



Founding a Nation: The Articles of Confederation

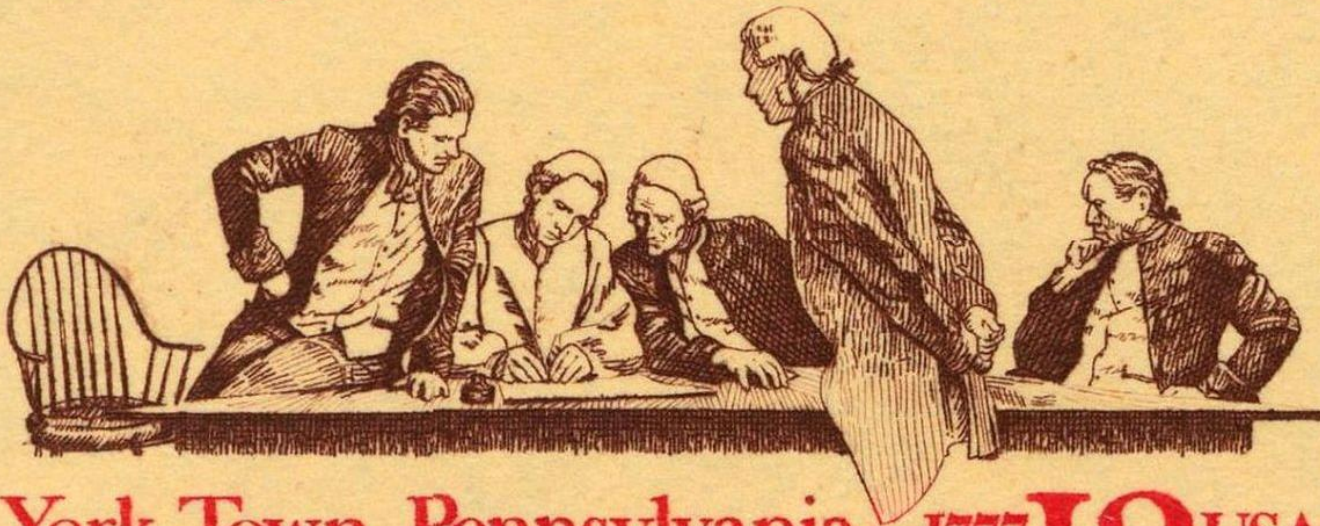
Chapter 7 AP US History
Give Me Liberty by Eric Foner

The Articles of Confederation

- **What was the 1st written Constitution in America?**
 - The Articles of Confederation (signed in 1777/ratified in 1781)
- **What was its purpose?**
 - To balance coordination of the Revolutionary War AND fear of central power
- **What does this Constitution declare?**
 - A “perpetual union”
 - This was MORE a “treaty of mutual defense
 - The Articles of Confederation established a WEAK government!
- **How could states amend this constitution?**
 - UNANIMOUS vote or consent of the 13 representatives



