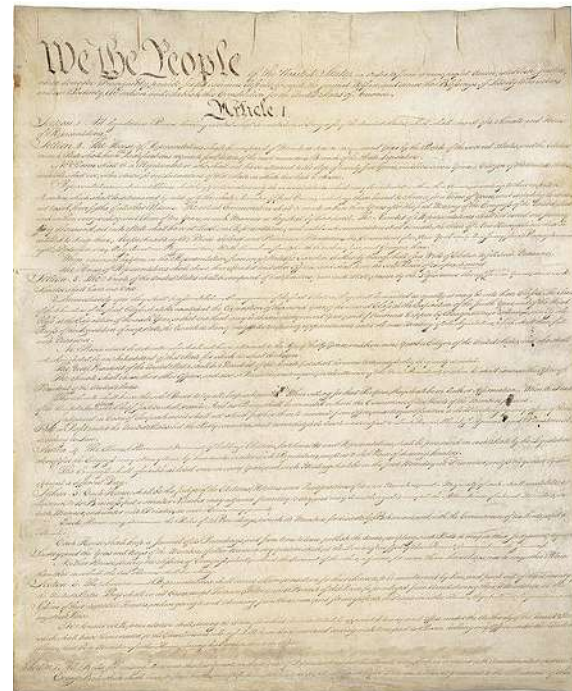
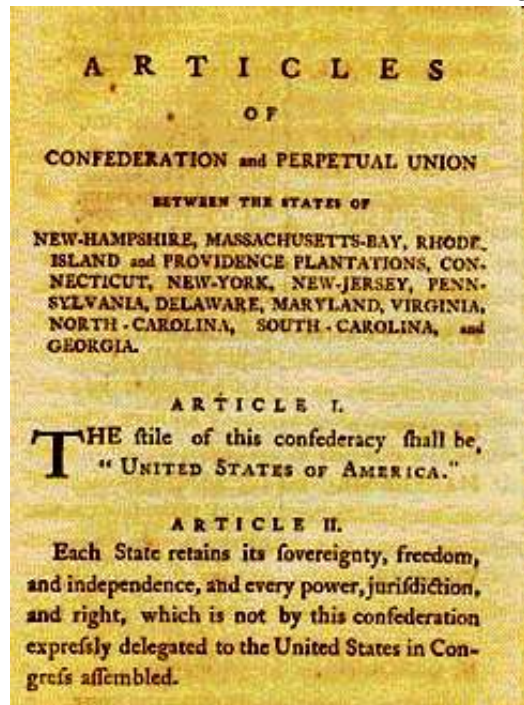


From the Articles of Confederation to the U.S. Constitution

Question to be Thinking About as You View and Read the Following Slides:

“Was the Constitution, as adopted in 1789, a vast improvement over the Articles of Confederation.”

