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Chapter 6

**Directions**: Answer the following questions completely. No answer should be one word or sentence. Use the who, what, when, where, why, and how as a guide to answering the questions.

1. **Discuss the weaknesses and achievements of the Confederation government?** The weaknesses of the Confederation government are very evident. For instance, a weakness of the Confederation government was that the federal government was very weak. The Congress did not have the power to regulate foreign and domestic trade, and the federal government could not tax. Furthermore, the states had more power than the federal government. This was as if the United States of America weren’t united at all, and it was like all of the states were sovereign and independent under the Articles of Confederation. The primary reason for not having a strong, centralized government was the fear of having a monarchy in the states, which the colonists had just fought a war to get rid of. For example, if there came down to a decision, nine out of the thirteen states have to agree for the decision to proceed. Otherwise, the federal government has no authority or say in the matter. This led to long delays and very long to make new laws. In addition, the national government could not force the states to obey the federal laws, as each state had their own independent laws. This meant that federal taxes were ignored since it could not be enforced. Then, some achievements of the Confederation government included the making of the Articles of Confederations, conventions, land expansion, the Northwest Ordinance and Treaty of Paris. First, the making of the Articles of Confederation was an achievement since it was the first national form of government of the United States after gaining independence from Britain. Although the Articles of Confederation was not considered by any means a good government, it was still an achievement to American history and was made by the Confederation government. Then, the Confederation government held conventions to rewrite government. This means the rewriting of laws, policies, and changes in the government. Also, the Confederation government allowed land to be claimed by America west of the Appalachians and extended the Thirteen Colonies. In addition, The Northwest Ordinance is considered an achievement because it had guaranteed equal rights for all of the states, prohibiting slavery in the process. Moreover, the Confederation government had put an end to the American Revolution in the Treaty of Paris. This was a major achievement since this meant that the colonies were now officially independent from Britain.
2. **Explain why the delegates to the Constitutional Convention drafted a completely new government?** The delegates to the Constitutional Convention drafted a completely new government because of all of the issues happening to the nation due to the Articles of Confederation. Issues such as a weak central government, an increase of taxes, poor management and currency having no value. The federal government was weak because the states had more power than the national government. Management of the nation through individual, independent states made many arguments and debates. Speeches and media talking about how weak the government of the United States is had helped convince many for a new stronger central government. Furthermore, the unstable economy at the time and the weak national government was a recipe for failure through time. Eventually, the people would begin rebellions or even revolutions against the government. For instance, soldiers were not being paid for their services, farmers were being taxed and were threatened losing land, and then the colonists were afraid of a strong, central government. This is why the delegates to the Constitutional Convention had wanted to draft a completely new government, to help fix issues and problems with the current government.
3. **Discuss the importance of the slavery issue in the Constitution?** The importance of the slavery issue in the Constitution was whether slaves should be considered an individual citizen in the United States. This would mean that slaves would gain human rights in the United States. Slaves would be important in the constitution because there was a large population of them. And in the Constitution, it states that more seats would be given to states with a higher population. Due to the South having way more slaves, the Southern states had more seats. The differing slave population in the South and North formed the 3/5 rule in the Constitution. The 3/5 rule meant only 3/5th of a state’s slave population would be counted for representation and taxation. Furthermore, due to the Northwest Ordinance, slavery would not be allowed, which affected the seat policy of states. These topics brought up the question, should slaves get rights in the states. In all, the slavery issue in the Constitution affected the power of states and questioned human rights.
4. **Explain the differences between the Virginia and New Jersey plans. Why was there such a debate over representation?** The main difference between the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan is that the New Jersey Plan had wanted a legislature that gave every state equal representation and didn’t include population in the mix. The New Jersey Plan let the Congress create taxes, appoint leaders, and control the economy. While the Virginia Plan had wanted the states to receive representation equal to their own population size. In addition, the Virginia Plan used all three branches, executive, judicial and legislative. Then, there was such a debate over representation because it would affect a state’s power. For instance, the Southern states had more slaves, and so the question was, should slaves be apart of the population. This meant that the Southern states had more representation in the government due to its slave population. This was because in the Constitution, the state with a greater population meant it had more power. Debates went on over representation to discuss if slaves should count in the population, and eventually, the 3/5rule was compromised. Furthermore, the Great Compromise formed two legislative bodies in the Congress that allowed for equal representation of the states.