Drafting the Articles of Confederation



York Town, Pennsylvania 1777 **13** USA
C

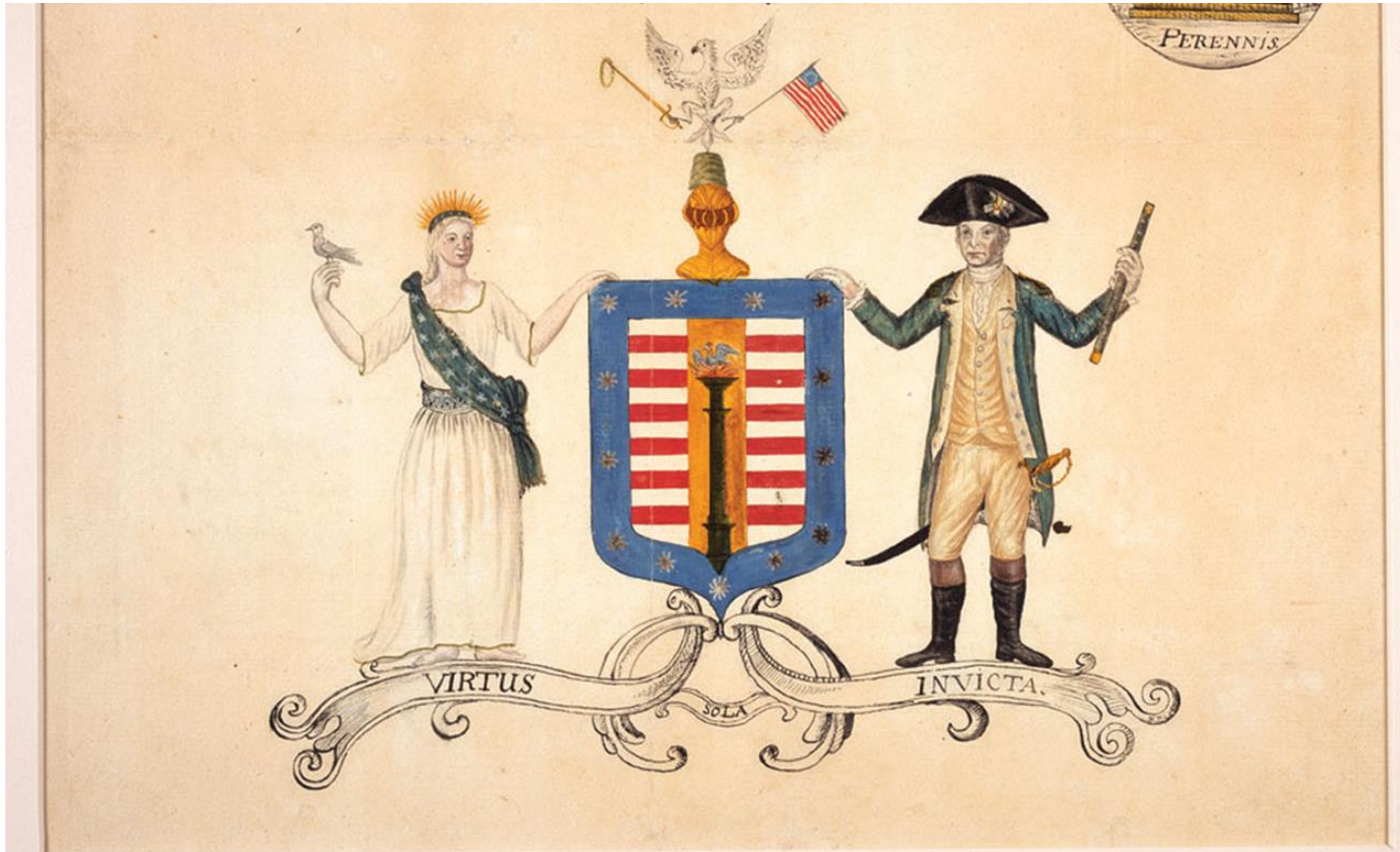
What was the power in the Articles of Confederation

- **How were the states connected?**
 - 13 states retained individual freedom
 - NO central government
- **How was the federal government set up?**
 - Unicameral legislature
 - Each state had 1 vote (13 Representatives)
 - NO president and NO judiciary
- **How were laws passed?**
 - 9 votes needed to pass any law
 - No simple majority allowed
- **What power did the federal government retain?**
 - Declare war
 - Conduct foreign affairs
 - Make treaties

Financial Considerations in the Articles of Confederation

- **What about the finances of the new government?**
 - The federal government had NO financial resources
- **What power did they have over finances?**
 - The government can coin money
- **What power was limited under the Articles?**
 - The federal government CANNOT levy taxes
 - The federal government CANNOT regulate commerce
- **How did the federal government make money?**
 - Contributions from the states





