

5.1 A Confederation of States

Objective:

1. To discuss the characteristics of the first US government.
2. To discuss the events that revealed this government's weaknesses.

Bellringer

Define: CONFEDERATION

↓
loose alliance
of states

Issues Addressed by New State Constitutions

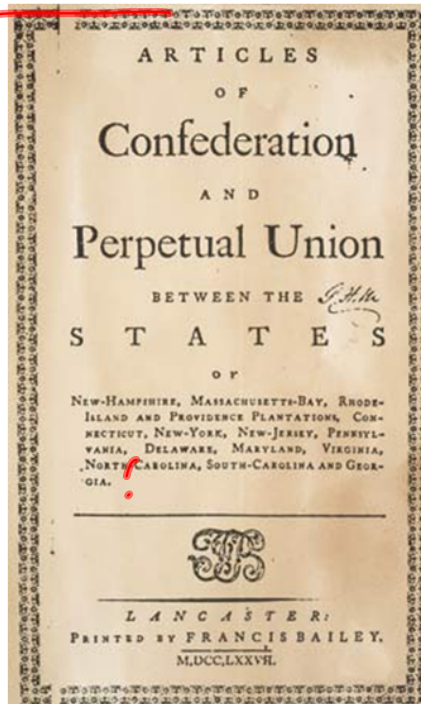
- **Republics** – political leaders received power from the people
- **Limits on Executive Power**
 - Term limits for governors
 - Prohibited governors from overturning legislative vetoes
 - NY/MASS – governors elected!

Separation of Church and State –ex: *VA Statute for Religious Freedom*

Articles of Confederation

1st government doc. of U.S.

- Too much power to states
– not enough to the federal/central government....
- Chart — strengths and weaknesses of the Articles
– keep forever!



1781-
1787
:
1789

Achievements
of the Articles

Weaknesses of
the Articles

How fixed by the
Constitution

achievements of the Articles	Weaknesses of the Articles	How fixed by Constitu- tion
<p>1. Successfully ended the Rev. War</p> <p>2. Successfully negotiated Treaty of Paris of 1783</p> <p>3. Northwest Ordinances of 1785+1787</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public edu. • banned slavery there • set up a system for territories to become states <p>(all) UNANIMOUS VOTE ←</p>	<p>1. too much power to the states</p> <p>2. unicameral (1 house) legislature where every state had 1 vote</p> <p>3. fed. gov. could <u>not</u> regulate interstate + international trade</p> <p>4. Congress could levy but <u>not</u> collect taxes</p> <p>5. no fed. <u>executive</u></p> <p>6. no fed. <u>judiciary</u></p> <p>7. 2/3 majority to pass law</p> <p>8. 14 currencies</p> <p>9. amendments</p>	

Intro – What states were eventually carved out of the Northwest Territory?



Land Ordinances:

1785

-

1787

Shays' Rebellion

• **Causes**

- Mass. Law required heavy tax on land
- If unpaid – property seized
- Farmers complained of “taxation without representation” – appealed to legislature
- Farmers were in debt with fewer markets
- Legislature ignored – farmers rebelled under Daniel Shays



Effects of Shays' Rebellion

- Mass. Legislature repealed the direct taxes
- Created a debtor relief legislation that prevented property and goods from being seized
- Unrest of farmers frightened the wealthy
- Increased the support for a strong national/central government that could:
 - Unite the country
 - Deal with political strife

Closure:

What was an unintended consequence of Shays' Rebellion?

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