

## Chapter 7 Section 1

### I. Thirteen Independent States

- A. The states organized their own governments and they adopted their own constitutions. They didn't want one person to have too much power they wanted to have the people have the power.
- B. Pennsylvania replaced the office of governor with an elected council of 12 members.
- C. The states divided government functions between the governor and the legislature.
  - 1. Most states established two-house or bicameral. And they wanted to divide the power.
  - 2. They were popular elections and they were frequent elections.

D. Only white men were over the age of 21 and they had to be property owners. Free African American that owned property.

## II. Forming a Republic

A. Most people wanted a weak central government.

B. In 1777 Articles of Confederation were adopted to form a central government. The states kept the freedom, independence, and sovereignty.

C. Under the Articles congress can:

1. Conduct foreign affairs
2. Maintain armed forces
3. Borrow money
4. Issue currency

D. The Government did not have the authority to:

1. Regulate Trade
2. Force citizens to join the army

### 3. Impose Taxes

- E. The government has no chief Executive.
- F. Under the Articles each state had one vote in Congress, regardless of population.
- G. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1781 the Confederation formally became the government of the United States.
- H. The confederation government had its weakness, but The confederation also provided for settling and governing the nations western nations, won independence, expanded foreign trade.
  1. The congress had limited authority
  2. It could not pass a law unless nine states voted in favor it.

3. Any attempt to change the articles required of all 13 states making it difficult for the congress to pass laws when there was any opposition.

### III. New Land Policies

- A. The Articles of Confederation made no provision for adding new states. Congress realized it had to extend its authority over the frontier and bring order and stability to the territory where western settlers reached almost 120,000 by 1790. The Western Ordinances had a large impact on Western expansion and development.
- B. In 1784 Congress divided the Western territory into self-governing districts. When the number of people in a district

reached the population of the smallest existing state, that district could apply for statehood.

- C. In 1785 congress established a law that divided the western parts in to districts and sold for at least a dollar an acre. Land speculators found this as an opportunity to buy land for cheap and sell it for more.
- D. In 1787 the north west ordinance was passed;
  - 1. The northwest ordinance is east of the Mississippi out of the north lands of the Ohio River
  - 2. The lands were to be divided into three to five smaller territories
  - 3. They included a bill of rights for the settlers, guaranteeing

freedom of religion and trial by jury. Slavery was prohibited.

4. When their population reached 60,000 they could apply for statehood.

#### IV. Trouble on Two Fronts

A. The Confederate government had trouble with finances and with Britain and Spain over landholdings and trade. Many Americans felt the country needed a stronger government to better deal with the problems.

B. The government had a large debt from fighting the war. Congress had borrowed money from American citizens and foreign governments. It owed soldiers their wages. But because Congress had no power to tax, it

did not have a way to raise revenue and pay off this debt.

- C. Money was almost worthless. The paper money printed during the Revolutionary War had fallen in value, while the prices of food and other goods soared. Congress had no power to tax. No gold and silver backed these bills.
- D. To help solve the financial problems, the Confederacy created a department of finance. Robert Morris, a Philadelphia merchant, headed the department.
- E. Morris proposed a plan that called for collecting a 5% tax on imported goods to help pay off the national debt. Rhode Island did not approve of this plan of change so the plan of tax was thrown out. In 1783 this plan was brought back up

but again failed at unanimous approval. Thus the financial state only worsened.

- F. The problems with Britain concerned land and trade
  - 1. British troops remained in the Great Lakes region and even though under the Treaty of Paris they were suppose to withdraw.
  - 2. British merchants closed out Americans from trading in the West Indies and Britain.
  - 3. John Adams went to London to discuss these issues. The British did not want to discuss trading for land because the Americans did not pay back the loyalists property taken during the war. Congress recommended the states pay but the states refused.



## G. The problems with Spain

1. American shipping was closed off by Spain in the lower part of the Mississippi river. The Spanish hoped this would halt American expansion into their territories.
2. A compromise was reached that limited American shipping on the Mississippi river. In return Spain accepted the boarder between Georgia and Florida. The south rejected this because it did not include the Mississippi river.