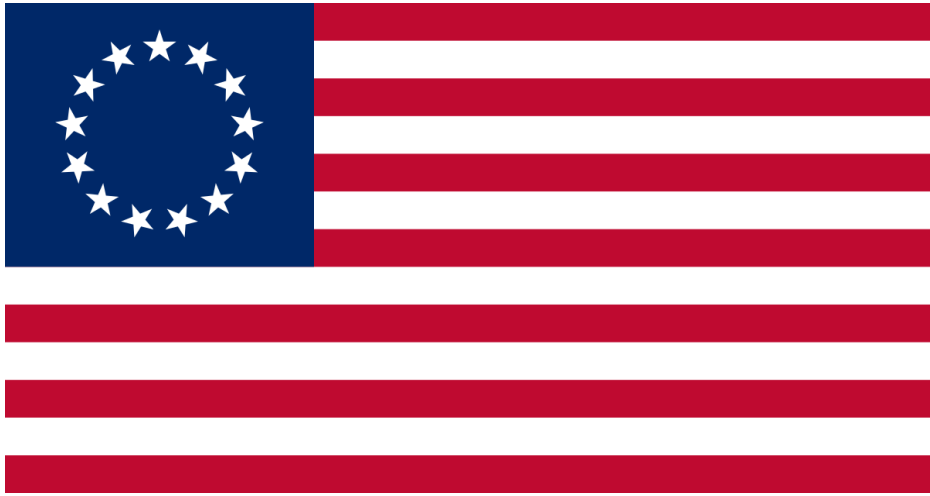




The Articles of Confederation

America's First Government

RECAP:



- The Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War
- Signed between:
 1. America
 2. England
 3. Spain
 4. France
- America had just won their independence from England- no more colonies!
- During the Revolutionary War, the Congress created the Articles of Confederation

constitution:

The basic principals and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and the rights protected



What government would America choose?

- Individual states were writing their own: Constitutions
- When we were the colonies, we were controlled by ENGLAND which was run by a Monarch (King/Queen)
- American is now a country called the United States of America and we are no longer colonies, we are STATES
- As states wrote their constitutions, they remembered the issues that sparked the Revolutionary War
- Americans wanted to avoid a monarchy, governors who were not chosen by the people, and head government positions that were not chosen by the people
- They wanted Americans to have power and a voice!



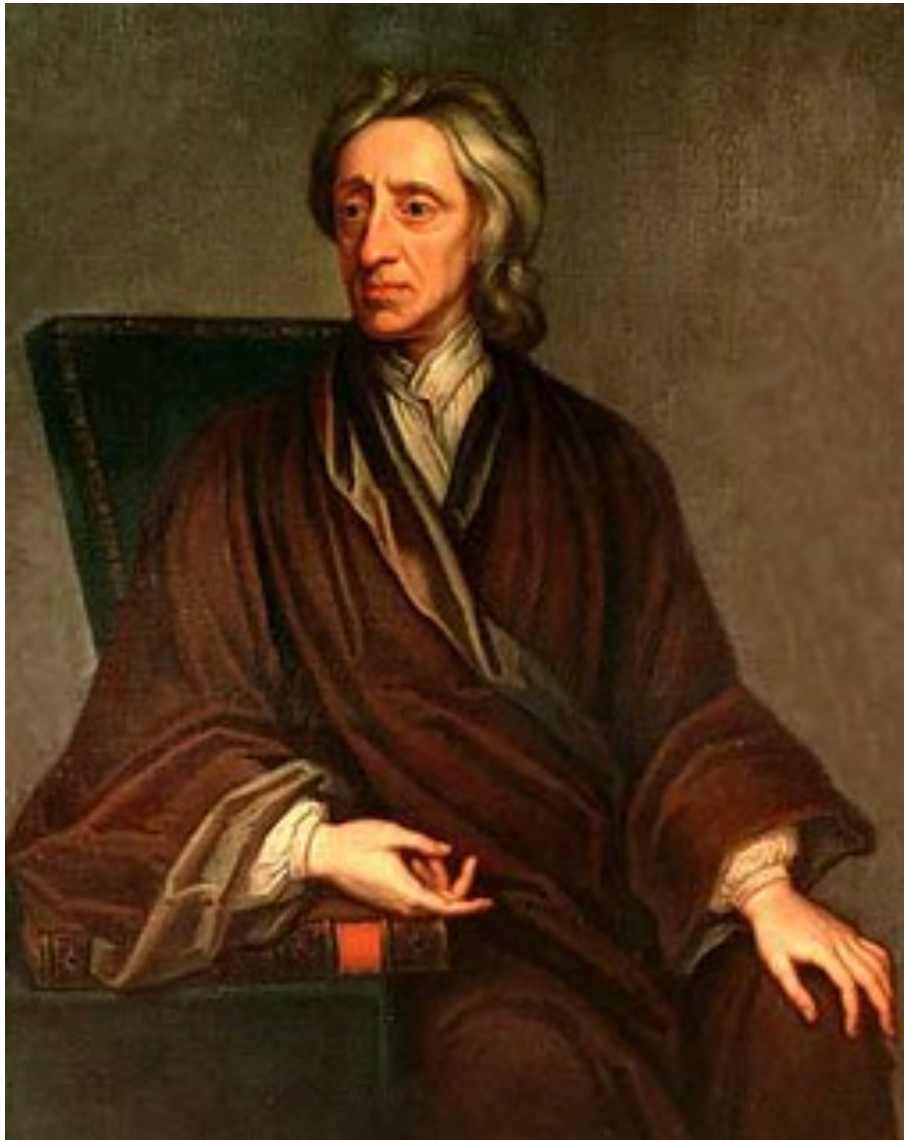
NOT ALL AMERICANS COULD HAVE A VOICE...

