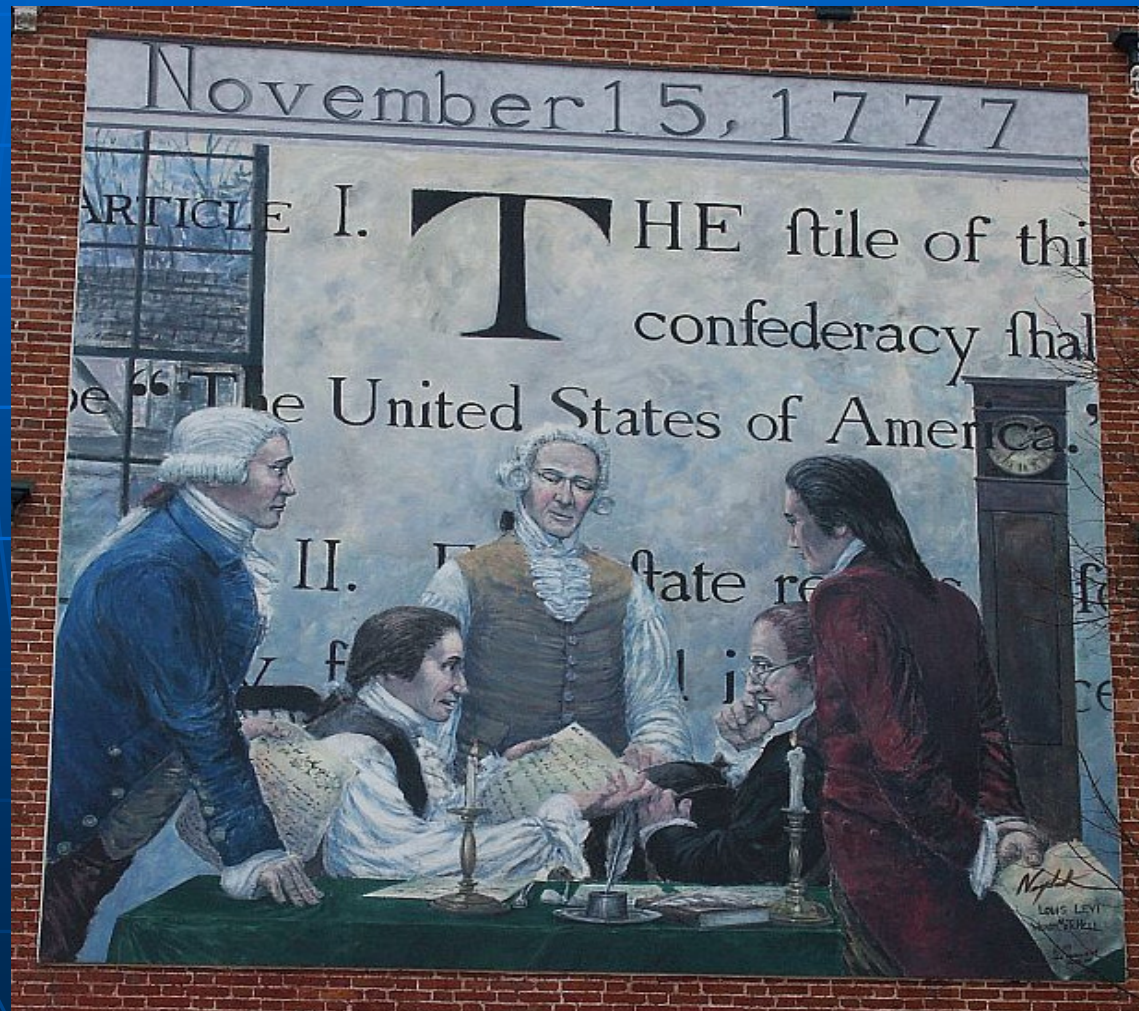


The Confederation Government



Our First Government – The Articles of Confederation

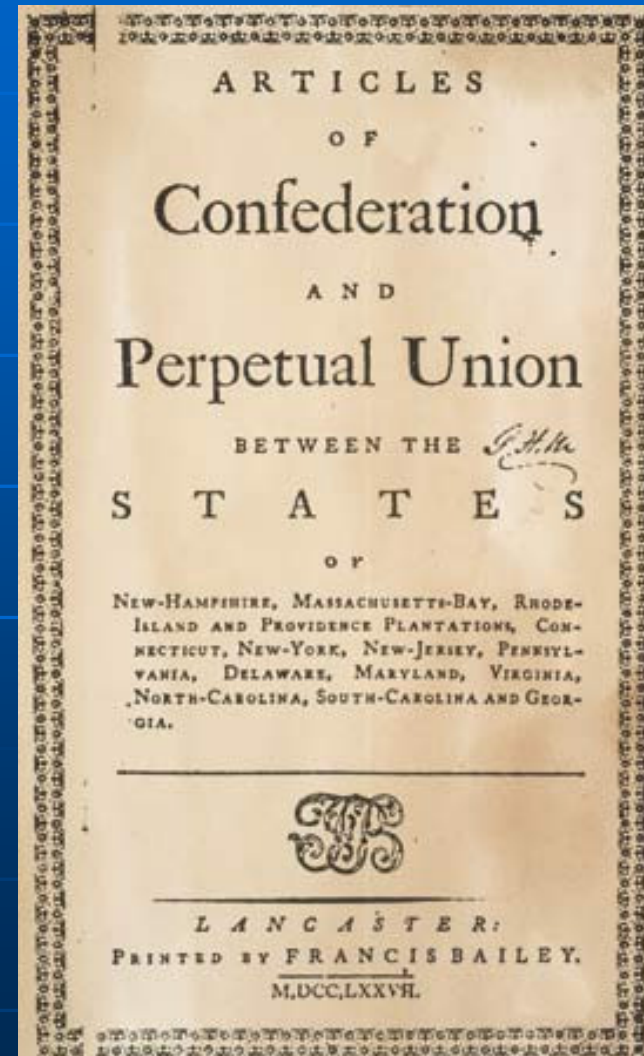
- Drafted by John Dickinson and submitted to Congress on July 12, 1776
 - Approved in November 1777, but not ratified until 1781
- Called for states to enter into a “firm league of friendship with each other”
 - Congress did not give the Central Government too much power, fearing it could become too much like the oppressive British monarchy that it had broken from
- States would have to give all western land claims to Central Government
 - Maryland (a state with no land claims) refused to ratify Articles for three years until all states had ceded their lands

Articles of Confederation

- Continental Congress was the Central Government
 - No Executive or Judicial Branch
- Each state had one vote in Congress
 - Major Legislation had to be approved by 9 out of 13 states
 - Slow, rigorous process meant very little could be accomplished
 - Amendments had to be approved by all 13 states—very difficult to get all to agree

Challenges to U.S. in 1783

- Government structure
- Pay off war debt—states & Congress—both had debt
- Manage/govern twice the land area as before—to the Mississippi River
- Establish the U.S. as a nation among the nations of the world
- Defend and protect the country from foreign powers



“Your Powers are Weak!”

- The Articles gave the most power to the states
- Weak Central Government
 - No power to tax
 - Central Government could only *request* money from the states, could not force them to pay a tax
