

## Objectives

- Discuss the ideas that guided the new state governments.
- Describe the government under the Articles of Confederation.
- Explain the Ordinances of 1785 and 1787 and their importance to westward expansion.
- Identify the problems created by a weak central government.



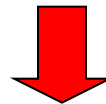
## Terms and People

- **constitution** – document stating the rules under which a government will operate
- **executive** – person who runs the government and sees that the laws are carried out
- **economic depression** – period when business activity slows, prices and wages drop, and unemployment rises
- **Daniel Shays** – army veteran and Massachusetts farmer who led an uprising to protest economic conditions



## What were the major successes and failures of the government under the Articles of Confederation?

With independence came a new nation and a new form of government.

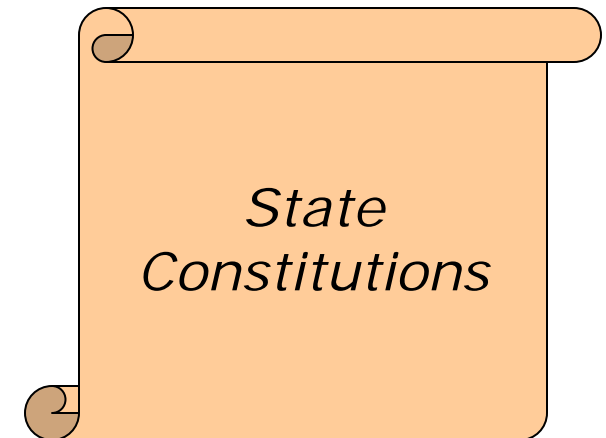


As troubles plagued the country, many feared their new government had created new problems.

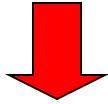
Even before independence was won, many colonies—now states—began to create new state governments.



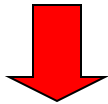
In most states, the problems colonists had experienced with Britain helped shape the new state **constitutions**.



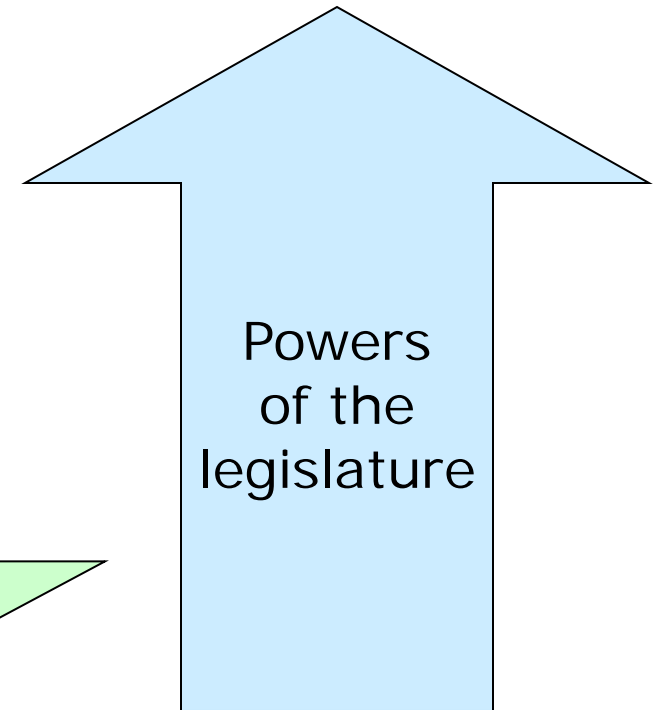
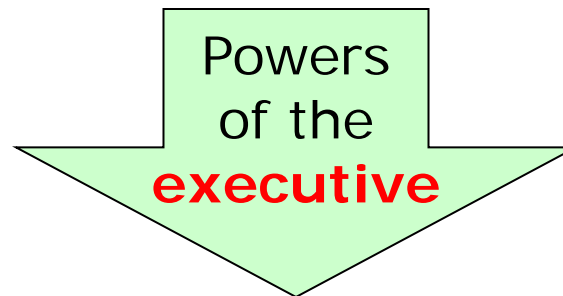
Colonists believed the king had abused his powers.



For this reason, the states gave few powers to the governor.



**Most powers went to legislatures elected by the people.**



**Most states allowed more people to vote than in colonial times.**

### **Voter Qualifications**

- White
- Male
- Over 21
- Property ownership

Still, African Americans and women were not allowed to vote in almost all the states.