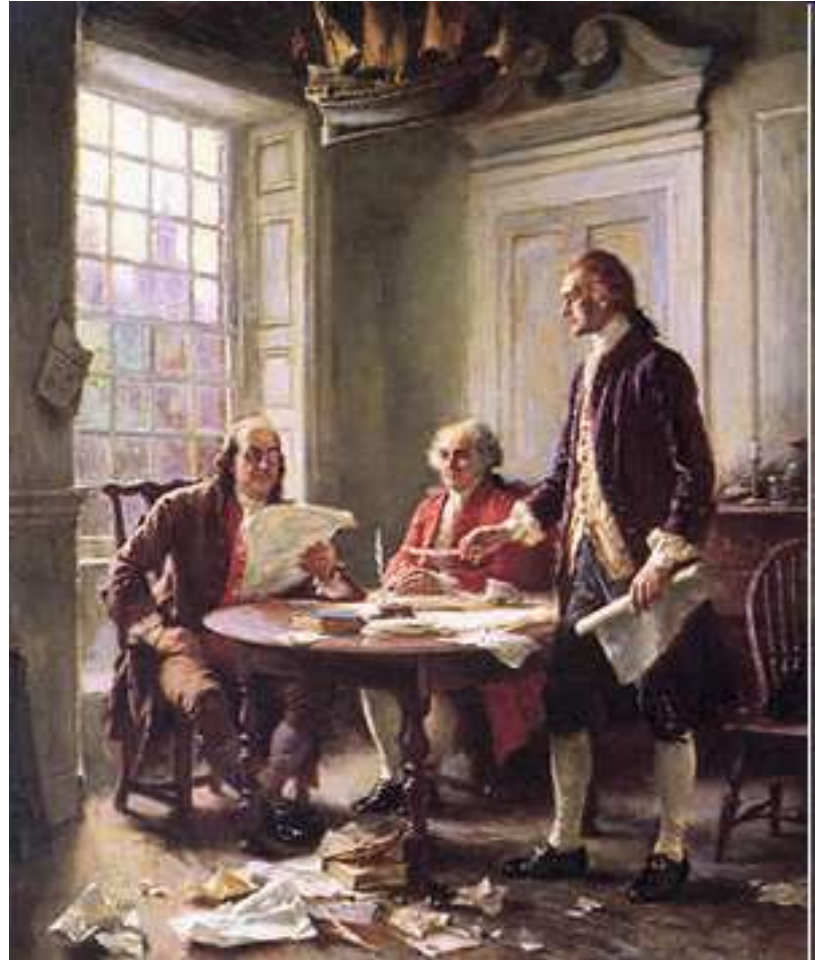


Focus Questions

- What were the problems with the Articles of Confederation?
- What event compelled people to reconsider the Articles of Confederation? Why?
- What were the points of view of the Federalist and the Anti-Federalist?

Articles of Confederation

- The Articles of Confederation was the first constitution of the United States of America and legally established the union of the states.
- It was meant to keep the new country together under its laws.



What Did the First National Government Achieve?

- It conducted and won the Revolutionary War and it secured the recognition of American independence from other governments.
- It passed the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. This was a law that provided a way for new territories to become states.



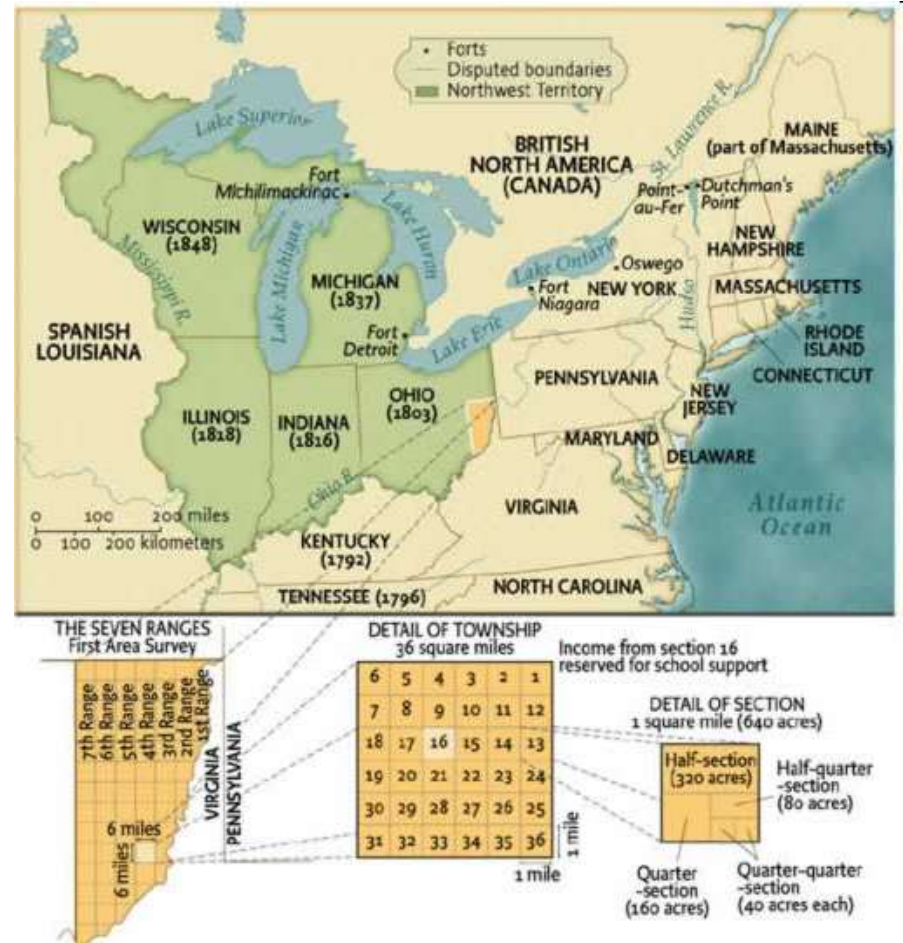
Victory at Yorktown

Lord Cornwallis surrenders to George Washington at Yorktown, Virginia, October 17, 1781.

Painting by John Trumbull.