 - Britain was imposing high tariffs on American goods going into Britain, but the US could not impose the same taxes on British goods coming into the states.
 - Trade imbalance hurt the economy, especially local farmers and manufacturers
 - One state would tax imports, so Britain would just sell to another state



“Your Powers are Weak”

- No power to raise an army
 - Could only *request* that States provide men, could not force them to provide them
 - Could not force Britain from their western forts
 - Spain closed down New Orleans to American merchants
 - Could not force Spain to reopen the port



“Your Powers are Weak!”

- Could not enforce legislation because there was no executive branch
- Could not regulate trade between states



- States were in debt from the Revolution & printed large amounts of paper currency to pay off the debts
- Results in inflation—prices rise and the value of money goes down.
- Each state had its own currency
- Each state had its own trade laws
- Taxes, laws varied from state to state
- Leads to economic depression

The Northwest Territory

- The Land Ordinance (1785)
 - Congress had to decide what to do with the new western lands
 - Set up a system for surveying and dividing the land
 - 36 square mile townships composed of 36 lots
 - One lot for a public school
 - Four lots for veterans
 - Remaining lots were sold to the public to raise money to pay off the war debt



The Land Ordinance --1785

LAND ORDINANCE - 1785

36	30	24	18	12	6
35	29 Reserved to U.S.	23	17	11 Reserved to U.S.	5
34	28	22	16 School Reserve	10	4
33	27	21	15	9	3
32	26 Reserved to U.S.	20	14	8 Reserved to U.S.	2
31	25	19	13	7	1

Monumentation and Reserves in the Original Seven Ranges, Ohio.