- Voting was restricted to white males; they did not have to own land to vote. They just needed to be 21 and older
- Who could not vote?
 1. Women
 2. Native Americans
 3. African Americans
- Americans set up state governments led by Executives

EXECUTIVE:

The head of a government who is responsible for ensuring that laws, policies, and citizens' rights are respected and carried out



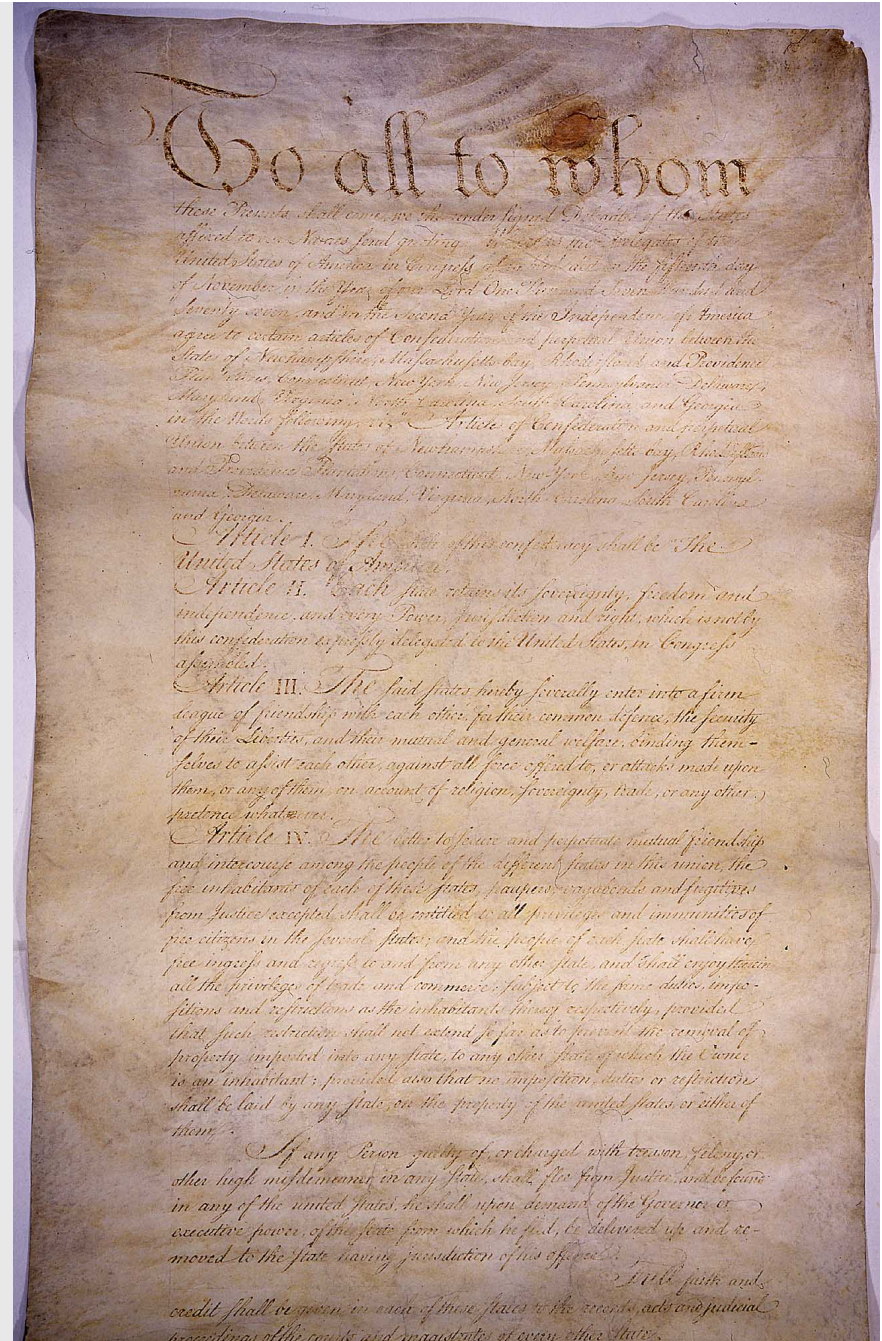


Important details to remember:

- The Declaration of Independence (DoI) listed grievances against England because they violated our rights!
- John Locke: said that all men have the right to life, liberty, and property and these rights were natural (you're born with them) and inalienable (they can't be taken)

The Articles of Confederation

- The Continental Congress created a government for America and the outline of that government was called the Articles of Confederation
- The Articles of Confederation (AoC) were created to be weak on PURPOSE- no one wanted anything resembling a monarchy and no one wanted one person to have too much power