To make sure that people's rights would not be abused again, many states included a bill of rights in their constitutions.

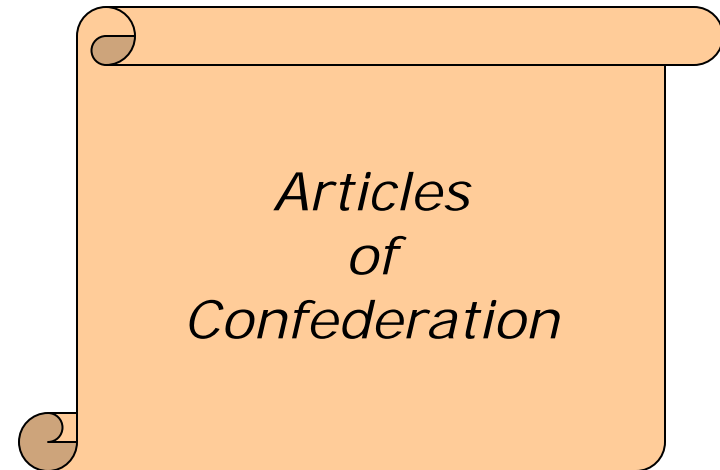
### ***Virginia Bill of Rights***

Freedom of Religion  
Freedom of the Press  
Trial by Jury  
Limits on Searches  
Limits on Arrests  
No Cruel and Unusual Punishment

**While the states were writing new constitutions, so was the Continental Congress.**

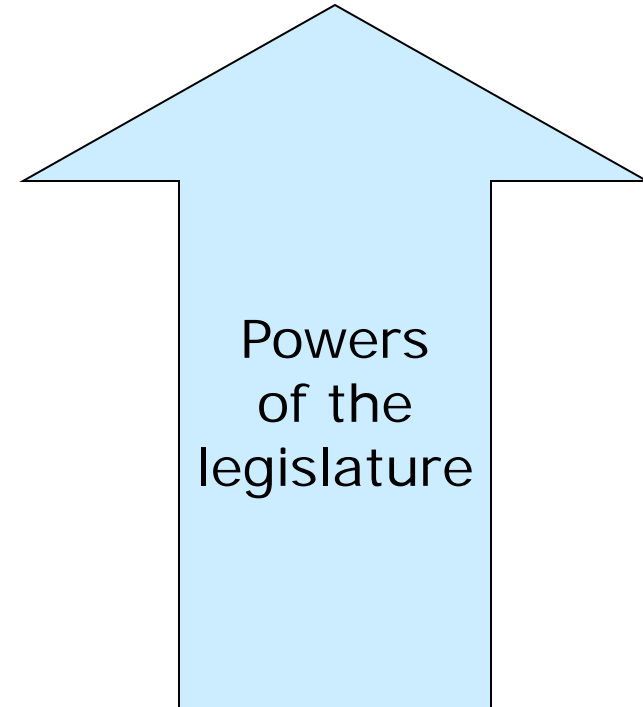


In 1777, the Congress adopted a new plan of government for the nation: **the Articles of Confederation**.



Many of the concerns about colonial rule that shaped the new state constitutions also shaped the Articles of Confederation.

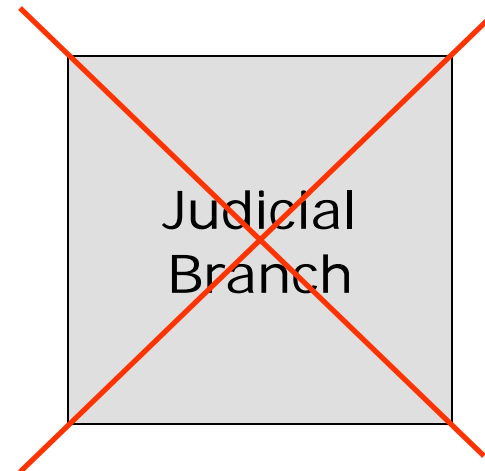
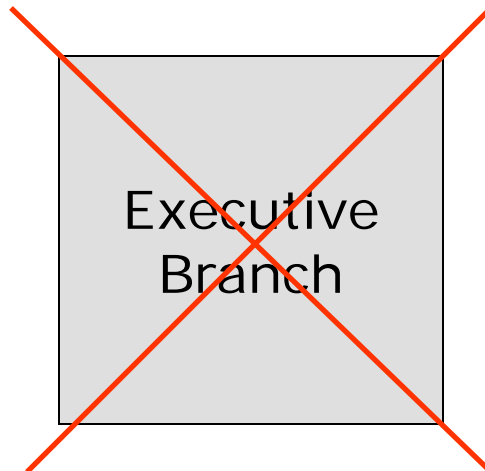
Under the Articles, the powers of the central government were given to Congress—a legislature elected by the people.



