



Articles of Confederation

Colonies Become States



- Colonies already had their own individual governments before the 1776 Declaration
- 11 of 13 colonies had State Constitutions
 - **Constitution** – a document that states rules under which a government will operate
- **The Law**
- Rhode Island and Connecticut continue to use their charters

State Constitutions

- States wrote their constitutions based on the troubles they had prior to the declaration of rebellion.
 - Didn't trust governors so gave them LESS power
 - Wanted representation and a voice so made Legislatures MORE powerful

State Constitutions

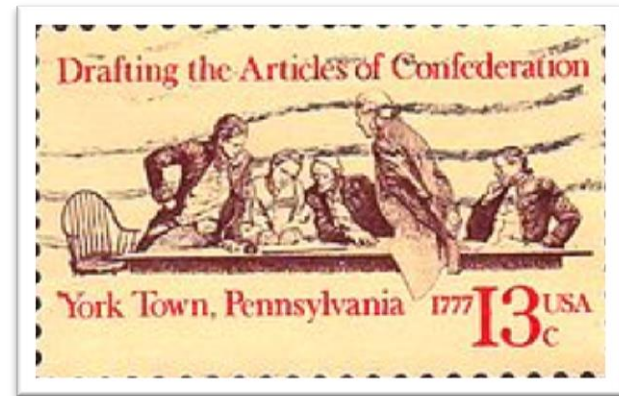
- Governors were just executives
 - Someone to “execute or carry-out laws, runs government.
 - They were appointed but legislature had to approve appointment
- More people could vote in new constitutions
 - State males, 21 years, owned property
 - No African-Americans or women
 - New Jersey let some women

Protecting Rights

- States sought to protect individual rights
 - Because Britain violated rights
 - Virginia was the first to include
 - A bill of rights in its constitution
 - Freedom of religion, press, and right to a trial by jury
- Other states follow
 - New York
 - Massachusetts follows but keeps official church

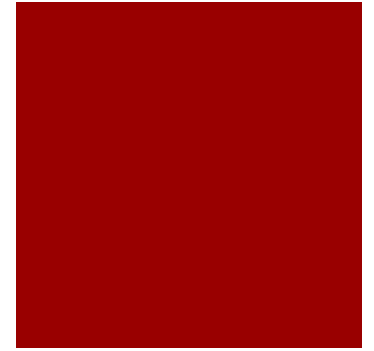


Articles of Confederation



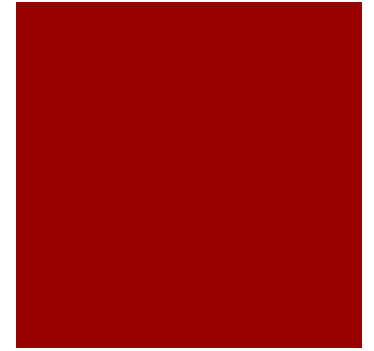
- Drafted - Ben Franklin prior to 1776
- Revised several times – 4th revision by Dickenson
- Needed something quick to govern this new nation
- Continental Congress used it to plan for the nation as a whole
- 13 Articles
- Adopted - November 15, 1777 (not approved)

Form of Government



- Had only **ONE BRANCH**, not three
 - A legislative branch
 - No executive, no judicial (afraid of one person ruling)
- All states equal in Congress
 - Each state had one vote
 - 9 of 13 were needed to pass anything (**Super Majority**)

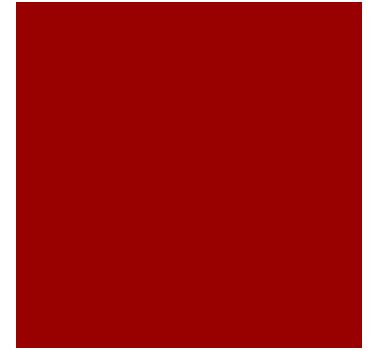
Limited of Government



- Cautious because of experience with Parliament
 - Did not want to give national government too much power
 - Government very limited
- States had most of the power
- Central government
 - Could not regulate trade or collect taxes
 - Had to ask states for money. They could say no.

Limited of Government

- Congress had few powers
 - Negotiate with foreign nations and Natives
 - Could – declare war, borrow money, coin money, run a post office
 - Could make laws but could not enforce them. The states did.



Western Land Claims 1781



Settling Western Lands - **Compromise**

- Articles had to be approved by all 13 states
 - Some states would not approve until other states dropped claims to lands west to the Appalachian Mountains (Delaware-79, New Jersey-78 & Maryland)
 - Took years – Maryland last to finally agree in 1781 (Virginia & New York agreed to give up Western claims on land)
- All western land was turned over to the national government
 - It was valuable – in demand
 - It was sold piece by piece to private companies.