- The Articles of Confederation were ratified by all 13 states on March 1, 1781





VOCABULARY:

- **Confederation:** a union of countries or states with political power resting in a central authority
- **Ratify:** to formally agree on a document making it official; to approve

outline of the AOC:

1. They had ONE branch of government called CONGRESS
2. There was no EXECUTIVE
3. There was no system for NATIONAL COURTS
4. In the Congress, all states were EQUAL and each state had ONE vote
5. When creating new laws, 9 of 13 had to vote yes for the law to be added
6. Most of the GOVERNMENT powers were left to the INDIVIDUAL states



The AOC COULD:

1. Make treaties and negotiate with foreign countries or Native Americans
2. Pass laws for the US BUT 9 out of 13 states had to agree on it
3. Make amendments to the Articles with a unanimous vote (13 out of 13)
4. Declare War
5. Borrow money from other countries
6. Print money
7. Run the postal service



The AOC COULD NOT:

1. Regulate trade
2. Collect Taxes
3. Provide a central
court system
4. Enforce the laws
passed in Congress
(no executive)

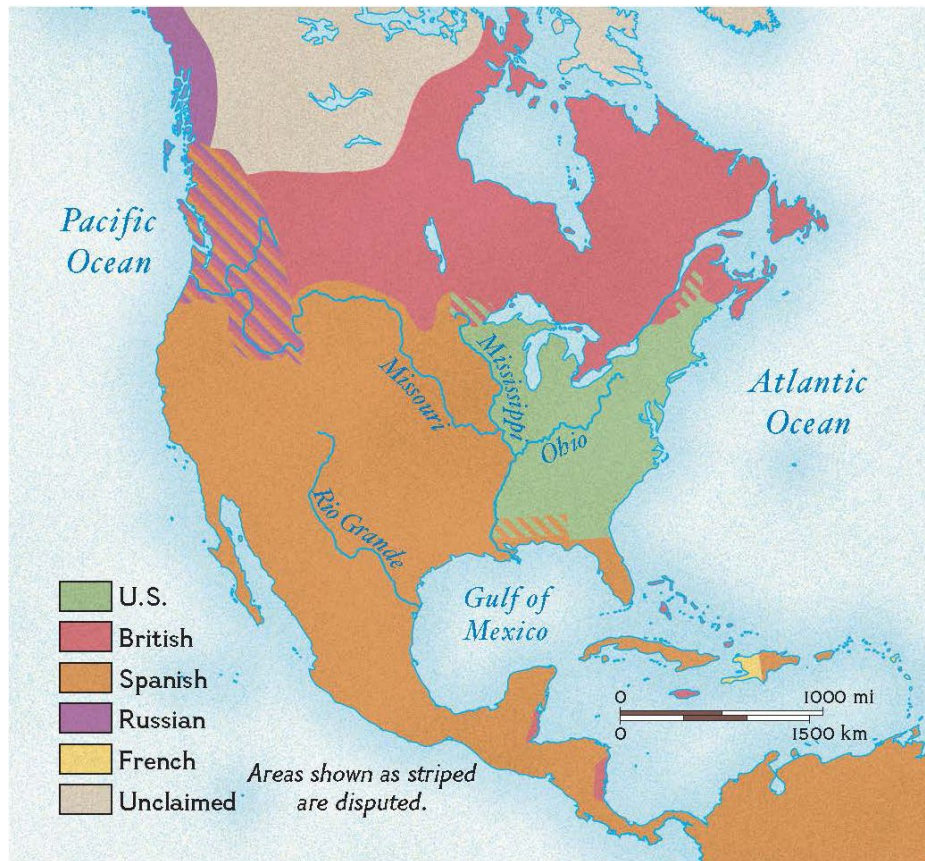
VOCABULARY:

