

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

Learning Target 1

I CAN EXPLAIN THE
STRENGTHS AND
WEAKNESSES OF THE
ARTICLES OF
CONFEDERATION.

What do we need to know about this first government?

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Why it failed?
- How it helped to write the Constitution

Colonial Experiences

- Hated the KING
- Taxation w/o representation
- weak central power created

Quick Check for Understanding: Why did the Founding Fathers Choose a Confederation plan of government?

- A. They were afraid of giving the central government too much power
- B. They wanted to keep the states separate from each other
- C. It ended the Revolutionary War

PURPOSE of the Articles of Confederation

- Form a permanent union of the 13 states.
- Recognition by **European** nations.
- Stabilize prices & currency.

The Articles of Confederation

- The fear of having too much power in one person's hands reflects the experiences the colonies had under a monarchy
- In the Articles the state governments **limit the power of the national Congress, while most of the power is reserved for the States.**



Articles of Confederation

1st Government of the US

Strengths

- Send and receive foreign leaders
- Won the American Revolutionary War
- Named the nation
- Declare War/Make Peace
- Treaty of Paris
- Borrow money
- Northwest Ordinance

Settling Western lands

- The Northwest Ordinance provides an orderly settlement process in the West
- It promised
 - no slavery
 - education
 - freedom of religion
 - trial by jury



Northwest Territory

- The Northwest Territory was east of the Mississippi River and north of the Ohio River. The states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin would be formed from this area.



Articles of Confederation

Weaknesses

- Congress could not enforce laws
- 2/3 majority -pass laws
- No control over Interstate trade
- No Chief Executive-President
- No National Judicial Branch
- 13 of 13 needed to amend document
- No set currency
- No power to raise taxes

Articles of Confederation

- The Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States, on **November 15, 1777**

Quick Check for Understanding: Why did the Founding Fathers Choose a Confederation plan of government?

- A. They feared that a strong central government would create tyranny, and stamp out the peoples natural God given rights.**
- B. They wanted to eventually become different countries**
- C. They wanted to make amends with England and rebuild their Colonial systems.**

But what if the government
doesn't have enough power?

Federal
Rights

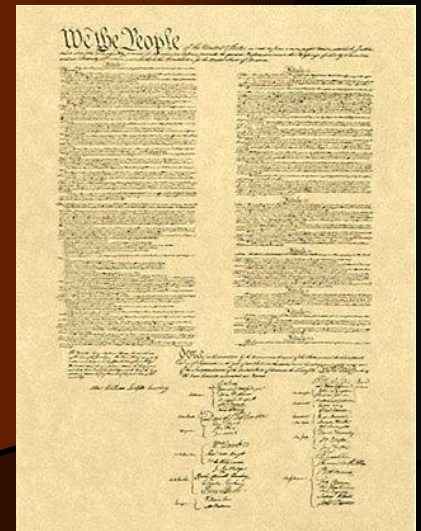
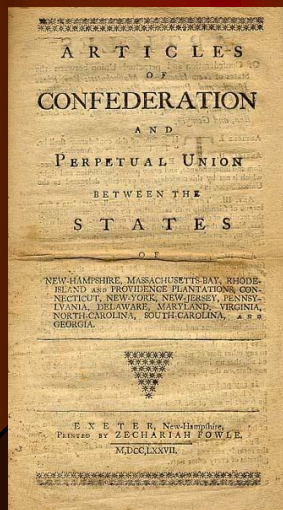


States'
Rights

BIG PROBLEMS!

Weak Government = Problems!

Here's an explanation of how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to Shays' Rebellion, which led to the creation of the Constitution.



Shays' Rebellion

- In 1786, veteran farmers who were in debt led an armed revolt against the state government.
- Since the Articles of Confederation did not give Congress the power to raise a standing army, the federal government could not help stop the rebellion.



Results of Shays' Rebellion

- The failure of the federal government to solve the problem of Shays' Rebellion made people understand that the Articles of Confederation had made the government too weak.
- A Constitutional Convention was called to solve the problem.

Quick Check for Understanding: Why Did the Founding Fathers believe the Articles needed to be replaced by the US Constitution?