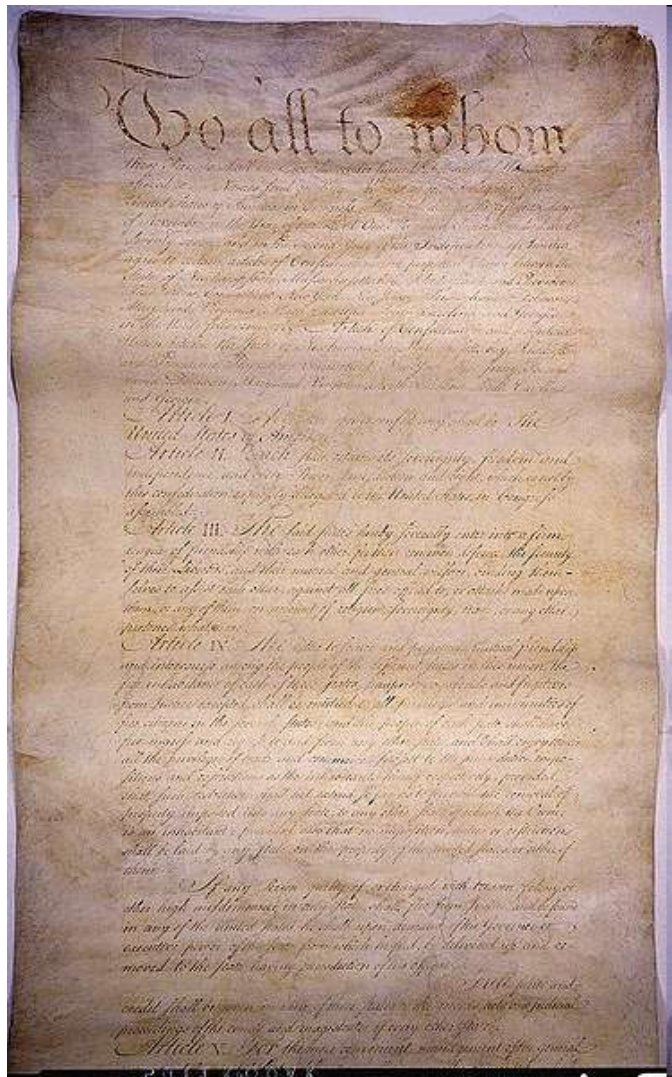
What Did the First National Government Achieve?

- One law was considered successful under the Articles of Confederation. It was the Northwest Ordinance.
- It provided a way for new territories to become states.
- An area that is now Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio was divided into square mile lots, 36 lots to a township. One lot was set aside for a public school, four were given to veterans.



<http://qwickstep.com/search/northwest-ordinance.html>

Problems Under the Articles of Confederation



- The Revolutionary War had been an expensive undertaking. By 1787, the national debt was 75 million dollars.
- Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress had no way to collect taxes from the states to pay off this debt.
- Each state printed it's own money; so did Congress. Soon none of the money was worth anything.

A Time Out: Think-Pair-Share

Why was it a problem for the national government that under the Articles of Confederation it could not collect taxes to pay off its debts?

Problems Under the Articles of Confederation

Shay's Rebellion

1786-1787



People discussing taxes in Massachusetts

(shaysrebellion.stcc.edu)

- In Massachusetts, the government refused to print any more worthless money and tried to pay off their debts by taxing poor white farmers.
- Poor white farmers were angered by crushing debt and taxes

Problems Under the Articles of Confederation

Shay's Rebellion

1786-1787



Poor Whites protesting at court house

(www2.seminolestate.edu)

“been loaded with class rates, town rates, province rates, Continental rates and all rates ... been pulled and hauled by sheriffs, constables and collectors, and had my cattle sold for less than they were worth.... The great men are going to get all we have and I think it is time for us to rise and put a stop to it, and have no more courts, nor sheriffs, nor collectors nor lawyers..”

Plough Jogger, Massachusetts farmer

Problems Under the Articles of Confederation

Shay's Rebellion 1786-1787







Daniel Shay



- In 1786 Daniel Shay and hundreds of poor farmers led a rebellion in western Massachusetts.
- Seeking debt relief through the issuance of paper currency and lower taxes, they attempted to prevent the courts from seizing property from indebted farmers by forcing the closure of courts in western Massachusetts.
- They felt the rich in the state were taxing them too high.

What to Do About the Article of Confederation?

- Because of the growing rebellion of poor whites and the inability of the government to collect taxes and pay off the war debts many founding fathers thought that a new constitution should be written to strengthen the power of the national government.
- But not everyone agreed!

| POWERS GRANTED BY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION | POWERS WITHHELD BY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION |
|---|--|
|  | •Congress could not raise revenue through taxes |
| •Congress could raise armies •Congress could declare war |  |
|  | •Congress could not regulate trade and collect tariffs |
| •Congress could sign treaties |  |

From: [Mr. Keegan's World of Social Studies](http://oms82.blogspot.com/2009/02/articles-of-confederation.html), <http://oms82.blogspot.com/2009/02/articles-of-confederation.html>

What to Do About the Articles of Confederation?