5. **Discuss the conflict between Federalists and anti-Federalists in the writing and ratification of the Constitution.** The conflict between the Federalists and anti-Federalist was about how strong the central government should be. The Federalists wanted a strong central government, while the anti-Federalists wanted a more weak central government, in the addition of the Bill of Rights. The Federalists didn’t want the Bill of Rights in their government because they believed that the new constitution was enough. Essentially, the Federalists had an advantage since their members were there during the Constitutional Convention to argue their side. The Federalists were precise with arguing the points about the Constitution and how it was written. Their conflict built more tension as media wrote about their argument. Most of the anti-Federalists agreed with the points made during the argument after the Philadelphia Convention. The ratification of the Constitution was decided to be acted upon the plan of the Federalists. To have a strong, central government and the anti-Federalists led to the Bill of Rights.
6. **What was the impact of *The Federalist Papers* in the ratification debate?** The impact of *The Federalist Papers* in the ratification debate had convinced many Americans to support the ratification of the Constitution. *The Federalist Papers* were written by important people in American history, such as James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay. This collection of spectacular writers had drove many Americans to support ratifying the Constitution. *The Federalist Papers* were a series of 85 essays that were written to help with the Ratification of the Constitution. It pushed for the creation of a central government that protected human rights and enforced the rules in the United States. The Federalist Papers had reassured many doubtful Americans to confidently choose a side after seeing the pros of a central government, and the many cons of independent state governments.
7. **What major compromises were made at the Constitutional Convention and what issues did they settle?** The major compromises that were made at the Constitutional Convention included the Great Compromise and the Three-Fifths Compromise. The Great Compromise was made by the Constitutional Convention, where there were two houses. One house granted the states equal representation, known as the Senate. Then, in the other house, the representation was based on the population of a state, considered the House of Representatives. Then, the Three-Fifths Compromise was having only 3/5th of a state’s slave population. Many compromises were made during the Constitutional Convention regarding the Virginia Plans and New Jersey Plans. This helped the government to be split up, which involved the houses and branches. The Constitutional Convention kept the split branches and the two house in the final official versions of the current United States government.
8. **Identify each of the following and their significance**:
   1. **Robert Morris** – Robert Morris was the head of the Confederation. Also, he was the superintendent of finance for the Congress. Morris was well known for being the financer of the American Revolutionary War. Also, he was a member of the Confederation Congress and is credited with making a system in the United States that dealt with tax and debt management during the Revolutionary War. His taxation system allowed the new government to be financially stable and sufficient with supplies. Then, in 1781, Morris found the Bank of North America, where profits would go to Morris. The Bank of North America acted like a national bank for the states, and this helped with the value of the American currency. The Bank of North America created a drive for using the national currency. The significance of Morris was his creation of the Bank of North America and his methods of helping to fund the government, which greatly contributed to the development of the United States of America.
   2. **Newburgh Conspiracy** – The Newburgh Conspiracy was an attempt by the Continental Army soldiers to revolt against Congress. A conspiracy by the soldiers to support a coup against the national government to get their pay, since they had not been paid yet for their services in the war effort. The federal government promised to give the soldiers land after the battles because of the government couldn’t pay their salaries. This led to a Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton to tell George Washington about a plan which involved performing a military coup. George Washington did not agree with this idea since it went against their reasoning for fighting against Britain for independence. The colonists wanted to have George Washington as their King, but the entire reason why they fought Britain was to get rid of absolute rule. He convinced other leaders and the soldiers that a military coup would do more bad than good. For instance, it would break the bond between the colonies. The Newburgh Conspiracy showed the instability of the federal government, the military, and how George Washington had saved America from total destruction.
   3. **Alexander Hamilton** – Alexander Hamilton was a member of the Continental Congress from New York and was an author of the Federalist Papers. Hamilton told George Washington about the Newburgh Conspiracy, attempting to sway Washington to join them in the coup of the government. Alexander Hamilton was considered one of the Founding Fathers because he was one of the leading men to grant the government more power over the states, along with having the national leader more power. This is shown in Hamilton’s essay, The Federalist in 1788, where the president would get increased power and authority. Alexander Hamilton was very significant to the national government of the United States of America, as he helped come up with the ideal government, where the president had more power and more treatment. Other nationalists had wanted more power in the central government as well, such as James Madison.
