

Chapter 1 : Congress of the Confederation - Wikipedia

Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts-bay Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Contents[[change](#) [change source](#)] The Second Continental Congress wrote and passed the Articles of Confederation Even though the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution were created by many of the same people, the two documents were very different. The original five-paged Articles contained thirteen articles, a conclusion, and a section for signatures. The following list contains short summaries of each of the thirteen articles. The states have united "for their common defense, the security of their liberties , and their mutual and general [well-being], [coming together] to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them If a person commits a crime in one state and runs away to another state, and he is found, he will be extradited to the state where the crime happened, and tried there. Each state can bring a group of two to seven delegates to the Congress. Members of Congress cannot serve for more than three out of any six years. However, the Articles encouraged each state to have militias. Statue of an American militia man. The Articles encouraged each state to have militias 8 The United States will pay for things using money that the state legislatures will raise. Not every state will have to pay the same amount. States with higher property values will pay more. Canada is already approved, if it applies for membership. Congress of the Confederation[[change](#) [change source](#)] The Articles of Confederation created the Congress of the Confederation, which was formally named the "United States in Congress Assembled". It became the governing body of the United States. The Congress of the Confederation had both legislative and executive powers. This meant the Congress could make the laws and enforce the laws. The states sent delegates chosen from the state legislature. The states had one vote each. The Committee of the States was also created by the Articles of Confederation. It was also known as Council of State. It was meant to be the government when the Congress of the Confederation was not meeting. Each state had one member. The Committee had one meeting in [Articles of Confederation, page 1](#) [Articles of Confederation, page 2](#) [Articles of Confederation, page 3](#) [Articles of Confederation, page 4](#) [Articles of Confederation, page 5](#) [References](#)[[change](#) [change source](#)] R. Bernstein, "Parliamentary Principles, American Realities: Bowling and Donald R. Kennon pp 76â€” Burnett, Edmund Cody. Hoffert, A Politics of Tensions: The Intellectual Origins of the Constitution. Making the Declaration of Independence Main, Political Parties before the Constitution. Rakove, The Beginnings of National Politics: An Interpretive History of the Continental Congress Essays on the Formation of the Constitution. Jackson Barlow, Leonard W. Levy and Ken Masugi.

Chapter 2 : Articles of Confederation - HISTORY

On this day in , Maryland becomes the 13th and final state to ratify the Articles of Confederation, almost three years after the official deadline given by Congress of March 10,

That eighty copies, and no more, of the confederation, as brought in by the committee, be immediately printed, and deposited with the secretary, who shall deliver one copy to each member: That a committee be appointed to superintend the press, who shall take care that the foregoing resolution [Articles of Confederation]. That the printer be under oath to deliver all the copies, which he shall print, together with the copy sheet, to the secretary, and not to disclose either directly or indirectly, the contents of the said confederation: The small hamlet located on the west side of the Susquehanna River offered a protective natural barrier to British invasion. York had an underutilized courthouse readily available to be used to reconvene Congress in safety. Unlike Lancaster, where Congress had convened for a day, York offered numerous accommodations to house the delegates comfortably. It is now a long Time, since I had an Opportunity of writing to you, and I fear you have suffered unnecessary Anxiety on my Account. Merchant [Marchant] of Rhode Island, to Trenton in the jersies. We stayed at Trenton, until the From Easton We went to Bethlehem, from thence to Reading, from thence to Lancaster, and from thence to this Town, which is about a dozen Miles over the Susquehanna River. In order to convey the Papers, with safeties, which are of more Importance than all the Members, We were induced to take this Circuit, which is near Miles, whereas this Town by the directest Road is not more than 88 miles from Philadelphia. This Tour has given me an Opportunity of seeing many Parts of this Country, which I never saw before. Constitution, the Articles of Confederation. The letters of the delegates report that Congress typically met from 10 am to 1 pm and recessed until 4 pm. Committee duties, which were numerous, filled any remaining delegate free time. Tell my little ones, that if they will be very good, Pappa will come home. The atmosphere of dread could only be improved with the crafting of such a document which, despite what Carroll reported to his father. Only three other states, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Connecticut, voted with Laurens so the restrictive amendment became a part of the first constitution. This failure to separate the judicial duties of government from the legislative federal body plagued the United States until the enactment of the current U. He stood out time and time again, putting forth and supporting articles and ideas that attempted to forge 13 individual States into one unified nation. Laurens envisioned and worked diligently to form a constitution that empowered a new central government to act for the benefit of all states equally. The Franco-American Alliance, however, would require a constitutionally formed United States of America to enact such a treaty. Congress resumed the consideration of the 14 article of confederation, whereon it was moved to strike out the words "general officers" in the 24 line, and insert "all officers: It was then moved to strike out the next paragraph, and in the following paragraph, after the word "forces" to insert these words, "and commissioning all officers whatever. The president having taken leave of Congress. On motion, Ordered, That the secretary wait upon the president and request him to furnish the house with a copy of the speech with which he took leave of Congress. The Continental Congress Journals report: The vote was taken and with unanimous approval, he was elected the fourth President of a very festive Continental Congress. In his first letter to the 13 States, President Laurens declared: And I have it in command to transmit to you the inclosed extract from the minutes of Congress for that purpose. The constitutional deliberations resumed on the 10th, with the Delegates working until the morning of November 15th, , concluding the session with the passage of the Articles of Confederation. The federal government also had no power to regulate trade between the States. The national government would have to ask the States for money to wage war, establish federal departments, hire employees, maintain a judicial system and carry out the host of laws Congress passed to govern the new United States of America. The States were expected, in a most gentlemanly fashion, to comply with all constitutional requests, bequeathing the federal government with money and land to fund its national endeavors. The legislative, executive and judicial systems were all entrusted to one body: The Presidents and Commander-in-Chief accepted only expenses for their services. It was a furtive commune where all members pledged secrecy and service for God and the people of their respective States that were freely united and