In 1787 Congress of the Confederation invited each state to send a delegate to a convention in Philadelphia in order to revise and improve the Articles of Confederation.

Debates began over the issues of taxes, the power of the government, individual liberty, and slavery. Different views emerged.



Painted by Howard Chandler Christy, April 1940

What to Do About the Articles of Confederation?



By the end of the Convention the delegates had put aside the Articles of Confederation in favor of a new Constitution. The new Constitution was sent to the states to be ratified (approved).



Not everyone in the United States wanted the new Constitution and two sides emerged. The (1) Anti-Federalists who were opposed adoption of the new Constitution and the (2) Federalists who supported its adoption (ratification).

Comparing the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution – the Debate Begins

| Issue | Articles of Confederation | Constitution |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Taxes | Could not collect taxes, money printed by states | Could collect taxes, money printed by Federal Government |
| Individual Liberties | Left Individual liberties up to the states to decide. | Bill of Rights |
| Powers of Government | No centralized Government | Strong Centralized Government |
| Slavery | Allowed states to make their own decisions on the issue of slavery | *Allowed for slavery *3/5 Compromise: Declared slaves to be counted as 3/5 of a person for state representation purposes in the House of Representatives. |

Was the Constitution an Improvement Over
the Articles of Confederation?
Two Perspectives

Federalists – “Yes!”



Alexander Hamilton – Federalist

VS.

Anti-Federalists – “No!”



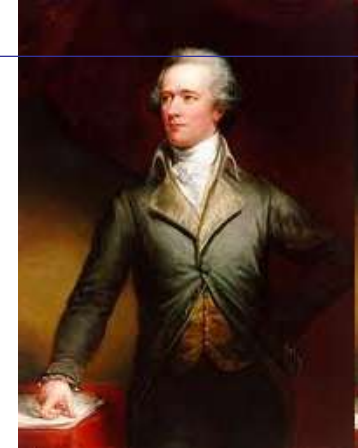
Richard Henry Lee – Anti-Federalist

They disagreed so much they couldn't look each other in the eye!!!! 15

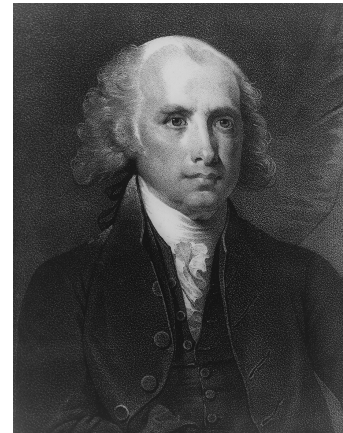
Was the Constitution an Improvement Over the Articles of Confederation?

Federalist Point of View

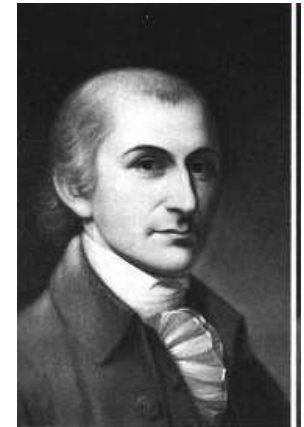
- The Federalist argued the Articles of Confederation were too weak and did not allow for a strong central government that could collect taxes and build a national army.
- They argued the country should be governed as a single nation, rather than 13 “independent” states.”



Alexander Hamilton



James Madison



John Jay

Was the Constitution an Improvement Over the Articles of Confederation?

Federalist Point of View

“[Under the Articles of Confederation] we have reached the last stage of national humiliation....Do we owe debts to foreign nations and our citizens? Yes, and we have no means to pay them. Is part of our country in the hands of other nations? Yes, and we have neither the troops, nor the money, nor the government to get them back. “