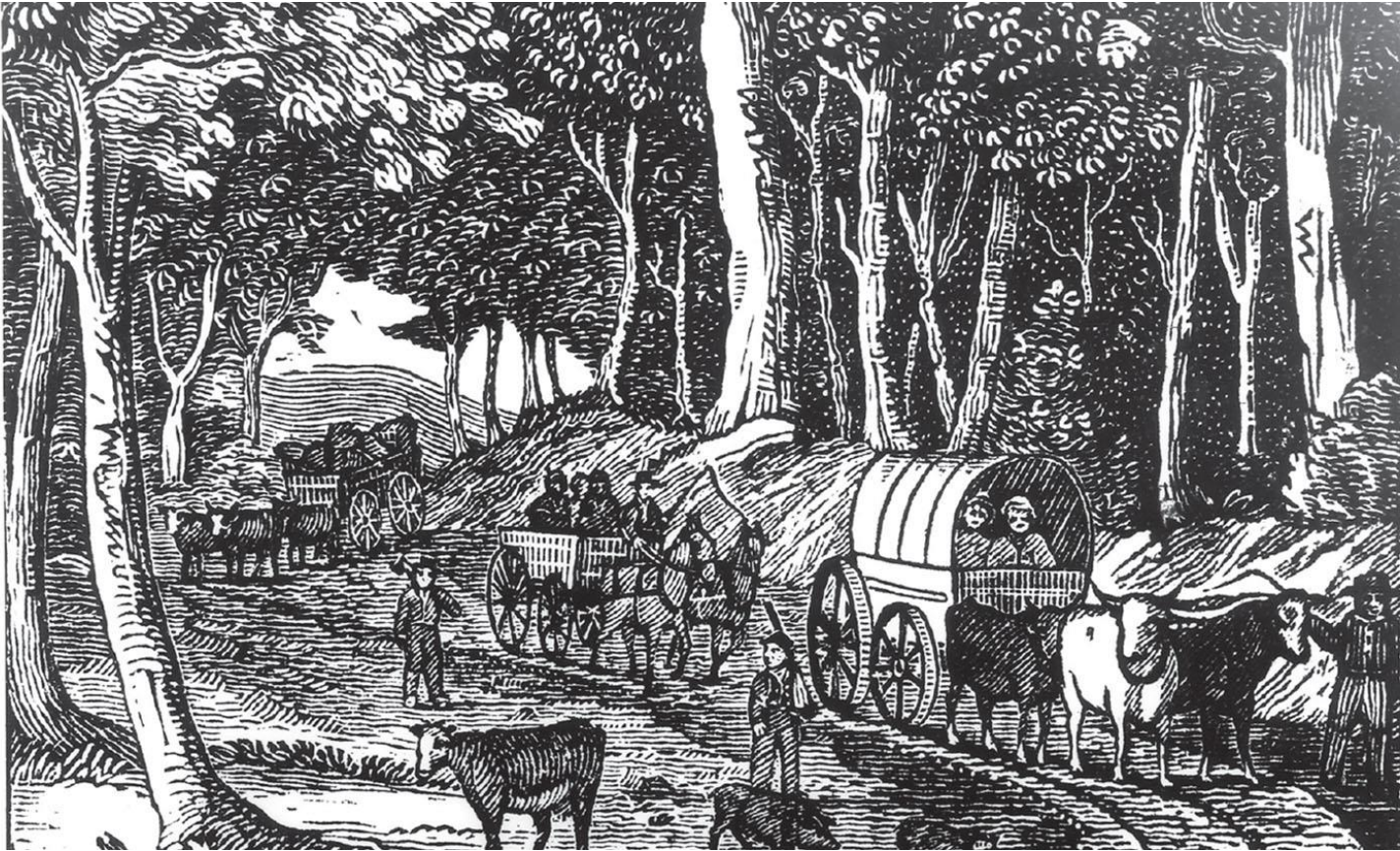
Congress & the West:

- How did Congress establish rules for western settlement?
 - This was NOT easy!
- From the Atlantic seaboard to the Mississippi River
 - More than 100,000 Indians inhabited the regions
 - Supporting the British meant the Indians had forfeited their land claims.
 - Some Indians had sided with the Patriots – no distinction was made
- The Fort Stanwix (1784) and Fort McIntosh (1785) Treaties
 - Americans demanded surrender of Indian lands
 - Secured national control of western territories

The Land Ordinances:

- **How did the Articles impact American lands?**
 - Western territory control was limited!
 - Populated by Indians and bordered by the British and Spanish, who posed a military and commercial threat.
 - The nation was also rural and its population divided among varying ethnic and religious groups.
 - No republic had ever been established in such a large area, with such a diverse people.
 - The success and unity of the nation was far from assured.