   4. **Northwest Ordinance** – The Northwest Ordinance was made by the Congress that made sure a new state could have a secure population in 1787. Furthermore, there would be delegates and rights that were established before a new state was officially considered a state. Moreover, after the war, the states have been granted new land West. The Congress had to establish rules and a plan to make the new territory into states of America. At first, people that lived in a territory did not have that many political rights and political leaders or government officials had to be appointed. Then, as the population of the territory expanded, the people of a territory were able to elect their own local legislature and leaders. Essentially, the population of territories were recorded and as the population grew, more powers and rights were given out. Then, when many territories had a secretary, a governor, several judges, and a large population, Congress made a council where multiple of men in the territory would help form the territories in a Territorial Assembly. Then, when a territory reached a population of 60,000 free people, it would become eligible to become an official state. Congress would give that state rights by granting them the ability to draft a local state constitution and the Bill of Rights. The Northwest Ordinance allowed all the states of America, including the new territories, to become equal with each other. This helped form a strong, central government as it didn’t involve making colonies that were dependent on the mother-country or state.
   5. **Shays’ Rebellion** – Shays’ Rebellion was a rebellion led by over a thousand Massachusetts farmers. The cause for the rebellions were high taxes and how invaluable the currency was in the states. Due to the low value of the state currency, it made it difficult for farmers to pay their taxes and make money. The government of Massachusetts threatened to shut down the farmer’s farms if they did not pay their taxes and debts. Furthermore, during this time period, there was an agricultural and economic depression in America. The farmers wanted to print more money to help them get out of debt, which caused inflation. But the farmers were even more mad since the government didn’t do anything to help the farmers get them out of debt. Then, after the Agricultural Depression, the farmers were able to grow crops and use their harvests as a form of currency to pay back their debts. Then, state militia had to end the rebellion since the national government was not strong enough. Shays’ Rebellion was very important to the history of the United States since it made people want a stronger central government. This would eventually lead to the Constitutional Convention in 1787.
   6. **James Madison** – James Madison was considered the “Father of the Constitution” and had helped write the Federalist Papers. He went to every convention meeting and was a graduate from Princeton University. James Madison prepared for many months until he was ready before writing the Constitution. James Madison made the foundation for the Virginia Plan, where he adjusted the Articles of Confederation and improved the policies to make a better government. His new revision of the Articles of Confederation didn’t give the states too much power and gave the national government more power. The national government and state government wouldn’t override and overpower each other too much and would check and balance each other. James Madison was very significant because he laid the foundations of the United States Senate and House of Representatives through the Virginia Plan.
   7. **Bill of Rights** – The Bill of Rights are the first 10 amendments in the Constitution of America. The Bill of Rights were written by James Madison when the states wanted more Constitutional Protection for individuals. The Virginia Declaration of Rights was a big influence on James Madison while writing the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights included several basic human rights to protect the natural rights of an American citizen. The Bill of Rights gave a standard to all American citizens and generalized the basic human rights onto a document. This was very significant as it helped the government enforce based on what is right or wrong.
9. **Why do you think this period in American history named the “critical period”** This period in American history was named the “critical period” because it was essential to rebuild the economy and the government of the United States. The critical period was a time when the United States were trying to figure out the best way to govern themselves, and it was the time period right after the American Revolution. For instance, could the colonies survive on their own or do they need Britain to govern them? There were many issues with the first government under the Articles of Confederation, which for instance, the states had more power than the central government. For instance, the central government did not have the power to tax, enforce the laws and did not have a national military. Every state had its own militia but were not able to combine and become a strong united military. In addition, the newfound nation had high taxes, large debt, and military concerns. The nation had high taxes because the nation was in debt. High taxes would help with funding the government and new nation. Then, there was a large debt because of the American Revolution. The war had driven America and British into huge debt due to having to pay its soldiers, buy supplies and weapons. The new nation had military concerns because it did not have a central military, and only had state militia that could not work together. These problems during the critical period led to thinkers such as Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, George Washington and James Morrison to create a better government, better policies and better regulations for the United States of America. These brilliant thinkers formed the modern government with three branches of government and two houses, along with natural rights of a human. The Bill of Rights had promised American citizens freedom in the nation and rights. Furthermore, in the critical period, many rebellions occurred because the country was still new and had many other problems. In all, this period in American history was called the critical period because America was thinking about how it was going to be run and how it would operate in the future.