In fact, the legislature was the *only* branch of government created by the Articles.

There was **no chief executive**.

There were **no national courts**.



**To make sure the new legislature did not become too strong, its powers were limited.**

**Powers given  
to Congress**

- deal with foreign countries
- deal with Native Americans
- make laws
- declare war
- coin or borrow money
- run a postal service

Even more important than the powers given to Congress, however, were the powers *not* given to Congress.

**Powers *not*  
given to  
Congress**

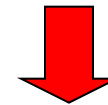
- regulate trade
- collect taxes

Congress was forced to depend on the states when it needed money. This **weakened the central government** and **gave considerable power to the states**.

# Western Land Claims

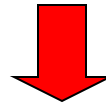


Some states refused to approve the Articles until other states gave up their claims to lands in the west.



Finally, the Articles were approved, and the land was turned over to the national government.

The western lands were very valuable and in great demand.



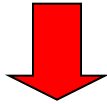
To provide for the sale and settlement of these lands, Congress passed two new laws.

**The Land  
Ordinance of  
1785**

**The Northwest  
Ordinance of  
1787**

## Land Ordinance of 1785

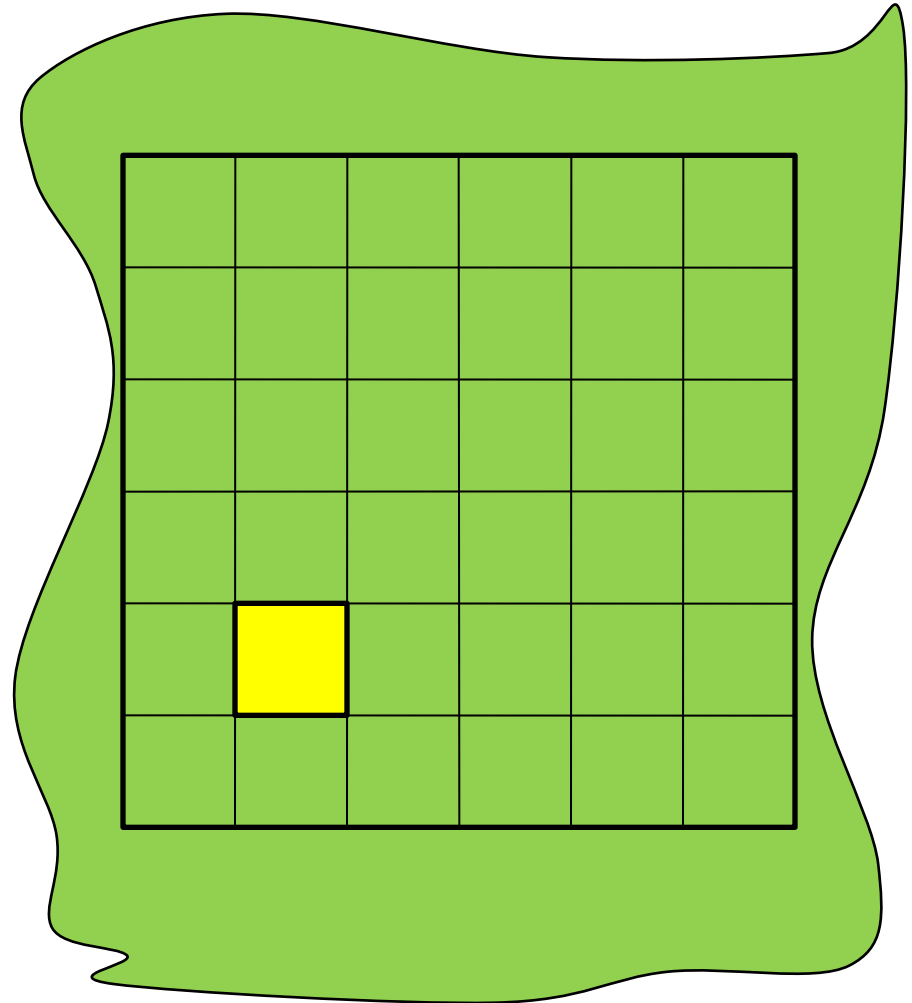
Lands would be divided into townships.