desperately seeking peace. Establish the Sovereign States as one Sovereign nation ". Establish the freedom of citizens to pass freely between states, excluding "paupers, vagabonds, and fugitives from justice. If a crime were committed in one state and the perpetrator to flee to another state, the citizen would be extradited to and tried in the State in which the crime had been committed; V. Equality was established in the United States in Congress Assembled with only one vote to each State, regardless of size, but delegations might have from two to seven members. Only the USCA was permitted to conduct foreign relations and to declare war. No states were permitted to have navies or standing armies, or engage in war, without permission of USCA. State militias were encouraged; VII. When an Army was raised for common defense, colonels and military ranks below colonel were to be named by the state legislatures; VIII. Expenditures by the USCA were paid by funds raised by State legislatures and apportioned based on the real property values of each; IX. The ninth- article defined the powers of the central government: They also exact postage on the papers passing through the post office to defray the expenses of the bureau; USCA appoints all officers of the land forces, in the service of the United States, excepting regimental officers; USCA appoints all the officers of the naval forces, and commissions all officers whatever in the service of the United States; USCA makes rules for the government and regulation of the said land and naval forces, and direction of their operations; USCA serves as a final court for disputes between states; USCA defines a Committee of the States to be a government when Congress is not in session; USCA elects one of their members to preside, provided that no person be allowed to serve in the office of president more than one year in any term of three years X. Nine states required to approve the admission of a new state into the confederacy; pre-approves Canada, should it apply for membership; XII. Declares that the Articles of Confederation are perpetual, and can only be altered by approval of Congress with ratification by all the state legislatures. All 13 States were required to ratify the constitution before it would officially take effect. This measure, however, was heartily opposed by Virginia, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts who all had vast interior claims to the Northwest Territory. Maryland was alone but knowing that the constitution required state assembly ratification, its delegates approved the Articles of Confederation on November 15, The question of Northwest Territorial land claims was left to be considered by the individual state governments who were charged with the review and ratification of the Articles of Confederation. Continental Congress its conditions for ratification. We are convinced policy and justice require that a country unsettled at the commencement of this war, claimed by the British Crown, and ceded to it by the treaty of Paris, if wrested from the common enemy by the blood and the treasure of the 13 States, should be considered as a common property, subject to be parceled out by Congress into free, convenient, and independent governments, in such manner and at such times as the wisdom of that assembly shall hereafter direct. State claims on land east of the Mississippi River. On September 6, the U. Congress took into consideration the report of the committee to whom were referred the instructions of the general assembly of Maryland to their delegates in Congress, respecting the articles of confederation, and the declaration therein referred to, the act of the legislature of New York on the same subject, and the remonstrance of the general assembly of Virginia; which report was agreed to, and is in the words following:

On this day in , the Articles of Confederation are finally ratified. The Articles were signed by Congress and sent to the individual states for ratification on November 15, , after

February 2, Article summaries The Articles of Confederation contain a preamble , thirteen articles, a conclusion , and a signatory section. Under the Articles, the states retained sovereignty over all governmental functions not specifically relinquished to the national Congress, which was empowered to make war and peace, negotiate diplomatic and commercial agreements with foreign countries, and to resolve disputes between the states. The document also stipulates that its provisions "shall be inviolably observed by every state" and that " the Union shall be perpetual ". Summary of the purpose and content of each of the 13 articles: Establishes the name of the confederation with these words: If a crime is committed in one state and the perpetrator flees to another state, he will be extradited to and tried in the state in which the crime was committed. Allocates one vote in the Congress of the Confederation the "United States in Congress Assembled" to each state, which is entitled to a delegation of between two and seven members. Members of Congress are to be appointed by state legislatures. No congressman may serve more than three out of any six years. Only the central government may declare war, or conduct foreign political or commercial relations. No state or official may accept foreign gifts or titles, and granting any title of nobility is forbidden to all. No states may form any sub-national groups. No state may tax or interfere with treaty stipulations already proposed. No state may wage war without permission of Congress, unless invaded or under imminent attack on the frontier; no state may maintain a peacetime standing army or navy, unless infested by pirates, but every State is required to keep ready, a well-trained, disciplined, and equipped militia. Whenever an army is raised for common defense, the state legislatures shall assign military ranks of colonel and below. Expenditures by the United States of America will be paid with funds raised by state legislatures, and apportioned to the states in proportion to the real property values of each. Powers and functions of the United States in Congress Assembled. Grants to the United States in Congress assembled the sole and exclusive right and power to determine peace and war; to exchange ambassadors; to enter into treaties and alliances, with some provisos; to establish rules for deciding all cases of captures or prizes on land or water; to grant letters of marque and reprisal documents authorizing privateers in times of peace; to appoint courts for the trial of pirates and crimes committed on the high seas; to establish courts for appeals in all cases of captures , but no member of Congress may be appointed a judge; to set weights and measures including coins , and for Congress to serve as a final court for disputes between states. The court will be composed of jointly appointed commissioners or Congress shall appoint them. Each commissioner is bound by oath to be impartial. Congress shall regulate the post offices; appoint officers in the military; and regulate the armed forces. The United States in Congress assembled may appoint a president who shall not serve longer than one year per three-year term of the Congress. Congress may request requisitions demands for payments or supplies from the states in proportion with their population, or take credit. Congress may not declare war, enter into treaties and alliances, appropriate money, or appoint a commander in chief without nine states assented. Congress shall keep a journal of proceedings and adjourn for periods not to exceed six months. When Congress is in recess, any of the powers of Congress may be executed by "The committee of the states, or any nine of them", except for those powers of Congress which require nine states in Congress to execute. If "Canada" as the British-held Province of Quebec was also known accedes to this confederation, it will be admitted. Reaffirms that the Confederation accepts war debt incurred by Congress before the existence of the Articles. Declares that the Articles shall be perpetual, and may be altered only with the approval of Congress and the ratification of all the state legislatures. Congress under the Articles The Army Under the Articles, Congress had the authority to regulate and fund the Continental Army , but it lacked the power to compel the States to comply with requests for either troops or funding. This left the military vulnerable to inadequate funding, supplies, and even food. George Washington had been one of the very first proponents of a strong federal government. The army had nearly disbanded on several occasions during the winters of the war because of the weaknesses of the