- **AMENDMENT**: a change or addition to a legal document or government
- **UNANIMOUS**: fully in agreement



A historical painting depicting a large crowd of people in 19th-century clothing. In the center, a man in a red coat and black hat is shouting with his mouth open. To his left, another man in a brown coat and hat is walking. In the background, there is a large brick building with several windows. On the right, a man in a light-colored coat and hat is walking. The overall scene suggests a moment of public demonstration or protest.

problems UNDER THE AOC



Weakness: Regulate Trade

- American states were looking out for their own trade within THEIR state
- Trade wasn't regulated among states, therefore the economy suffered
- By the 1780s, there was a severe economic depression
- Economic depression: extreme downturn in the economy
- England was also taking advantage of the weak government and disrupting trade



Weakness: Collect Taxes

- Under the AoC each state could create their own money/currency
- America owed money after the Revolutionary War but the government couldn't collect taxes so we could not pay off our debt
- This contributed to the economic depression



Weakness: Central Court System

- The DoC could not control or create the central court system
- This meant individual states could run their courts with no central government to check them
- There was no way to regulate cases that crossed between states



Weakness: Enforce Laws

- Without an executive the American states were not controlled by the central government
- This hurt our economy as well because we could not enforce laws that were passed with the DoC
- England was also taking advantage of the weak government by ignoring the terms of the Treaty of Paris

Land probs:

- After the Revolutionary War new boundary lines were drawn in North America
- The United States now controlled the land east of the Mississippi River
- Spain controlled land west of the Mississippi River and Florida
- England controlled most of Canada
- Because America was a new country, they were not respected by England and Spain
- This caused problems with boundaries



Land Ordinance of 1785:

- Americans gained land from the Treaty of Paris
- That land extended to the Mississippi River
- The Congress decided to pass the Land Ordinance of 1785
- This divided the land by acres and square miles which were sold in sections

The Land Ordinance of 1785



TOWNSHIP, 1785

36	30	24	18	12	6
35	29	23	17	11	5
34	28	22	16	10	4
33	27	21	15	9	3
32	26	20	14	8	2
31	25	19	13	7	1

Each township contained 36 sections. Each section was one square mile.



Shays' Rebellion

- The economic depression of the 1780's occurred because of the AoC's inability to tax, enforce laws, and the debt from the Revolutionary War
- As the depression grew, Americans became angry with their government
- The depression hurt farmers the most, and as prices dropped, several couldn't pay their bills

Shays' Rebellion

- In August of 1787, a man named Daniel Shays led a group of farmers (who had also fought in the Revolutionary War) to attack several court houses in Massachusetts
- The rebellion grew and several farmers and ex Revolutionary Soldiers attacked the court houses across the state
- They also tried to attack an arsenal supply, but the attack failed, and Shays' troops were forced to retreat
- The Massachusetts' governor at the time hired a personal army to put down the rebellion. The rebellion was stopped but several were killed, Shays was released from prison, and the economy continued to hurt farmers



Why is this important?

1. This caused the American Congress to reevaluate the Articles of Confederation
2. Shays' rebellion, along with other problems, led to the Constitutional Convention
3. The Constitutional Convention met to create a new government that was strong and could solve the issues of the AoC