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APUSH

Period 4

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Focus Questions # 3, 6

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3. The American Revolution was a war that The United States was unlikely to win. However, a few factors pushed the United States into victory. The most important of these was the Patriot Victory at Saratoga, which became a massive turning point for the United States. It gave a reason for the French to put all their weight to assist the US, changing chances for British victory to almost nil. The next most important event was the Battle of Yorktown, which was effectively the end of fighting and war. This battle changed public opinion in Britain and led them to push for peace. Another factor which the Americans benefited greatly from was Paine’s Common Sense, which united much of the colonists and motivated them to separate with the empire. This advantage, combined with the fact that they were led by General George Washington on their own land, gave the Americans lots of reason to keep fighting, and together, these factors led to them winning.

6. The Articles of Confederation were created with the fear of tyranny in mind, and thus formed a weak national government with few powers. The biggest success of the government was passing the Northwest Ordinances, which created a plan for the northwest territories to grow and become states. They set the virtues of education and freedom of religion there. This government was able to take the United States through the Revolutionary War, albeit with difficulties in financing the war. The problems with the government begin there, since the national government had no authority to raise money, other than asking states kindly. James Madison believed this was a failure, that “no respect is paid to the federal authority. Not a single State complies with the requisitions.” This was the crucial failure of the Articles of Confederation: Congress was weak compared to States’ power. This weakness eventually led to leaders reconsidering the national government with the Constitution of 1787.

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