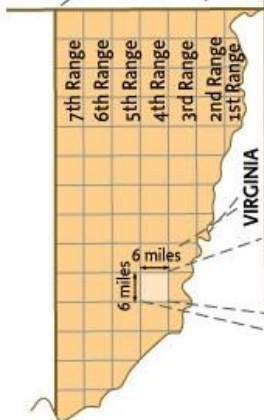


Land Ordinances of 1785

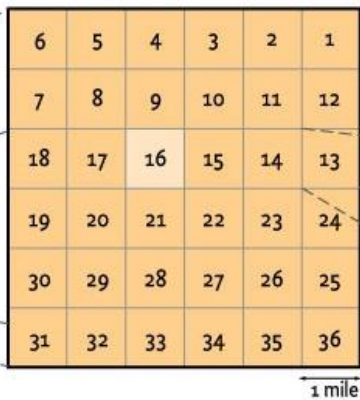
- How will the new lands in the Ohio Valley be divided up?
 - The **Land Ordinance of 1785** answered this question!
 - It provided the acreage of the Old Northwest should be sold and that the proceeds be used to pay off the national debt.
 - This vast area would be surveyed before settlement and then divided into townships (six miles square), which would then be divided into 36 square sections (1 mile square each) with one section set aside for public schools (section #16).



THE SEVEN RANGES
First Area Survey



DETAIL OF TOWNSHIP
36 square miles



Income from section 16 reserved for school support

DETAIL OF SECTION
1 square mile (640 acres)



Quarter-section (160 acres)

Half-section (320 acres)

Half-quarter-section (80 acres)

Quarter-quarter-section (40 acres each)

Western Ordinances

1784-1785

Northwest Ordinance of 1787

- **How will new states be made once people move out there?**
 - The **Northwest Ordinance** of 1787 answered this question.
 - It made admission into the union a two-stage affair:
 - There would be two evolutionary territorial stages, during which the area would be subordinate to the federal government.
 - When a territory had 60,000 inhabitants, they wrote a state constitution and sent it to Congress for approval. If approved, it's a new state.
 - It worked to solve a problem that had plagued many other nations.
 - Forbade the expansion of slavery into the states.

The Confederation's Weaknesses

- Many Americans were concerned with the flaws in the Confederation!
- What were the major weaknesses?
 - National economic problems in the 1780s – no means to pay debt!
- What kind of debt did America have after the American Revolution?
 - Congress had borrowed LOTS of money to pay for the war
 - We issued interest-bearing bonds to soldiers (as payment for services)
 - America does NOT have a secure source of revenue!
- What other issues are we facing?
 - We cannot trade with the West Indies (we aren't British anymore)





Early Trade and Financial Issues

- **What about the American people?**
 - We were struggling as well
 - Imported goods were causing issues for local craftsmen
 - Wages were dropping
- **How did some businesses respond?**
 - Find new trading areas
- **Where can we trade?**
 - Asia! Empress of China sailed to Canton – 1st ship to fly the American flag

Furs, wine, Spanish silver dollars, American ginseng



Silk, tea, & Chinese porcelain,

Shays's Rebellion

- **What changed America's people in early 1787?**
 - Increased debt among the people!
 - Farmers closed the courts to prevent repossession of lands
- **What did this group call themselves?**
 - Regulators – from the backcountry Carolina protesters
- **This move became known as Shays's Rebellion:**
 - Daniel Shays – leader and Revolutionary veteran
 - Massachusetts refused to issue paper money
 - This move caused issues for the farmers
- **What did the participants think about this action?**
 - This is the spirit of the Revolution!
 - Liberty Trees and Liberty Poles were symbols of their cause.
- **How did the Massachusetts government respond?**
 - Gen. Benjamin Lincoln was sent with troops to quell the rebellion