Continental Congress. The delegates could not draft soldiers and had to send requests for regular troops and militia to the states. Congress had the right to order the production and purchase of provisions for the soldiers, but could not force anyone to supply them, and the army nearly starved in several winters of war. However Congress had no power to compel the states to fund this obligation, and as the war wound down after the victory at Yorktown the sense of urgency to support the military was no longer a factor. No progress was made in Congress during the winter of 1780. General Henry Knox, who would later become the first Secretary of War under the Constitution, blamed the weaknesses of the Articles for the inability of the government to fund the army. The army had long been supportive of a strong union. The army generally have always reprobated the idea of being thirteen armies. Their ardent desires have been to be one continental body looking up to one sovereign. It is a favorite toast in the army, "A hoop to the barrel" or "Cement to the Union". A very small national force was maintained to man the frontier forts and to protect against Native American attacks. Meanwhile, each of the states had an army or militia, and 11 of them had navies. The wartime promises of bounties and land grants to be paid for service were not being met. In 1783, George Washington defused the Newburgh conspiracy, but riots by unpaid Pennsylvania veterans forced Congress to leave Philadelphia temporarily. The Anti-Federalists claimed that state politicians understood their duty to the Union and contributed to advance its needs. This helps explain why the Articles of Confederation needed reforms. Afterward, the problem only got worse as Congress had no power to enforce attendance. Rarely did more than half of the roughly sixty delegates attend a session of Congress at the time, causing difficulties in raising a quorum. The resulting paralysis embarrassed and frustrated many American nationalists, including George Washington. Many of the most prominent national leaders, such as Washington, John Adams, John Hancock, and Benjamin Franklin, retired from public life, served as foreign delegates, or held office in state governments; and for the general public, local government and self-rule seemed quite satisfactory. In 1785, Thomas Jefferson, concerned over the failure of Congress to fund an American naval force to confront the Barbary pirates, wrote in a diplomatic correspondence to James Monroe that, "It will be said there is no money in the treasury. There never will be money in the treasury till the Confederacy shows its teeth. In this treaty, which was never ratified, the United States was to give up rights to use the Mississippi River for 25 years, which would have economically strangled the settlers west of the Appalachian Mountains. The Confederation Congress could make decisions, but lacked enforcement powers. Implementation of most decisions, including modifications to the Articles, required unanimous approval of all thirteen state legislatures. The states often failed to meet these requests in full, leaving both Congress and the Continental Army chronically short of money. As more money was printed by Congress, the continental dollars depreciated. In 1786, George Washington wrote to John Jay, who was serving as the president of the Continental Congress, "that a wagon load of money will scarcely purchase a wagon load of provisions. In an appeal to the States to comply, Jay wrote that the taxes were "the price of liberty, the peace, and the safety of yourselves and posterity. Congress had also been denied the power to regulate either foreign trade or interstate commerce and, as a result, all of the States maintained control over their own trade policies. The states and the Confederation Congress both incurred large debts during the Revolutionary War, and how to repay those debts became a major issue of debate following the War. Some States paid off their war debts and others did not. Accomplishments This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. February Further information: The Land Ordinance of 1785 and Northwest Ordinance created territorial government, set up protocols for the admission of new states and the division of land into useful units, and set aside land in each township for public use. This system represented a sharp break from imperial colonization, as in Europe, and it established the precedent by which the national later, federal government would be sovereign and expand westward—as opposed to the existing states doing so under their sovereignty. Frontier lands were surveyed into the now-familiar squares of land called the township 36 square miles, the section one square mile, and the quarter section acres. This system was carried forward to most of the States west of the Mississippi excluding areas of Texas and California that had already been surveyed and divided up by the Spanish Empire. Then, when the Homestead Act was enacted in 1862, the quarter section became the basic unit of land that was granted to new settler-farmers. The Northwest