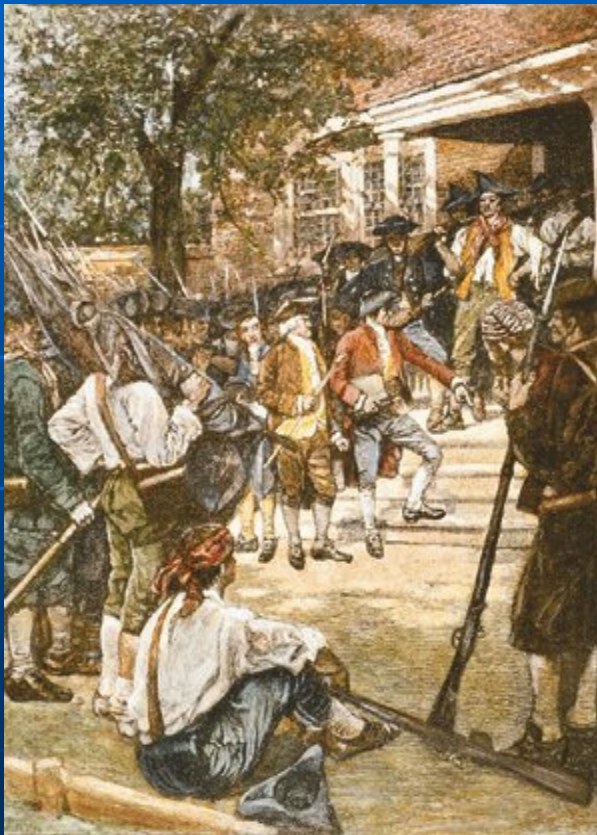
The Northwest Territory

- The Northwest Ordinance (1787)
 - The shining success of the Confederation Government
 - Created political system for the Northwest Territory – present day IL, IN, OH, MI, WI
 - Created system by which new states would join the union
 - Divided area into smaller territories – once population reached 5,000 men they could elect a government and send a non-voting representative to congress
 - Once each smaller territory had 60,000 people, it could be admitted into the union on equal footing with the other states
 - Created Bill of Rights (trial by jury, religious freedom, etc.) for settlers
 - Banned slavery in the territory

The Northwest Territory



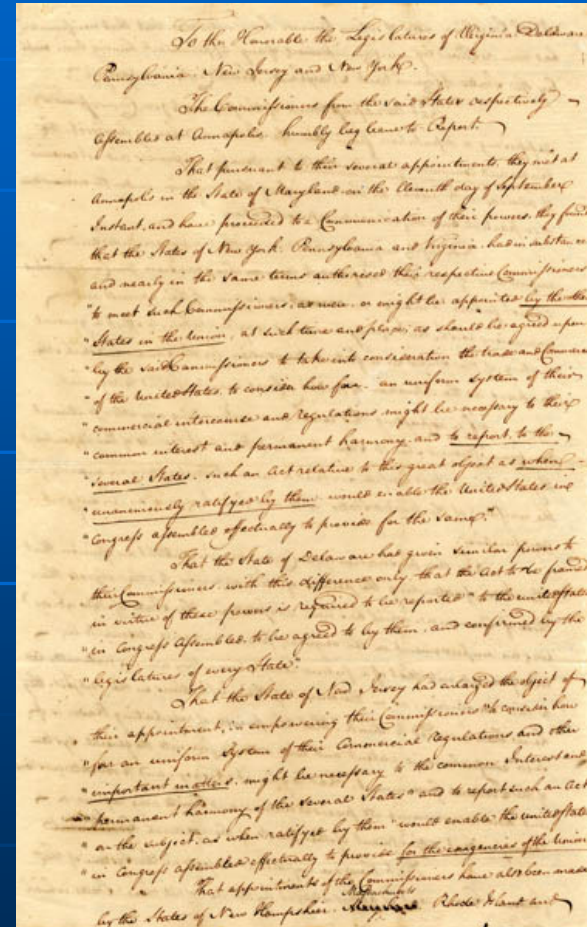
Shays' Rebellion: Causes



- Massachusetts decided to tax property to pay its wartime debts
- Farmers and war veterans could not pay tax and were sent to debtor's prison
 - In 1786, Daniel Shays led an uprising or revolt
 - Closed down local courts preventing other debtors from being sentenced to prison
 - Tried to raid military supply house
 - Rebellion put down by local militia with one round of cannon fire

Shays' Rebellion: Effects

- Shays' rebellion showed the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
 - Central Government (Congress) could not help Massachusetts financially or militarily
 - A new system of government is needed
 - Annapolis Convention in 1786
 - Constitutional Convention is called in 1787



To the Honorable the Legislatures of Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

The Commissioners for the said States respectively assembled at Annapolis humbly beg leave to Report

That pursuant to their several appointments they met at Annapolis in the State of Maryland on the thirteenth day of September Instant, and have proceeded to the Communication of their powers by finding that the States of New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, had in substance and nearly in the same time authorized their respective Commissioners to meet such Commissioners, as were, or might be appointed by the said States in the town, at such times and place, as should be agreed upon by the said Commissioners to take into consideration the trade and Commerce of the United States, to consider how far an uniform system of their commercial intercourse and regulations might be necessary to their common interest and permanent harmony, and to report to the several States, such an act relative to the great object as aforesaid, as unanimously ratified by them, would enable the United States in Congress assembled effectually to provide for the same.

That the State of Delaware has given similar powers to their Commissioners, with this difference only that the act to be passed in virtue of these powers is required to be reported to the United States in Congress assembled to be agreed to by them, and confirmed by the Legislatures of every State.

That the State of New Jersey has enlarged the object of their appointment, in empowering their Commissioners to consider how far an uniform system of their commercial regulations and other important matters, might be necessary to the common interest and permanent harmony of the several States, and to report such an act on the subject, as when ratified by them, would enable the United States in Congress assembled effectually to provide for the exigencies of the Union.

That appointments of the Commissioners have also been made by the States of New Hampshire, Rhode Island and