

Articles of Confederation and the Aftermath

Preface

- Colonists wanted to be treated like Englishmen
- Small government was preferred
 - Individual rights
 - States had more power than the Federal government
- Westward Expansion
 - Taking land away from Indians
 - Making crappy treaties with them
- Slavery
 - Was in the back of their minds
 - Was not fully discussed until the Civil War

A Revolution in Thought

- Republicanism: the public thing
 - No monarchy or hierarchical authority
 - Public virtue is the center of public life
 - Government power leads to tyranny and oppression
 - Sovereignty flows upward from the People, not down from the leader

Exclusions from the New Government

- Those without property, women, Native American Indians and African Americans (even freed slaves)

Articles of Confederation

- Loose government
- **Powers of Congress**
 - Regulate foreign affairs
 - Declare war
 - Mediate boundaries between states
 - Manage a national post office
 - Sign treaties with Indians
- National Citizenship (did not belong to a state)
- Limited powers of taxation to the states

- Congress did not have the ability to tax the population

Problems with Western Land

- Occupation of land that did not belong to the settlers
 - Indian Land
- Northwest Ordinance of 1787
 - Was considered the best achievement of the Articles of Confederation
 - Established a pattern for the creation of new states
 - Slaves could not be brought to new lands west
 - Unfair business advantage to farmers who did not have slaves

Foreign Powers/Policy Challenges

- British forts in the Northwest territory
 - In Detroit, Michilimackinac, Niagara
- Native American Indians
 - Treaty of Fort Stanwix
 - An attempt by the British to give back the land to six Indian tribes that was considered “unsettled”
- Spanish control of New Orleans
 - **John Jay**: an American statesman, Patriot, diplomat, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, negotiator and signatory of the Treaty of Paris of 1783, second Governor of New York, and the first Chief Justice of the United States
 - **Jay–Gardoqui Treaty**: between the United States and Spain guaranteed Spain's exclusive right to navigate the Mississippi River for 25 years
 - This was not popular with Southerners because it took away routes that could have been used by farmers to transport goods
 - Treaty deadlocks in Congress
 - Crappy negotiation

Domestic Challenges

- National debt, loss of trade, issue of taxation
- Hard to pay back war bonds to soldiers
- Money was printed
 - Hard to enforce trust in paper because the currency had to be backed by some sort of physical and trusted material (mostly gold)

- Other states had their own currency and was an absolute nightmare for conversions

Shay's Rebellion

- Raised the prospect of a new type of tyranny (by the mob)
- 4 killed, 20 wounded in a battle in January of 1787
- Final battle was bloodless
 - Foundation of the electoral college
 - Too much democracy was a bad thing
- Signaled the end of the Articles of Confederation

Constitutional Convention

- 55 delegates in 1787 at "Independence Hall"
- Attendees
 - Ben Franklin, John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, George Washington
 - Radical thinkers were excluded
- Two Plans:
 - **Virginia Plan**
 - Strong national government, bicameral congress, national judiciary
 - **New Jersey Plan**
 - Strengthen the Articles of Confederation by giving Congress the power to tax the interstate congress
 - Dsds

Great Compromise of 1787

- Lower House of Congress
 - Directly elected, proportional representation (all of the white population but only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Black population)
 - 2 year term
- Upper House of Congress
 - Elected by State Legislature
 - Same representation for large and small states
 - 2 representatives
 - 6 year term

Federalists vs. Antifederalists

- **Federalist:** supports a system of government in which several states unite under a central authority.
- **Antifederalist:** a person who opposed the ratification of the Constitution in 1789

Checks and Balances

- **Executive:** the president
- **Legislative:** Congress
- **Judiciary:** Courts system

Bill of Rights

- The first ten amendments to the US Constitution, ratified in 1791 and guaranteeing such rights as the freedoms of speech, assembly, and worship.

The “Era of the Common Man”

- 1824 Election
 - 1st presidential election to use the Electoral College
- Henry Clay gives too much support for John Quincy Adams and he is eventually elected as president
- Andrew Jackson is not happy about the outcome
- Non-elitists are making more decisions in government
 - Antifederalist mindset

Presidency of John Quincy Adams

- One term president, leader of the “National Republicans”
- Bookish, aloof as partisan politics changes around him
- Was not popular among the popular majority

Election of 1828

- Popular participation
- New campaign styles
 - If the popular vote matters, how will political campaigns change?
 - Andrew Jackson started to slander his opponent and now set the example for future presidential campaigns
- New political parties start to form

Persistent Exclusion

- **Included:** white men who owned property, white men without property who could support themselves financially
- **Excluded:** Paupers (poor people), felons, women regardless of status, African Americans [New York allowed if they owned land]