Townships would be divided into sections.



Each section would be sold piece by piece.



Within each township, one section would be set aside for schools.



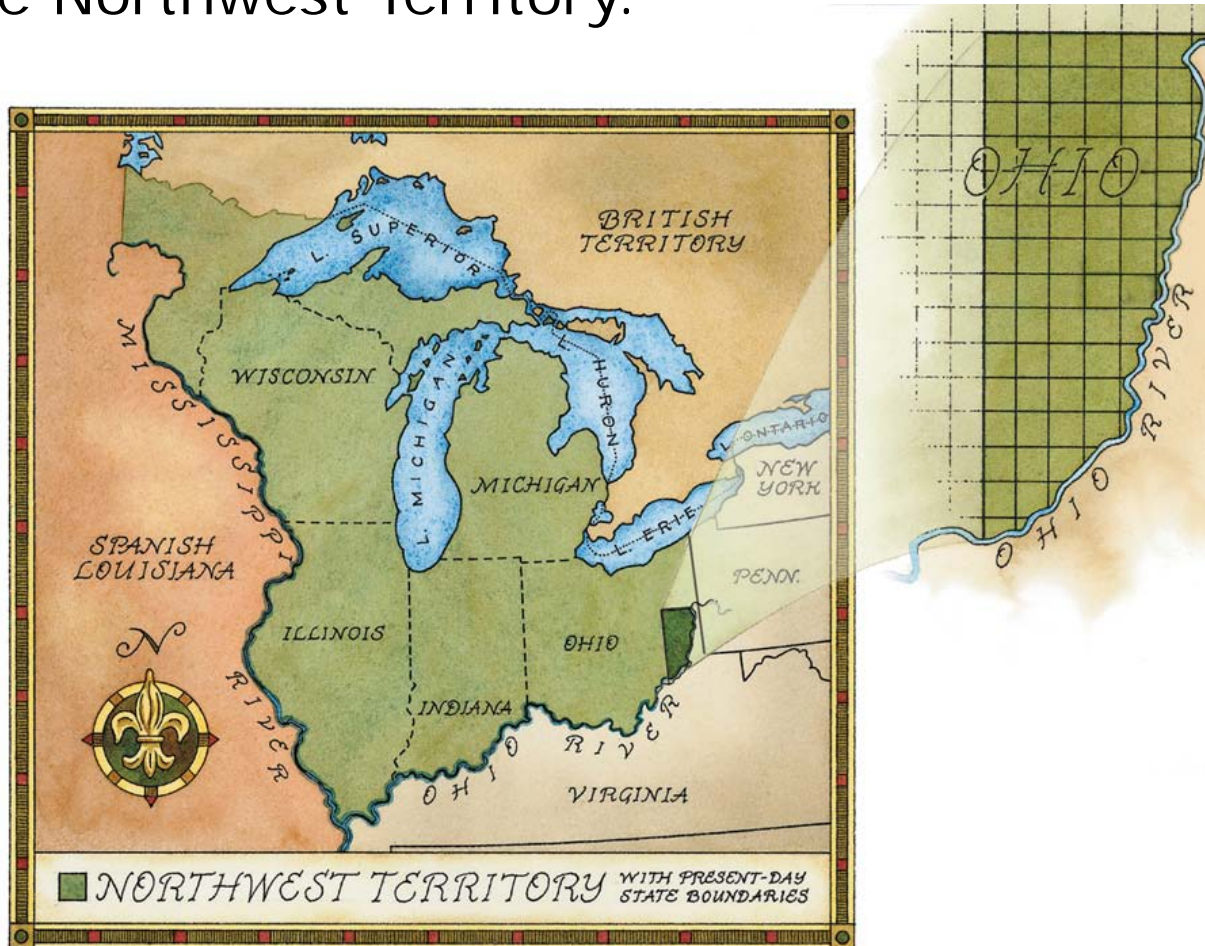
**The nation's  
leaders  
believed that  
democracy  
could not  
survive without  
education.**



