

Chapter #9: The Confederation and the Constitution – Big Picture Ideas

1. The Articles of Confederation, the first government set up after the American Revolution, was structured out of fear of a too-strong government. Therefore, the Articles were very weak on purpose.
2. Two things showed the Articles as being too weak to the point of being sterile: (a) it could not regulate commerce and the money situation was growing dim fast and (b) Shays' Rebellion frightened many to the possibility that mobs might just take over and the government might be too weak to stop them. Due to these reasons, the Constitutional Convention was held.
3. The Constitution was written as something of a balancing act between strengthening the government, yet making sure it doesn't get too strong to take over. The resulting government was indeed stronger, but also a system of checks and balances were put into place to ensure no one branch becomes like the king had been.
4. After some negotiating, mostly with the promise of the Bill of Rights, the Constitution was ratified.

IDENTIFICATIONS:

John Locke's *Second Treatise of Government*

Federalist #10

Republican Government

Land Ordinance of 1785

Land Ordinance of 1787

Necessary and Proper Clause

Federalist Papers

Shays Rebellion

Annapolis Convention

Philadelphia Convention

Delegated Powers

Reserved Powers

Concurrent Powers

Supremacy Clause

Anti-Federalists

GUIDED READING QUESTIONS:

The Pursuit of Equality

Know: Leveling, Society of the Cincinnati, Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, Abigail Adams, Republican Motherhood, John Singleton Copley

1. What social changes resulted from the American Revolution?

Constitution Making in the States

Know: State Constitutions, Fundamental Law

2. What was the importance of the state constitutions?

Economic Crosscurrents

Know: Navigation Laws, Empress of China, Speculation

3. What were the positive and negative effects of the war on America?

A Shaky Start toward Union

Know: Natural Rights

4. Why was the end of the war difficult on the national government?

Creating a Confederation

Know: Sovereignty, Articles of Confederation

5. What forces served to unify the separate states during the war?

The Articles of Confederation: America's First Constitution

6. What weaknesses plagued the Articles of Confederation? What was good about it?

Landmarks in Land Laws

Know: Old Northwest, Land Ordinance of 1785, Northwest Ordinance of 1787

7. Explain the importance of the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance.

The World's Ugly Duckling

Know: Natchez, Dey of Algiers

8. Using examples, explain the title of this section.

The Horrid Specter of Anarchy

Know: Shay's Rebellion, Mobocracy

9. Were the United States of America in danger of falling apart under the Articles of Confederation? Explain.

A Convention of "Demigods"

Know: George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Patrick Henry

10. What kind of men gathered in Philadelphia for the "sole and express purpose of revising" the old government?

Patriots in Philadelphia

11. How does George Washington's quote, "We have, probably, had too good an opinion of human nature in forming our confederation." help to explain the purposes of our founding fathers.

Hammering out a Bundle of Compromises

Know: Virginia (large state) Plan, Bicameral Legislature, New Jersey (small state) Plan, Great Compromise, Electoral College, Three-fifths Compromise

12. Describe the compromises that were achieved by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

Safeguards for Conservatism

Know: Checks and Balances, Separation of Powers

13. How democratic was the Constitution as originally written?

The Clash of Federalists and Anti- federalists

Know: Anti- federalists, Federalists

14. Who were the anti- federalists and why did they oppose the Constitution?

The Great Debate in the States

15. Did most of the states approve of the Constitution? Why?

The Four Laggard States

Know: Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, James Madison, *The Federalist*

16. Explain some of the opposition to ratification of the Constitution?

A Conservative Triumph

17. What does your text mean when it says that the Constitution, "...elevated the ideals of the Revolution even while setting boundaries to them."