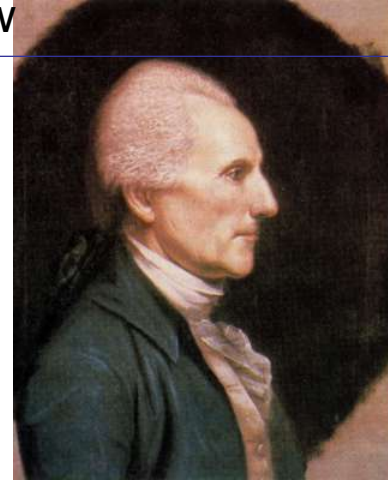
-Alexander Hamilton 1787



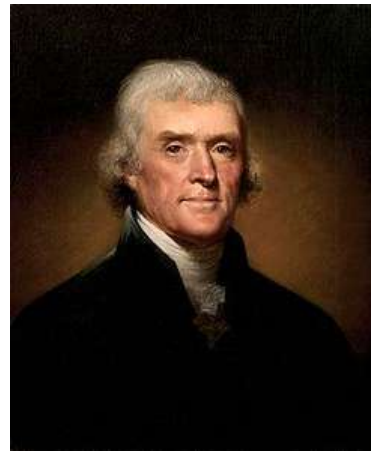
Was the Constitution an Improvement Over the Articles of Confederation?

Anti - Federalist Point of View

- The Anti-federalist argued the Articles of Confederation were working and there was no need to get rid of it and write a new constitution.
- They argued the Articles of Confederation allowed states the power to decide how to govern themselves and did not give too much power to a national government or to a small group.



Richard Henry Lee



Thomas Jefferson



Patrick Henry 18

Was the Constitution an Improvement Over the Articles of Confederation?

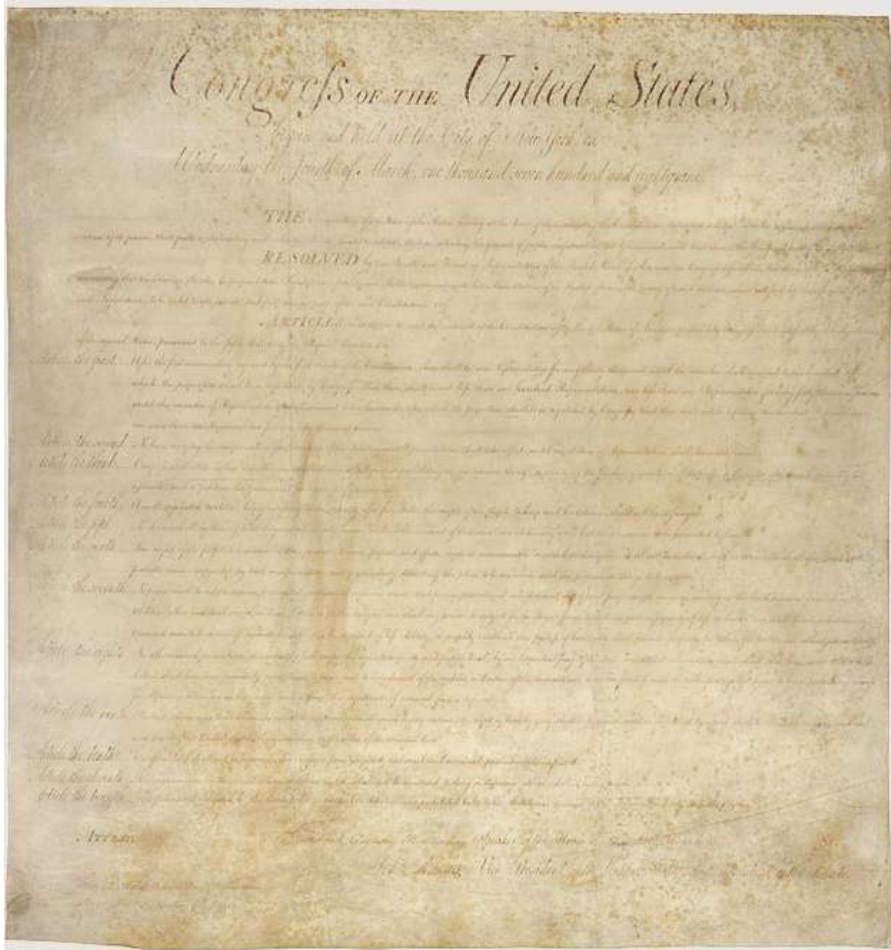
Anti - Federalist Point of View



“If the people of the United States adopt the proposed Constitution, it will be their last act as the main power of government. Whenever this Constitution, or any part of it, is not in agreement with the state constitutions, it will abolish the state constitutions and do away with them...This Constitution transfers power from the many to the few...”

-Richard Henry Lee, a
Virginia politician

The Federalists Win the Debate: The Constitution Is Ratified



- By 1790 all 13 states had eliminated the Articles of Confederation and ratified, the Constitution.
- Several of the states only ratified the Constitution after the Bill of Rights (the first ten Amendments) was added.

How Constitution Differs from the Articles of Confederation on Four Key Issues

| Issue | Articles of Confederation | Constitution |
|----------------------|--|---|
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Focus Questions

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