Ordinance of noted the agreement of the original states to give up northwestern land claims , organized the Northwest Territory and laid the groundwork for the eventual creation of new states. The Northwest Ordinance of also made great advances in the abolition of slavery. New states admitted to the union in this territory would never be slave states. No new states were admitted to the Union under the Articles of Confederation. The Articles provided for a blanket acceptance of the Province of Quebec referred to as "Canada" in the Articles into the United States if it chose to do so. It did not, and the subsequent Constitution carried no such special provision of admission. Additionally, ordinances to admit Frankland later modified to Franklin , Kentucky , and Vermont to the Union were considered, but none were approved. Presidents of Congress Further information: President of the Continental Congress Under the Articles of Confederation, the presiding officer of Congressâ€”referred to in many official records as President of the United States in Congress Assembledâ€”chaired the Committee of the States when Congress was in recess, and performed other administrative functions. He was not, however, an executive in the way the later President of the United States is a chief executive, since all of the functions he executed were under the direct control of Congress. The first, Samuel Huntington , had been serving as president of the Continental Congress since September 28,

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Articles of Confederation, The Articles of Confederation served as the written document that established the functions of the national government of the United States after it declared independence from Great Britain.

Visit Website The impetus for an effective central government lay in wartime urgency, the need for foreign recognition and aid, and the growth of national feeling. Altogether six drafts of the Articles were prepared before Congress settled on a final version in 1777. Benjamin Franklin wrote the first and presented it to Congress in July. It was never formally considered. None of these drafts contributed significantly to the fourth version written by John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, the text that after much revision provided the basis for the Articles approved by Congress. Dickinson prepared his draft in June; it was revised by a committee of Congress and discussed in late July and August. In November the final Articles, much altered by this long deliberative process, were approved for submission to the states. By 1781 all the states had approved it except Maryland, but prospects for acceptance looked bleak, because claims to western lands by other states set Maryland in inflexible opposition. Maryland also supported the demands because nearby Virginia would clearly dominate its neighbor should its claims be accepted. Not all issues had been settled with ratification, however. A disagreement over the appointment of taxes forecast the division over slavery in the Constitutional Convention. With large numbers of slaves, the southern states opposed this requirement, arguing that taxes should be based on the number of white inhabitants. In the middle of the war, Congress had little time and less desire to take action on such matters as the slave trade and fugitive slaves, both issues receiving much attention in the Constitutional Convention. Its revenue would come from the states, each contributing according to the value of privately owned land within its borders. But Congress would exercise considerable powers: Decisions on certain specified matters—making war, entering treaties, regulating coinage, for example—required the assent of nine states in Congress, and all others required a majority. Although the states remained sovereign and independent, no state was to impose restrictions on the trade or the movement of citizens of another state not imposed on its own. Movement across state lines was not to be restricted. To amend the Articles the legislatures of all thirteen states would have to agree. This provision, like many in the Articles, indicated that powerful provincial loyalties and suspicions of central authority persisted. In the so-called Critical Period state actions powerfully affected politics and economic life. For the most part, business prospered and the economy grew. Expansion into the West proceeded and population increased. National problems persisted, however, as American merchants were barred from the British West Indies and the British army continued to hold posts in the Old Northwest, American territory under the Treaty of Paris. These circumstances contributed to a sense that constitutional revision was imperative. Still, national feeling grew slowly in the 1780s, although major efforts to amend the Articles in order to give Congress the power to tax failed in 1788 and 1791. The year after the failure of 1791, the Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia and effectively closed the history of government under the Articles of Confederation. Eric Foner and John A. Start your free trial today.

Chapter 5 : Proposed Amendment of Articles of Confederation, [12 March]

The original States finally ratified the Articles of Confederation on MARCH 1, The Articles of Confederation were fully in effect as the government of the United States for over 6 years. After Daniel Shay led 4, in Shay's Rebellion, , almost toppling the government of Massachusetts, it became apparent that the Federal.

