

Chapter 8.1 The Confederation Era

Name _____
Date _____

Wilderness Road: trail into Kentucky that Daniel Boone helped build.

Republic- people choose representatives to govern.

Articles of Confederation: first plan to govern the U.S

Land Ordinance of 1785: called for surveyors to stake out six mile square plots of land called townships in the western lands

Northwest Territory: included land that formed Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota.

Northwest Ordinance: determined how the Northwest Territory would be governed.

Shay's Rebellion: Rebellion of Massachusetts farmers over taxes and debt.

Summary :

Main Idea: The Articles of Confederation were too weak to govern the nation after the war ended.

Boone and 30 woodsmen cut a road over the Appalachian Mountains in 1775. This trail was called the Wilderness Road. The Frontier was regarded as a land of opportunity.

Exploring and governing these lands will be one of the many challenges facing the new U.S government.

New State Governments

States set out to form their own governments. They all had a republican form of government.

Americans hoped to keep the government from being too powerful. Many states wrote their own constitutions and added a bill of rights. (English Bill of Rights)

The Articles of Confederation

" United we stand, Divided we Fall"
Silas Deane

Deane warned that the country must unite to form a lasting government system.

Continental Congress arrived at a final plan for the government; The Articles of Confederation. It took 4 years for the Articles to be ratified. Once each state had given up its claims to Western Lands, they were accepted in 1781. Maryland became the 13th state to accept the Articles.

The National government was given the power of what to do with western lands.

Land Ordinance of 1785- called for surveyors to stake out six mile square plots of land called townships in the western lands. These lands became known as the Northwest Territory.

The Northwest Territory included land that formed Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota.

The Northwest Ordinance- determined how the Northwest Territory would be governed.

- - population determined rights to self government
 - 5,000 men in an area who owned at least 50 acres they could form an assembly.
 - 60,000 people they could apply to be a state

The ordinance also set conditions for settlement in the NW territory. It set an orderly pattern for growth in the U.S.

Weaknesses of the Articles

- Lacked power to enforce laws
- Lacked power to levy taxes
- Lacked power to regulate trade among the states
- Required all 13 states to approve changes to the Articles

Shays Rebellion

Debt ridden farmers couldn't pay their taxes and the federal government couldn't provide any relief. In January 1787 Daniel Shays and his men marched on a federal arsenal. The militia put down the rebellion but realized the national government needed to be strengthened.

Constitutional

Convention : meeting of 55 delegates in Philadelphia to draft a new Constitution.

James Madison: father of the Constitution

Virginia Plan: proposed by Edmund Randolph, called for a government with two houses in which representation was based on population and wealth.

New Jersey Plan: Proposed by William Paterson, called for a government with one house and equal representation for each state

Great Compromise : final plan to govern the new U.S. It called for a two house legislature with equal representation in the Senate and representation based on population in the House of Representatives.

Three-Fifths Compromise: $\frac{3}{5}$ of all the slaves would be counted when setting direct taxes and when determining representation in the legislature.

Summary :

Main Idea: The states sent delegates to a convention to solve the problems of the Articles of Confederation

A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IS CALLED

In 1786 a series of events began that would lead to a new form of government in the U.S.

Annapolis Convention- meeting of delegates in Maryland to discuss ways to promote trade among the states. The delegates believed making new national trade laws would help the economies of all the states, but that required changing the Articles of Confederation.

In May they met in Philadelphia to discuss the changes.

News of Shays Rebellion made people fear the spread of rebellion. As a result...

In the summer of 1787- delegates from all states, except Rhode Island met in Philadelphia to begin drafting a new constitution.

THE CONVENTION’S DELEGATES

The meeting was known as the Constitutional Convention

- The 55 delegates were planters, lawyers, merchants, doctors.

- They were all white men and property owners.

- Called The Founders, or the Founding Fathers

- Many had signed the Declaration of Independence

- Included George Washington, Ben Franklin, Alexander Hamilton.

- Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were not there, they were serving the country overseas.

- **James Madison**- “Father of the Constitution” he read 100 books on government in preparation for the meeting.

- **Patrick Henry** refused to come to the meeting, he said “ I smell a rat in Philadelphia, and it smells like monarchy”

The convention did not reflect the diverse U.S Population. There were no Native Americans, African Americans, or women present at the meeting. The nation’s early leaders didn’t consider these groups to be citizens, and so they were not invited.

THE DELEGATES ASSEMBLE

The new government had to be strong enough to protect people’s rights, but not to be controlled. Strong but limited federal government was the challenge at hand.

May 25, 1787 29 delegates arrived to officially begin the Convention

THE CONVENTION BEGINS

First order of business was to elect a President for the Convention.

Every single delegate voted for George Washington.

They then decided on rules for the convention.

1. They decided to keep the discussions a secret

2. They kept all windows shut, even though it was summer.

3. Guards were posted outside the doors

THE VIRGINIA PLAN

Edmund Randolph offered up a new plan for government.

Proposed a government with 3 branches(legislative, executive, and judicial) and a legislature with two houses. In both houses the number of representatives would be determined by the population and wealth of the state that was being represented.

THE GREAT COMPROMISE

In response to the Virginia Plan, New Jersey delegate William Paterson presented an alternative, the New Jersey Plan.

New Jersey Plan- called for a legislature with one house, each state would have only one vote. It was similar to the Articles of Confederation because it provided equal representation to each state.

The Great Compromise (also called the connecticut compromise) : equal representation in the Senate, representation based on wealth and population in the House of Representatives.

SLAVERY AND THE CONSTITUTION

Because representation in the house was based on population, delegates argued on whether or not slaves counted as part of the populations.

Three Fifths Compromise: $\frac{3}{5}$ of the slave population would be counted when determining representation in the legislature and when setting direct taxes.

The delegates also debated the issue of slavery in America. Georgia refused to accept any plan if the slave trade was banned.

The Constitutional Convention met into September, and voted their support for the Constitution in its final form on September 15, 1787

It was sent out along with a letter from George Washington to the states for ratification.