Review the readings from Chapter 2, Sections 1, 2 and 3.

For centuries, the English had been developing the idea that government should be **ordered**, **limited** and **representative** in nature.  Complete the following chart to track several landmark documents and government structures which note the progression from England's absolute monarchy to colonial rule to independence and popular sovereignty that is characteristic of our constitutional government today.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Event, Document  or Government Structure** | **When and Where?** | **How did this development reflect:**   * **Ordered government?** * **Limited government?** * **Representative government?** |
|  |  |  |
| Magna Carta | 1215 England | [Ordered Government] Symbolic that monarch was not 'above the law' |
| Petition of Right | 1628 England | [Ordered Government] Enforced Magna Carta against king's wishes |
| English Bill of Rights | 1689 England | [Ordered Government] Sets out rules for Parliament and Monarchs. Also enforces individual liberties. |
| Proprietary Colonies | 1700s Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware | [Limited Government] Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware. The government restricts itself to large scale operations, letting local 'proprietors' shape their local environment. |
| Charter Colonies | 1700s Connecticut, Rhode Island | [Limited Government] Connecticut, Rhode Island. Self-governing colonies that had full freedoms at their local level. |
| New England Confederation | 1643 Massachusetts, Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven | [Representative Government]Massachusetts, Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven. Served as a medium for colonial representatives to discuss topics. |
| Albany Plan of Union | 1754 American Colonies | [Representative Government] Representatives from each of the 13 colonies would confer at an annual congress. |
| First Continental Congress (Declaration of Rights) | 1774 American Colonies | [Representative Government] Representatives from the American colonies met to discuss and represent their respective colonies. |
| Second Continental Congress | 1775 American Colonies | [Representative Government] Representatives of the American Colonies served as the first government of the United States until the Articles of Confederation. |
| Declaration of Independence | 1776 American Colonies | [Limited Government] The American colonies asked for local self-rule, while the English maintained a large-scale rule over all English colonies. |
| First State Constitutions | 1781 American Colonies | [Ordered Government] State Constitutions created a set of laws in each state that everyone had to obey. [Limited Government] Each state was allowed by the Confederacy to self-rule within its borders. |
|  |  |  |

In addition to completing the above chart, answer the following questions:

1. In your own words, define the three (3) basic concepts of government that helped shape government in these English colonies (page 29).

\* Ordered government: Government that is ordered on the basis of laws and bills. Contrast to government where monarch is 'above the law'.  
  
\* Limited government: Government 'limits' itself to large-scale, letting individuals shape their local environment.  
  
\* Representative government: Government composed of small governing body 'representative' of population.

1. Describe the structure of the government set up under the Articles of Confederation.

Each American Colony would retain its sovereignty. The Confederation only has dictation in inter-state disputes, and external national matters. All other rights, such as enforcement of laws remain in the States’ hands.

1. Explain why the weaknesses of the Articles led to a critical period for the government in the 1870's.

The Confederacy’s inability to enforce its own laws allowed its own states to break them. Just as if no one is listening to a rule it becomes invalid, the Confederacy started becoming an invalid leading body. The financial system started to break down as individual colonies started to print their own currencies.

1. Describe how a growing need for a stronger national government led to plans for a Constitutional Convention.

The financial chaos caused by the Confederacy’s inability to act spurred those who were most threatened by economic and political stability to act.