Combat ended in October , with the surrender of the British after the Siege and Battle of Yorktown. The British, however, continued to occupy New York City, while the American delegates in Paris, named by the Congress, negotiated the terms of peace with Great Britain. This formally ended the American Revolutionary War between Great Britain and the thirteen former colonies , which on July 4, , had declared independence. On December 23, at the Maryland State House , where the Congress met in the Old Senate Chamber, he addressed the civilian leaders and delegates of Congress and returned to them the signed commission they had voted him back in June , at the beginning of the conflict. With that simple gesture of acknowledging the first civilian power over the military, he took his leave and returned by horseback the next day to his home and family at Mount Vernon near the colonial river port city on the Potomac River at Alexandria in Virginia. On March 1, , the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union were signed by delegates of Maryland at a meeting of the Second Continental Congress , which then declared the Articles ratified. As historian Edmund Burnett wrote, "There was no new organization of any kind, not even the election of a new President. Nevertheless, despite its being generally the same exact governing body, with some changes in membership over the years as delegates came and went individually according to their own personal reasons and upon instructions of their state governments, some modern historians would later refer to the Continental Congress after the ratification of the Articles as the Congress of the Confederation or the Confederation Congress. The Congress itself continued to refer to itself at the time as the Continental Congress. The Congress had little power and without the external threat of a war against the British, it became more difficult to get enough delegates to meet to form a quorum. Nonetheless the Congress still managed to pass important laws, most notably the Northwest Ordinance of The War of Independence saddled the country with an enormous debt. The certificates were non-interest bearing notes issued for supplies purchased or impressed, and to pay soldiers and officers. Without revenue, except for meager voluntary state requisitions, Congress could not even pay the interest on its outstanding debt. Meanwhile, the states regularly failed, or refused, to meet the requisitions requested of them by Congress. The later Annapolis Convention with some additional state representatives joining in the sessions first attempted to look into improving the earlier original Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union. There were enough problems to bear further discussion and deliberation that the Convention called for a wider meeting to recommend changes and meet the next year in the late Spring of in Philadelphia. The Confederation Congress itself endorsed the Call and issued one on its own further inviting the states to send delegates. After meeting in secret all summer in the Old Pennsylvania State House now having acquired the nickname and new title of Independence Hall , from the famous action here eleven years earlier. The Philadelphia Convention , under the presidency of former General George Washington instead of a series of amendments, or altering the old charter, issued a proposed new Constitution for the United States to replace the " Articles. The Confederation Congress received and submitted the new Constitution document to the states, and the Constitution was later ratified by enough states nine were required to become operative in June On September 12, , the Confederation Congress set the date for choosing the new Electors in the Electoral College that was set up for choosing a President as January 7, , the date for the Electors to vote for the President as on February 4, , and the date for the Constitution to become operative as March 4, , when the new Congress of the United States should convene, and that they at a later date set the time and place for the Inauguration of the new first President of the United States. The Congress of the Confederation continued to conduct business for another month after setting the various dates. On October 10, , the Congress formed a quorum for the last time; afterwards, although delegates would occasionally appear, there were never enough to officially conduct business. The last meeting of the Continental Congress was held March 2, , two days before the new Constitutional government took over; only one member was present at

said meeting, Philip Pell , an ardent Anti-Federalist and opponent of the Constitution, who was accompanied by the Congressional secretary. Pell oversaw the meeting and adjourned the Congress sine die. Meeting sites[edit] Rather than having a fixed capital, the Congress of the Confederation met in numerous locations which may be considered United States capitals.

The Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States, on November 15, However, ratification of the Articles of Confederation by all thirteen states did not occur until March 1,

The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever. The better to secure and perpetuate mutual friendship and intercourse among the people of the different States in this Union, the free inhabitants of each of these States, paupers, vagabonds, and fugitives from justice excepted, shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of free citizens in the several States; and the people of each State shall free ingress and regress to and from any other State, and shall enjoy therein all the privileges of trade and commerce, subject to the same duties, impositions, and restrictions as the inhabitants thereof respectively, provided that such restrictions shall not extend so far as to prevent the removal of property imported into any State, to any other State, of which the owner is an inhabitant; provided also that no imposition, duties or restriction shall be laid by any State, on the property of the United States, or either of them. If any person guilty of, or charged with, treason, felony, or other high misdemeanor in any State, shall flee from justice, and be found in any of the United States, he shall, upon demand of the Governor or executive power of the State from which he fled, be delivered up and removed to the State having jurisdiction of his offense. Full faith and credit shall be given in each of these States to the records, acts, and judicial proceedings of the courts and magistrates of every other State. For the most convenient management of the general interests of the United States, delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the legislatures of each State shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year, with a power reserved to each State to recall its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their stead for the remainder of the year. No State shall be represented in Congress by less than two, nor more than seven members; and no person shall be capable of being a delegate for more than three years in any term of six years; nor shall any person, being a delegate, be capable of holding any office under the United States, for which he, or another for his benefit, receives any salary, fees or emolument of any kind. Each State shall maintain its own delegates in a meeting of the States, and while they act as members of the committee of the States. In determining questions in the United States in Congress assembled, each State shall have one vote. Freedom of speech and debate in Congress shall not be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Congress, and the members of Congress shall be protected in their persons from arrests or imprisonments, during the time of their going to and from, and attendance on Congress, except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace. No State, without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, shall send any embassy to, or receive any embassy from, or enter into any conference, agreement, alliance or treaty with any King, Prince or State; nor shall any person holding any office of profit or trust under the United States, or any of them, accept any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatever from any King, Prince or foreign State; nor shall the United States in Congress assembled, or any of them, grant any title of nobility. No two or more States shall enter into any treaty, confederation or alliance whatever between them, without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, specifying accurately the purposes for which the same is to be entered into, and how long it shall continue. No State shall lay any imposts or duties, which may interfere with any stipulations in treaties, entered into by the United States in Congress assembled, with any King, Prince or State, in pursuance of any treaties already proposed by Congress, to the courts of France and Spain. No vessel of war shall be kept up in time of peace by any State, except such number only, as shall be deemed necessary by the United States in Congress assembled, for the defense of such State, or its trade; nor shall any body of forces be kept up by any State in time of peace, except such number only, as in the judgement of the United States in Congress assembled, shall be deemed requisite to garrison the forts necessary for the defense of such State; but every State shall always keep up a well-regulated and disciplined militia, sufficiently armed and accoutered, and

