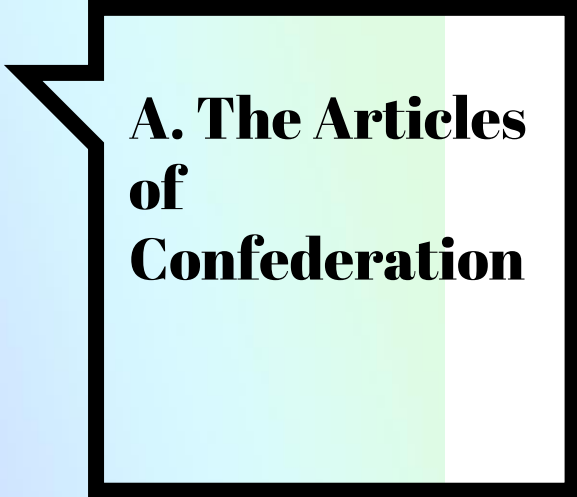


# **The Articles of Confederation to the Constitution**

**Unit 1  
US History**

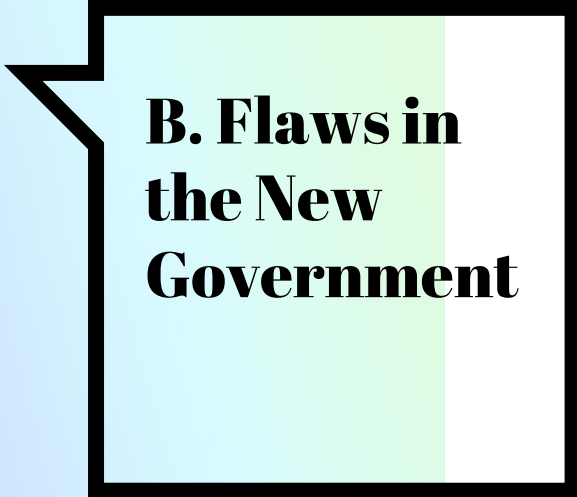
# **I. The Articles of Confederation**

Experimenting with Confederation



## **A. The Articles of Confederation**

- 1. Since the states were reluctant to form a strong central gov't, they established a confederation, or alliance, among the 13 states.**
- 2. States were each given one vote, and some power was given to the nat'l gov't.**



## **B. Flaws in the New Government**

- 1. Congress couldn't enact or collect taxes.**
- 2. 9 out of 13 states had to agree for laws to be passed.**
- 3. There was no executive branch, national court system, or national military.**
- 4. The 13 states lacked unity.**
- 5. States had their own currencies.**



## **C. Land Ordinances**

- 1.** The Confederation had to deal with the Northwest Territory, lands west of the Appalachians.
- 2.** The Land Ordinance of 1785 established a plan for surveying the land.
- 3.** The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 provided a procedure for dividing the land and admitting new states.



## **D. Shays' Rebellion**

- 1. Shays's Rebellion was an uprising of debt-ridden Massachusetts farmers protesting increased state taxes in 1787.**
- 2. It showed the weaknesses of the Confederation, and the Constitutional Convention began soon after.**

# **II. The Constitutional Convention**

**Creating a More Perfect Union**



## **A. The Great Compromise**

- 1. The Virginia Plan called for a bicameral legislature with representation based on state population.**
- 2. The New Jersey Plan called for a unicameral legislature with equal representation.**





## **A. The Great Compromise**

- 3. The Connecticut Plan, known as the Great Compromise established a bicameral legislature.
  - a. The Senate: equal representation**
  - b. The House of Representatives: representation based on population.****

## **B. The $\frac{3}{5}$ ths Compromise**

- 1. The  $\frac{3}{5}$ ths Compromise held that slaves would count as  $\frac{3}{5}$ ths of a person when calculating population for representation and taxation.**



## **C. Division of Powers**

- 1.** A new system of gov't called federalism was created.
- 2.** Power is divided between a national gov't and state gov'ts.



## **D. Separation of Powers**

- 1.** Three branches of gov't were created. A system of checks and balances prevents any branch from being too powerful.
- 2.** The legislative branch makes the laws, the executive branch carries out laws, and the judicial branch interprets laws.

# **III. Ratifying the Constitution**

**More Conflicts and Compromises**



## **A. The Federalists**

- 1. The Federalists favored the Constitution.**
- 2. They wanted a stronger national gov't and weaker state gov'ts.**



**B. The Anti-Federalists**

- 1. The Anti-Federalists wanted stronger state gov't's and a weaker national gov't.**
- 2. They didn't want to ratify the Constitution unless a Bill of Rights was added.**



## **C. Adoption of a Bill of Rights**

- 1.** The Federalists promised to include a Bill of Rights, so the Constitution was ratified in 1788.
- 2.** The Bill of Rights, or the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, was added in 1791.