- A. They wanted to have a new King
- B. We only needed a stronger army
- C. We were too divided and had no common systems
- D. The Federal Government could not enforce its rules
- E. C and D

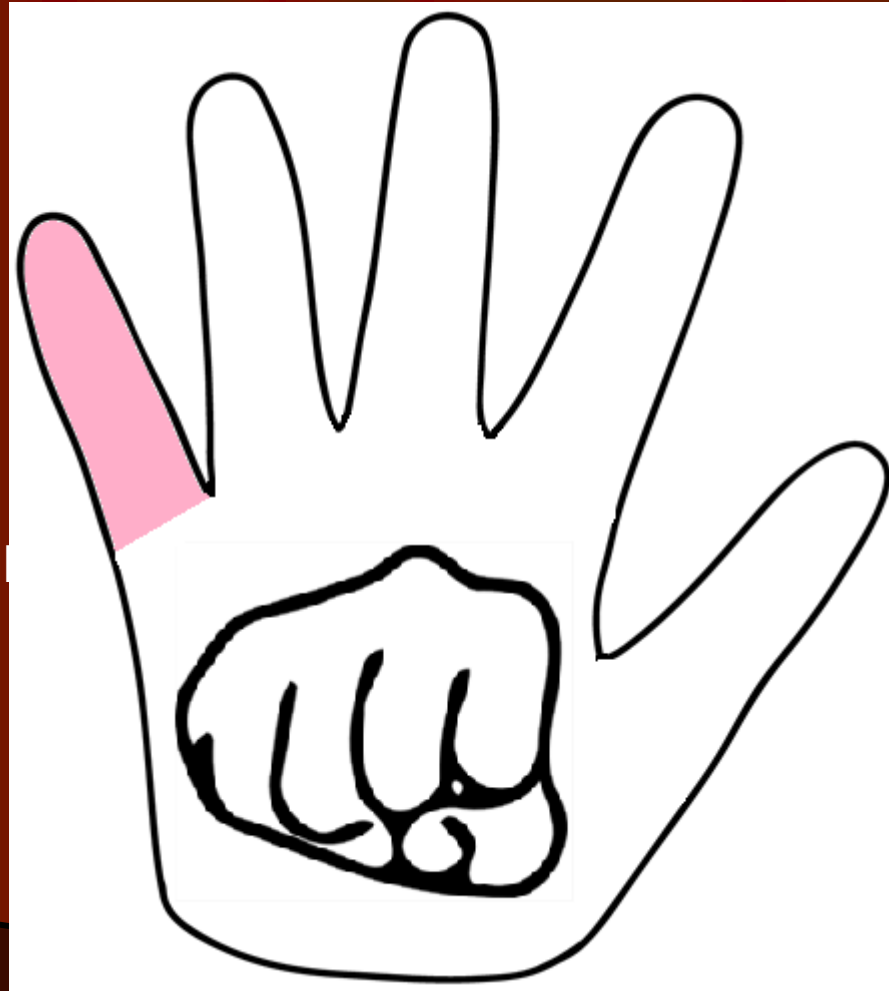
Articles of Confederation



Articles of Confederation

PINK

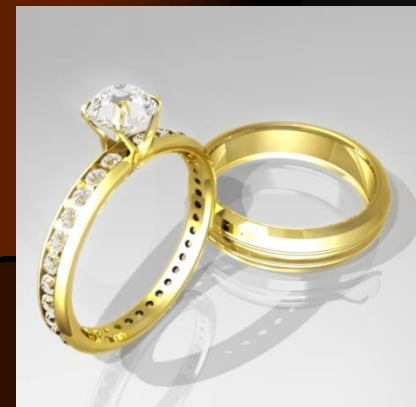
Weak central
government



Articles of Confederation

YELLOW
No money

PINK
Weak central
government



Articles of Confederation

RED

Quarrelling
states

YELLOW

No money

PINK

Weak central
government



The
RULES

Articles of Confederation

RED

Quarrelling
states

YELLOW

No money

GREEN

Boundary
and border
disputes

PINK

Weak central
government



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BLUE

No military
leadership



Articles of Confederation

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Gun powder:
Shay's Rebellion

GREEN

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