shall provide and constantly have ready for use, in public stores, a due number of filed pieces and tents, and a proper quantity of arms, ammunition and camp equipage. When land forces are raised by any State for the common defense, all officers of or under the rank of colonel, shall be appointed by the legislature of each State respectively, by whom such forces shall be raised, or in such manner as such State shall direct, and all vacancies shall be filled up by the State which first made the appointment. All charges of war, and all other expenses that shall be incurred for the common defense or general welfare, and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled, shall be defrayed out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several States in proportion to the value of all land within each State, granted or surveyed for any person, as such land and the buildings and improvements thereon shall be estimated according to such mode as the United States in Congress assembled, shall from time to time direct and appoint. The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several States within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled. The United States in Congress assembled shall also be the last resort on appeal in all disputes and differences now subsisting or that hereafter may arise between two or more States concerning boundary, jurisdiction or any other causes whatever; which authority shall always be exercised in the manner following. Whenever the legislative or executive authority or lawful agent of any State in controversy with another shall present a petition to Congress stating the matter in question and praying for a hearing, notice thereof shall be given by order of Congress to the legislative or executive authority of the other State in controversy, and a day assigned for the appearance of the parties by their lawful agents, who shall then be directed to appoint by joint consent, commissioners or judges to constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in question: All controversies concerning the private right of soil claimed under different grants of two or more States, whose jurisdictions as they may respect such lands, and the States which passed such grants are adjusted, the said grants or either of them being at the same time claimed to have originated antecedent to such settlement of jurisdiction, shall on the petition of either party to the Congress of the United States, be finally determined as near as may be in the same manner as is before prescribed for deciding disputes respecting territorial jurisdiction between different States. But if the United States in Congress assembled shall, on consideration of circumstances judge proper that any State should not raise men, or should raise a smaller number of men than the quota thereof, such extra number shall be raised, officered, cloathed, armed and equipped in the same manner as the quota of each State, unless the legislature of such State shall judge that such extra number cannot be safely spread out in the same, in which case they shall raise, officer, cloath, arm and equip as many of such extra number as they judge can be safely spared. And the officers and men so cloathed, armed, and equipped, shall march to the place appointed, and within the time agreed on by the United States in Congress assembled. The United States in Congress assembled shall never engage in a war, nor grant letters of marque or reprisal in time of peace, nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expenses necessary for the defense and welfare of the United States, or any of them, nor emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the United States, nor appropriate money, nor agree upon the number of vessels of war, to be built or purchased, or the number of land or sea forces to be raised, nor appoint a commander in chief of the army or navy, unless nine States assent to the same: The Congress of the United States shall have power to adjourn to any time within the year, and to any place within the United States, so that no period of adjournment be for a longer duration than the space of six months, and shall publish the journal of their proceedings monthly, except such parts thereof relating to treaties, alliances or military operations, as in their judgement require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the delegates of each State on any question shall be entered on the journal, when it is desired by any delegates of a State, or any of them, at his or their request shall be furnished with a transcript of the said journal, except such parts as are above excepted, to lay before the legislatures of the several States. The Committee of the States, or any nine of them, shall be authorized to execute, in the recess of Congress, such of the powers of Congress as the United States in Congress assembled, by the consent of the nine States, shall from time to time think expedient to vest them with; provided that no power be delegated to the said Committee, for the exercise of which, by the Articles of Confederation, the voice of nine States in the Congress of the United States assembled be requisite. Canada acceding to this confederation, and adjoining in

the measures of the United States, shall be admitted into, and entitled to all the advantages of this Union; but no other colony shall be admitted into the same, unless such admission be agreed to by nine States. All bills of credit emitted, monies borrowed, and debts contracted by, or under the authority of Congress, before the assembling of the United States, in pursuance of the present confederation, shall be deemed and considered as a charge against the United States, for payment and satisfaction whereof the said United States, and the public faith are hereby solemnly pledged. Every State shall abide by the determination of the United States in Congress assembled, on all questions which by this confederation are submitted to them. And the Articles of this Confederation shall be inviolably observed by every State, and the Union shall be perpetual; nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them; unless such alteration be agreed to in a Congress of the United States, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of every State. And Whereas it hath pleased the Great Governor of the World to incline the hearts of the legislatures we respectively represent in Congress, to approve of, and to authorize us to ratify the said Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union. Know Ye that we the undersigned delegates, by virtue of the power and authority to us given for that purpose, do by these presents, in the name and in behalf of our respective constituents, fully and entirely ratify and confirm each and every of the said Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union, and all and singular the matters and things therein contained: And we do further solemnly plight and engage the faith of our respective constituents, that they shall abide by the determinations of the United States in Congress assembled, on all questions, which by the said Confederation are submitted to them. And that the Articles thereof shall be inviolably observed by the States we respectively represent, and that the Union shall be perpetual. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands in Congress. Government Printing Office,

Chapter 7 : Milestones: “ - Office of the Historian

The Articles of Confederation came into force on March 1, , after being ratified by all 13 states. A guiding principle of the Articles was to preserve the independence and sovereignty of the states.

