**Articles of Confederation**

* The nation's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Constitution, it defined the former colonies as a confederation of 13 sovereign states
  + bound loosely in a "league of friendship"
* Consisted of six sheets of parchment stitched together
* The last sheet bears the signatures of delegates from all 13 states
* Adopted by the Continental Congress in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* It could not regulate trade, draft troops, or levy taxes on the people
* Lasted from 1781-89
* Had little stature in the eyes of the world

**Diplomatic Failures:**

* Confederation held at low esteem because of difficulties w/ Britain
  + Failed to live up to the terms of Treaty of Paris, 1783
* Congress sent John Adams to London in 1784 to work out things out
* Throughout the 1780’s, Britain refused to send a diplomatic minister to the American capital
* Confederation diplomats agreed to a treaty with Spain in 1786

**The Confederation and the Northwest:**

* A of C most important accomplishment was resolution of controversies involving western land
* By 1784, confederation had enough land to permit Congress to begin making policy for national domain
* Ordinance of 1784 divided western territory into ten \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ districts
* Could petition Congress for statehood when population was equal to that of the smallest state
* Congress created system for surveying & selling western lands in Ordinance of 1785
* Grid was applied in 1785 to the NW Territory
* Northwest Ordinance was passed in 1787

- Abandoned the ten districts & created a NW Territory

- Specified a 60,000 min. for statehood

- Greatest achievement under A of C!!!

**Debts and Lack of Taxes:**

* Postwar depression lasted from 1784 to 1787
* Confederation was in great debt & couldn’t tax the people
* Received less than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_needed
* Nationalists sought to increase powers of central govt. to meet its financial obligations
* Continental impost: 5% duty on all imported goods
  + to be levied by Congress
  + used to fund the debt

**Daniel Shays:**

* Led the rebels, known as the "Regulators“
* Shays' compatriots were poor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ angered by crushing debt and taxes
* Wanted debt relief through the issuance of paper currency and lower taxes
* Stopped the seizing of farmers property by forcing the closure of courts in western Mass.

**Shays’ Rebellion:**

* Most riots rallied behind Daniel Shays
* Shays issued demands including:
  + paper money,
  + tax relief,
  + moratorium on debts,
  + move state capital from Boston to interior,
  + abolition of imprisonment for debt
* As a military enterprise, Shays Rebellion was a failure

**Consequences of Shays’ Rebellion:**

* National govt. needed to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + to create uniform economic policies
  + protect property owners
* Rebellion proved the A of C was not working
* Shays Rebellion helped start a movement produced in states
  + a new national Constitution!

**Thomas Jefferson’s letter to James Madison:**

* “I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical,
* Unsuccessful rebellions, indeed, generally establish the encroachments on the rights of the people which have produced them. An observation of this truth should render honest republican governors so mild in their punishment of rebellions as not to discourage them too much. It is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government.”

**Pros and Cons of the Articles of Confederation:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** | |
| * Victorious in Rev. War * Independence recognized by Euro countries * Power left to states * NW Ordinance was greatest piece   + Defined territory   + Plan for govt.   + No slavery in NW   + Power to add new states     - 60,000 required for statehood | | * Couldn’t levy taxes or coin $ * Couldn’t regulate trade * No judicial / executive branch * Inability to enforce treaties * Congress couldn’t raise an army * States acted as individual countries and seldom agreed   + All 13 needed to pass laws |

**The Northwest Ordinance:**

* an act of the Congress of the Confederation of the United States, passed July 13, 1787
* it established the precedent by which the federal government would be sovereign and expand westward across North America with the admission of new states, rather than with the expansion of existing states and their established sovereignty under the Articles of Confederation.

**Republicanism:**

* Americans were in agreement
* All power should come from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

- sturdy, independent, property owners

**State Governments:**

* Had written constitutions
* Executive separate from legislative
  + governor w/ limited powers
  + later changed to give more powers
* Property requirements to vote
  + not completely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rule