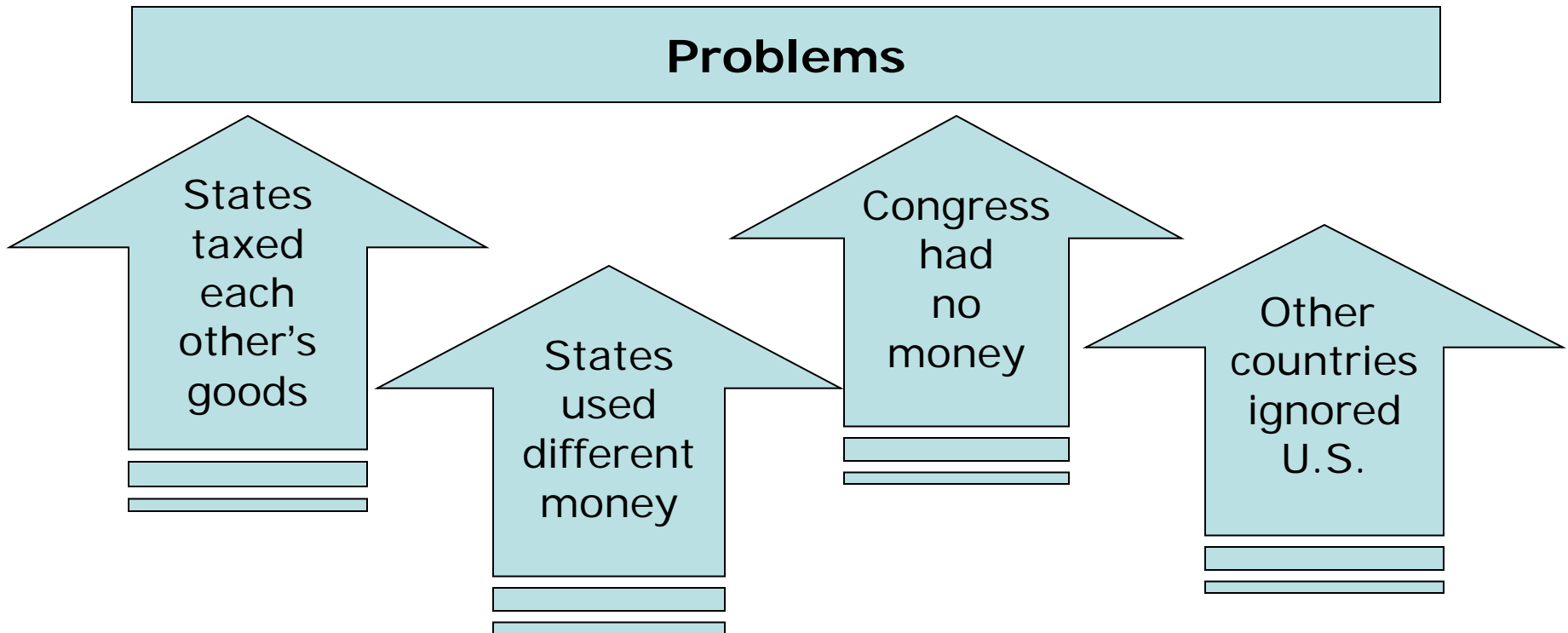
## Northwest Ordinance of 1787

- Created government for the Northwest Territory—the lands north of the Ohio River
- Guaranteed basic rights for settlers
- Banned slavery
- Created a three-step process for admitting new states

Five states were eventually carved from the lands of the Northwest Territory.



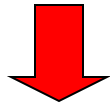
While the government succeeded in organizing the settlement of western lands, it faced mounting problems.



To make matters worse, an economic **depression** gripped the states.



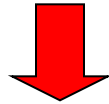
Farmers were hit especially hard, with many losing their lands.



Angry and in despair, a group led by **Daniel Shays** attacked an arms warehouse.



**Shays' Rebellion failed, but it focused attention on the weaknesses of the new nation's government.**



Many began to think that a **stronger central government** was needed.



In response, Congress asked the states to send delegates to a convention in Philadelphia to **revise the Articles of Confederation**.



## Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