The Congress, consisting of delegates appointed by the legislatures of the 13 colonies, had been meeting since April. It had created an army and navy, waged war against the British, sent ambassadors to foreign countries, created a post office, and printed money to pay for it all. But, it had done so without any written authority, as a matter of necessity. As the states were drafting state constitutions, Congress would draft a national charter. On June 12, , Congress appointed a committee, consisting of one delegate from each colony, "to prepare and digest the form of a confederation". On July 4, , Congress declared independence, and the colonies became states. Eight days later, the committee reported a first draft of the Articles of Confederation. Then matters slowed down. Confederation was complicated and contentious. Congress debated the Articles through July and August , and then from April to June , and finally finished in October and November. Four main issues agitated Congress: Should the powers of the national government be broadly or narrowly defined? How should the expenses of the national government be apportioned among the states? Should large states have more representation in Congress than small states? Should the national government assume ownership and control of land west of the Appalachians? By the time Congress took up the remaining issues, it had been driven from Philadelphia by the British, and settled in the county courthouse of York, Pennsylvania below. In October, , Congress considered the matter of expenses. No one wanted the national government to have the power to impose taxes. The delegates had had enough bad experience with the British government imposing taxes from afar. So, national expenses would need to be apportioned among the states. The states would impose their own taxes, as they thought best, and forward money to Congress. But, how should expenses be apportioned? One obvious answer was population, but this forced the question of whether to count the enslaved. However one felt about slavery, it was hard to deny that enslaved persons generated less wealth than free persons. And in any case, there had been no census, so no one knew how many people lived in each state. Another possibility was wealth, either land wealth or total wealth. States already assessed land to collect property taxes. The matter of representation was equally and obviously contentious. But each state had one vote in the Continental Congress, and this ensured that the smaller states had enough power to retain that rule in the Confederation. Congress voted down a proportional representation scheme with one state divided on October 7, . They also voted down , on the same day, a motion to make representation proportional to taxation. Argument then moved to control over the West. Virginia had a claim, under its colonial charter, to a huge sweep of unsettled territory in what is now Kentucky and the upper Midwest. Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York had claims to wide bands of land which overlapped that of Virginia. North Carolina and Georgia had extensive claims in the Southwest. These states wanted to maintain their claims so that they could eventually either sell the land, or award it to veterans in lieu of cash bounties. Other states had defined western limits. They had no wish to see the claimant states aggrandize and enrich themselves in such a manner. The original draft of the Articles gave Congress power to set state boundaries and administer and sell the leftovers. The states would retain their charter claims. The last word on this issue had not been heard, however; see Ratification. On most issues, Congress went with the status quo. The Articles did not so much craft a new plan of government, as to codify what Congress was already doing. A single-house Congress, with each state having one vote, would manage war, foreign affairs, and the post office, and ask the states for money. With the major issues settled, Congress appointed another committee to arrange the Articles in their final form. Congress unanimously approved the final Articles of Confederation on November 15, , and sent them to the states for ratification. He almost single-handedly produced the first draft of the Articles in June , and much of his language survived into the final document. There was one hitch“John Dickinson opposed independence for the United States! Dickinson was born in Maryland in . As a young man, he studied law in Philadelphia and London. The Pennsylvania legislature elected Dickinson to the Continental Congress in . He completed his draft in a few days in June . But, however he might complain about British misrule, Dickinson could not abide

a break with the Mother Country. His draft Articles referred to the States as Colonies, and Dickinson wished that they would remain so. He walked out of Congress on July 2, 1776, as that body prepared to vote for independence. Pennsylvania stripped him of his seat on July 2. He was not around to defend his draft in debate, and Congress overrode him on several important points see left. He served as an officer in the Pennsylvania militia after leaving Congress. Nor did his walkout mark the end of his political career. Dickinson owned a plantation in Delaware as well as his city house in Philadelphia, and the legislature of Delaware returned him to the Continental Congress in 1776. He became the only member to sit for more than one state. Later on Dickinson served as President in modern terms, Governor of both Pennsylvania and Delaware, and for a brief period, held both offices at the same time. His tenure as President of Pennsylvania was not a happy one. See The Wandering Congress. Congress demanded that Dickinson call out the state militia to block the rebellious federal troops. Dickinson refused, fearing the militia would be as likely to back the soldiers as to fight them. He served as a Delaware delegate in the Convention which drafted the COTUS of 1787, and also presided over a convention to rewrite the Delaware constitution. He died in 1798. Milton Flower, John Dickinson: Ten states ratified with relatively little controversy between December and April. Even so, the legislatures of those states could not resist proposing amendments. Some authorized their delegates to sign the Articles only after their amendments were considered. Congress took up the proposed amendments between June 22 and 25, 1777. In machine-gun fashion the delegates shot down the three Maryland amendments, as well as 33 others proposed by 5 states. The Maryland amendment on western lands came closest to passing, drawing 5 yes, 6 no, and one state divided. The delegates from eight states thereafter signed the Articles, as written, on July 9, 1777. Georgia and North Carolina, delayed by absences, added their signatures later in the month. Maryland refused to ratify without satisfaction on the western lands, and for a time Delaware and New Jersey backed her. New Jersey gave up and ratified in November and Delaware in February, 1778, and still Maryland held out. Wealthy individuals in Maryland and other states had invested in land companies, which had either purchased land in the Northwest directly from American Indians, or been granted land by the British Crown. If Virginia or another state controlled the Northwest, these grants would be worthless. If Congress controlled the Northwest, Maryland might persuade Congress to honor the grants. So Maryland held out. Eventually, in January 1778, Virginia ceded its claim to the Northwest—but on condition that Congress not honor prior purchases or grants. New York and Connecticut indicated their willingness to cede their claims as well. Even the French ambassador weighed in, hinting that France would be more likely to honor endless American requests for money and military assistance if France were dealing with one government instead of many. Finally, on January 27 and 30, the two houses of the Maryland legislature ratified. Her delegates signed the Articles of Confederation on March 1, 1778, completing ratification. The land issue was left in the hands of Congress.

