- Pros & Cons**
- Shays’ Rebellion**
- Constitutional Convention & Consensus**

WHY DID WE COME UP WITH THE ARTICLES OF **CONFEDERATION**

👉 👉 👉 **LOOK AT THE NAME OF OUR COUNTRY** 👉 👉 👉

**Declaration of Independence >>
Revolutionary War >> Articles of
Confederation (1781) and its weak central
government**

The 1st U.S. government which began as a **confederation** (a “firm league of friendship”)

The Articles of Confederation

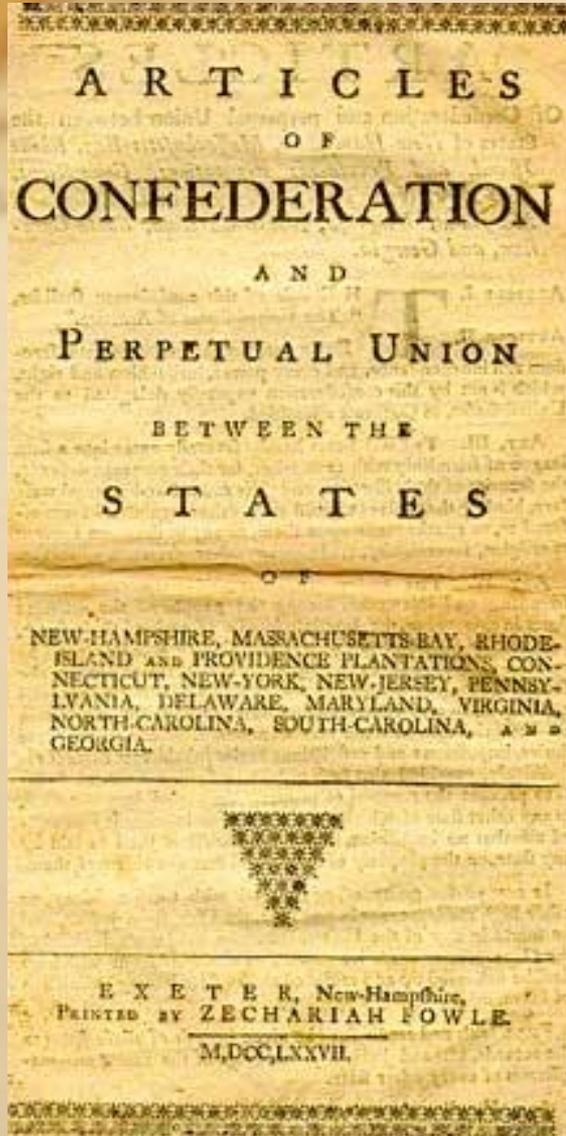
- **Article II**

- ***“Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power, jurisdiction and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.”***

- **Article III**

- ***“The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defence, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretence whatever.”***

Structure of the Articles



- **Unicameral national legislature**
- **NO executive or judicial branches**
- **Equal representation of each state with one vote**
- **9 of 13 states required to pass legislation**
- **Unanimous votes to amend the Articles**

Articles Powers & Limits

COULD

- Borrow money
- Create army and navy
- Declare war
- Establish post offices
- Form treaties

COULD NOT

- Tax states, citizens, goods, income
- Institute a draft
- Regulate commerce
- Regulate national currency

Articles Good & Bad

Accomplishments

- Treaty of Paris
- Land Ordinance of 1785
- Northwest Ordinance of 1787

Failures

- Economic conflicts between states
- Depressions
- Foreign trade
- Shays's Rebellion (1786-1787)
 - Western Massachusetts farmers

SHAYS' REBELLION

- **The national government under the Articles also lacked the power to raise an army or navy. Fears of a standing army in the employ of a tyrannical government had led the writers of the Articles of Confederation to leave defense largely to the states. Although the central government could declare war and agree to peace, it had to depend upon the states to provide soldiers. If state governors chose not to honor the national government's request, the country would lack an adequate defense.**
- **The weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation became apparent as a result of Shays' Rebellion. In 1786, farmers in western Massachusetts were heavily in debt, facing imprisonment and the loss of their lands. Many of them were veterans, who owed taxes that had gone unpaid while they were away fighting the British during the Revolution. The Continental Congress had promised to pay them for their service, but the national government did not have sufficient money. Moreover, the farmers were unable to meet the onerous new tax burden Massachusetts imposed in order to pay its own debts from the Revolution.**

SHAYS' REBELLION

- **Led by Daniel Shays, the indebted farmers marched to a local courthouse demanding relief. Faced with the refusal of many Massachusetts militiamen to arrest the rebels, with whom they sympathized, the governor of Massachusetts called upon the national government for aid, but none was forthcoming. The uprising was finally brought to an end the following year by a privately funded militia.**
- **Shays' Rebellion brought home the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation. The U.S. government had both failed to pay its veterans and failed to raise a militia in order to put down a rebellion. It had become clear the U.S. government's inability to impose taxes, regulate commerce, or raise an army hindered its ability to defend the nation or pay its debts.**
- **To find a solution, members of Congress called for a revision of the Articles of Confederation. In 1787, delegates from 12 of the 13 states met in Philadelphia to craft a new Constitution.**

Constitutional Convention



- **Shays' Rebellion (text p.46) acted as a catalyst to strengthen the Articles of Confederation**
- **Annapolis Convention in 1786 called for a convention to amend the Articles of Confederation**
- **55 delegates from all states
no Rhode Island
Well-educated men of means**

CONSENSUS – WHAT WERE THE THINGS THAT THEY AGREED UPON AT THE START?

- ✓ **All delegates supported republican government (representative republic); scrap Articles**
- ✓ **Common philosophy was a general framework of government favoring the protection of property**
- ✓ **States would determine voting qualifications; suffrage for property owners only**
- ✓ **Provisions designed to increase the economic powers of the central government**
- ✓ **Agreed on national government consisting of a supreme legislative, executive, and judiciary branch**
- ✓ **Agreed on the need for a strong executive and an independent judiciary**
- ✓ **Stronger national government, but not tyrannical**