

Governing a New Nation-Guided Notes

Pages 204 – 209 in *The Americas*

After the Treaty of Paris...

- The former 13 American colonies were now separate from the English government.
- Remember that American colonists had felt that the king and Parliament in England had exerted excessive power over the colonial government.
- Many Americans favored a republic where the _____ were more powerful than the _____.

State Constitutions

- _____ out of 13 colonies wrote new constitutions to support their new governments.
- Rhode Island and Connecticut kept their original colonial charters, but removed any references to the British king.
- A **Constitution** is “_____”

The Role of the Governor

- A governor was the state’s executive.
- The _____ in a government is “the person who runs the government and sees that the laws are carried out.”
- Governors appointed state officials and they were then approved by the state’s legislature.

The Right to Vote

- The new constitutions allowed more people to vote than in colonial times.
- _____ males could vote if they were _____ or older. In most states, they had to own some form of property.
- Most states kept African Americans, even if they were free, from voting.
- _____ allowed some women to vote until 1807, but women could not vote in any other state.

Protecting Rights

- To prevent the previous abuses from the British colonial government, many states decided to protect individual rights.
- _____ was the first state to include a bill of rights, which stated freedom of the press, the right to trial by jury, and freedom of religion.
- Many other states followed Virginia’s lead.
- Massachusetts gave the right of freedom of religion too, but retain its official church.

The Articles of Confederation

- 1777-1787
- Americans needed to establish their own government once they declared their independence from Britain.
- Americans wanted the country to be a **republic**. A republic is a government _____
- States organized their governments and adopted their own state constitutions.

- The **Articles of Confederation** (a plan for government) were adopted in _____. They were America's first constitution.
- Most Americans favored a _____ central government and _____ independent states.
- Each state kept, "its freedom, and independence".
- Ratification was delayed until 1781 because of western settlement disputes amongst the states.

Under the Articles

- A limited central government.
- One branch legislature called _____.
- No executive (chief executive) nor national courts.
- All states would have equal representatives AND _____ vote.
- 9 states had to agree before a bill became law.
- All 13 states had to ratify the Articles.

Strengths

- A plan of government
- Negotiated treaties especially the Treaty of Paris of 1783; successfully ending the American Revolution
- Declare war
- _____
- _____
- Run the national _____
- Foreign relations with Native Americans

New Land Policies

- Articles had no provisions for adding _____.
- To bring order and stability to new western settlement, Congress developed successful new land policies.
- _____ divided the Western territories into larger townships and smaller sections. Land was sold cheaply.
- _____ created a Northwest Territory out of the lands north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River. It included a bill of rights to protect the settlers that guaranteed freedom of religion and trial by jury. _____ was not permitted.

Weaknesses

The weak government that had almost no power. It could **not**

- regulate _____ amongst the states;
 - amend the Articles unless all 13 states gave its consent;
 - _____
 - pass a law unless nine states voted for it;
 - collect taxes. They had to ask the states for money to pay for the army and war debts; and
 - each state had _____ vote in Congress. State population did not matter, although larger, more populated states believed that they should have more votes.
- Different types of currency were confusing amongst the states.

- The central government had to ask the _____ for money.
- Central government couldn't collect _____ and therefore, couldn't maintain nor help the citizens.
- The states had most of the _____ and therefore, had their own policies and unlimited resources to make any decisions they wanted without consent.

Growing Problems

- There was a severe _____ around the mid-1780's in the United States.
- The depression particularly hit _____ the hardest.
- The state government then began seizing some farms and selling them in order to get back the taxes.
- Many angry farmers demanded that the Massachusetts government stop _____.
- They also demanded that the state issue more paper money to make it easier to get loans.
- The state of Massachusetts still did _____.

Shays' Rebellion

- In August _____, Daniel Shays led an uprising of about 1,000 Massachusetts farmers.
- When the farmers tried to seize arms from a state warehouse, the state called out the militia.
- Shays and other leaders were arrested.

As a result of Shays' Rebellion

- Shay's Rebellion was quelled, but it _____ some Americans.
- It made many Americans realize that the country needed a _____.
- The response was to send delegates from each state to a convention in Philadelphia in 1787. This became known as the _____.

Primary Source

James Bowdoin's Account of Shays' Rebellion

James Bowdoin was governor of Massachusetts during Shays' Rebellion. In this document, he recounted the event and its significance.

Directions: Read the excerpt and answer the questions that follow.

The rebels, under Daniel Shays, Luke Day, and Eli Parsons, soon gathered a force in that vicinity [of Springfield], of 2000 men, and on the 25th of January advanced in a menacing manner towards the arsenal [warehouse]. Gen. Shepard sent an aid-de-camp [officer] to inquire the design of the movement, and to warn Shays of his danger. The answer was, that they *would have* possession of the barracks [warehouse]; and they immediately marched to within 250 yards of the arsenal. They were again warned that if they approached nearer, they would be fired on; still they advanced. He then ordered the artillery to be pointed at the centre of their column [group]. The cry of murder then arose from the rear of the insurgents, and the whole were struck with panic and confusion. Shays lost all control over them, and they fled . . . 10 miles, leaving 3 dead and 1 wounded. . . .

Good frequently springs from evil. Shays's Rebellion served to impress on the public mind a belief of the necessity of a new form of National Government. It may be doubted, whether the present United States Constitution would have been adopted, if that rebellion had not predisposed the minds of the people in favor of an energetic [powerful] government.

1. How many men did Shays gather together?

2. What were the rebels going to do? How were they stopped?

3. **Draw Conclusions** Why did Governor Bowdoin state that "good frequently springs from evil"?