Chapter 8 : What happened on March 1

Articles of Confederation, March 1, On June 7, , Richard Henry Lee of Virginia made a motion in the Second Continental Congress that the colonies be independent from Great Britain. Committees were appointed to draft a declaration of independence, to open discussion with foreign countries, and to draft a form of confederation.

Ratified on March 1, , the Articles of Confederation were the first constitution of the United States. Committees were appointed to draft a declaration of independence, to open discussion with foreign countries, and to draft a form of confederation. Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, , but continued to debate a constitution for the colonies until November 15, , when the Articles of Confederation were approved. The Articles were then sent to the state legislatures for their unanimous ratification, which was not achieved until March 1, . The Articles created a loose confederation of sovereign states with a very weak central government. Most of the governing power was retained by the governments of individual states. Each state legislature determined how to elect up to seven delegates to represent it in Congress and each state, regardless of size or population, had one vote in the Confederation Congress. The only powers granted to Congress were the ability to declare war and make peace, to negotiate with foreign countries, to supervise affairs with Native Americans, and to appoint United States military and naval officers. Congress could also determine the value of coins and fix the standards of weights and balances and manage the postal service. The national government was not allowed powers not explicitly granted it, and this weak structure of central government led to numerous problems, which became more evident as time passed. Limited in its abilities and governmental authority, Congress was unable to conduct business without the deliberate support of the states. The inability of Congress to fund the national debt and enforce the treaty of eventually led to calls for reforms to the Articles of Confederation, which culminated in the Constitutional Convention of .

How many states were united under the Articles of Confederation? Why would a printer in Virginia have printed a copy of the Articles? Think about who would have wanted copies of the Articles and where they would have gotten their copies. What motivated the choices that the drafters of the Articles of Confederation made in creating this new government? What were they attempting to achieve? What did they want to avoid? Compare this document to the Declaration of Independence. How did the ideas in the Declaration inform the creation of the Articles?

Chapter 9 : Drafting the Articles of Confederation

The Second Continental Congress met for the first time in Philadelphia in May of , and continued to meet until the full ratification of the Articles of Confederation on March 1,

For more information, please see the full notice. Articles of Confederation, " The Articles of Confederation served as the written document that established the functions of the national government of the United States after it declared independence from Great Britain. It established a weak central government that mostly, but not entirely, prevented the individual states from conducting their own foreign diplomacy. The Articles of Confederation The Albany Plan an earlier, pre-independence attempt at joining the colonies into a larger union, had failed in part because the individual colonies were concerned about losing power to another central institution. As the American Revolution gained momentum, however, many political leaders saw the advantages of a centralized government that could coordinate the Revolutionary War. In June of , the New York provincial Congress sent a plan of union to the Continental Congress, which, like the Albany Plan, continued to recognize the authority of the British Crown. Some Continental Congress delegates had also informally discussed plans for a more permanent union than the Continental Congress, whose status was temporary. Franklin introduced his plan before Congress on July 21, but stated that it should be viewed as a draft for when Congress was interested in reaching a more formal proposal. Congress tabled the plan. Following the Declaration of Independence, the members of the Continental Congress realized it would be necessary to set up a national government. Congress began to discuss the form this government would take on July 22, disagreeing on a number of issues, including whether representation and voting would be proportional or state-by-state. The disagreements delayed final discussions of confederation until October of . By then, the British capture of Philadelphia had made the issue more urgent. Delegates finally formulated the Articles of Confederation, in which they agreed to state-by-state voting and proportional state tax burdens based on land values, though they left the issue of state claims to western lands unresolved. Congress sent the Articles to the states for ratification at the end of November. Most delegates realized that the Articles were a flawed compromise, but believed that it was better than an absence of formal national government. On December 16, , Virginia was the first state to ratify. Other states ratified during the early months of . The Articles required unanimous approval from the states. These smaller states wanted other states to relinquish their western land claims before they would ratify the Articles. This left Maryland as the last remaining holdout. Meanwhile, in , British forces began to conduct raids on Maryland communities in the Chesapeake Bay. Luzerne wrote back, urging the government of Maryland to ratify the Articles of Confederation. Marylanders were given further incentive to ratify when Virginia agreed to relinquish its western land claims, and so the Maryland legislature ratified the Articles of Confederation on March 1, . Livingston as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. A further Act of Feb 22, , allowed the Secretary to ask and respond to questions during sessions of the Continental Congress. The Articles created a sovereign, national government, and, as such, limited the rights of the states to conduct their own diplomacy and foreign policy. However, this proved difficult to enforce, as the national government could not prevent the state of Georgia from pursuing its own independent policy regarding Spanish Florida, attempting to occupy disputed territories and threatening war if Spanish officials did not work to curb Indian attacks or refrain from harboring escaped slaves. Nor could the Confederation government prevent the landing of convicts that the British Government continued to export to its former colonies. In addition, the Articles did not allow Congress sufficient authority to enforce provisions of the Treaty of Paris that allowed British creditors to sue debtors for pre-Revolutionary debts, an unpopular clause that many state governments chose to ignore. Consequently, British forces continued to occupy forts in the Great Lakes region. This led to the Constitutional Convention that formulated the current Constitution of the United States.