

THE NEW NATION 1781-1789



THE NEW NATION

I. Social Changes due to the Revolution

A. Exodus of 80,000 loyalists
significantly decreased conservative
influence in America



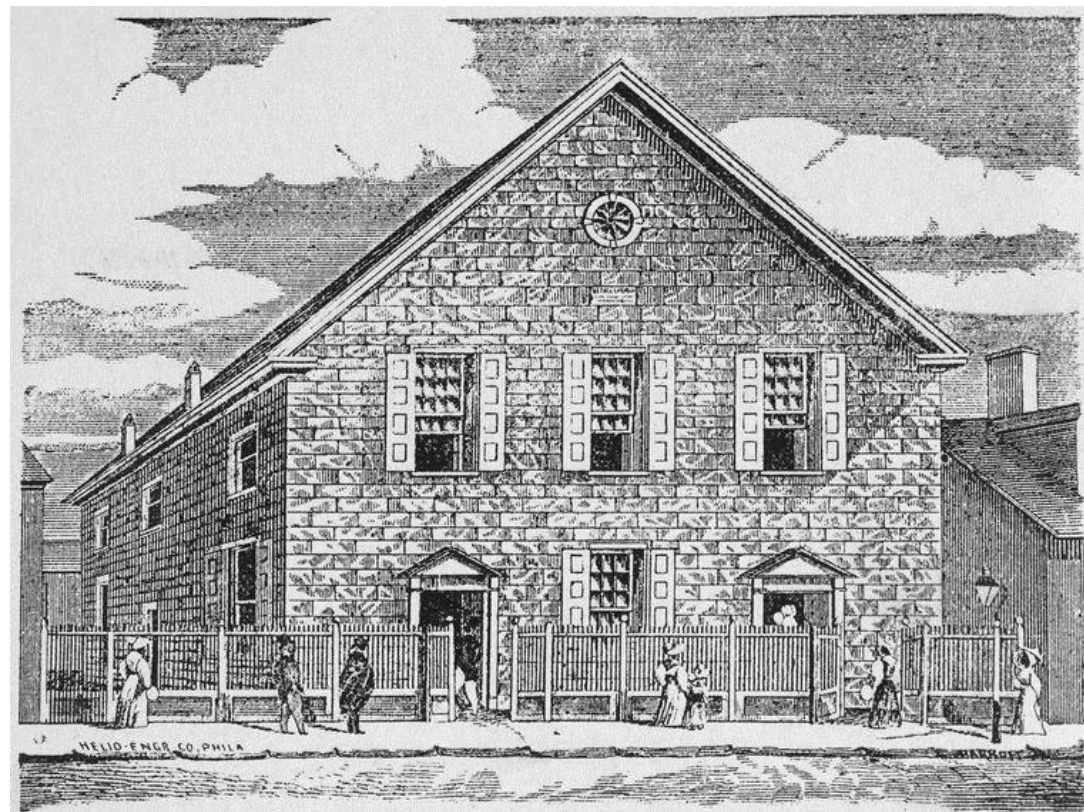
- painting by Garth Dittrick

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B. Slavery in the North

1. Rise of anti-slavery societies
 - Quakers formed the first abolitionist societies in America
2. Slavery abolished in most northern states during or after the Revolution
 - a. Pennsylvania became the first state to abolish slavery in 1780
 - Gradual abolition
 - b. Quok Walker case, 1781 (MA)
3. **Northwest Ordinance, 1787**
4. Slave trade abolished in 1808
(part of Constitution)

5. 250,000 free blacks lived in the North
 - a. Blacks still faced severe discrimination in the North
 - b. African American Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia



Bethel A. M. E. Church, the first Colored Methodist Church in Philadelphia, Established in 1787

6. Thousands of southern slaves were freed after the Revolution
7. Slavery remained strong in the South



C. More emphasis on Equality



1. Reaction against the **Cincinnati Society**
2. Most states reduced property requirements for voting.
3. End to **primogeniture** and **entail** before 1800

D. Gains in separation of church & state

1. Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom (1786)



-- Jefferson's *Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom*

2. Anglican church replaced by the Protestant Episcopal Church

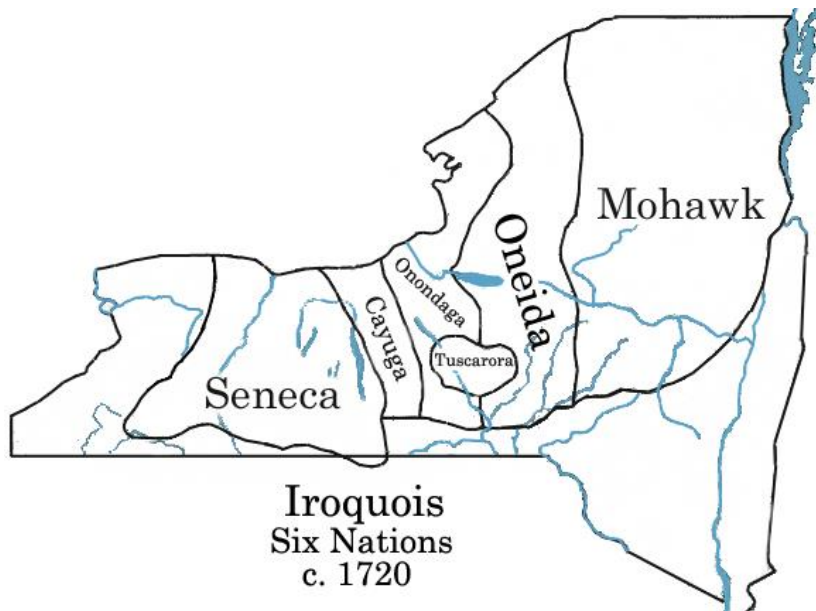
3. Congregational churches in New England were slower to disestablish

E. State governments

1. Three branches: strong legislatures, weak governors, and a judicial branch
2. States were sovereign nations; republics
3. Most states had a bill of rights

F. Native Americans no longer had British protection

- Iroquois forced to relocate to Canada



A Mohawk warrior from an Iroquois settlement in Canada



G. Equality for women was incomplete

1. **Abigail Adams**

demanding of her husband
that women receive more
legal rights



2. **“Republican Motherhood”**: women
were now seen as moral equals of
men and were expected to raise
virtuous children for the republic

3. ***Feme covert***: denied women
property rights

H. Gordon Wood, *The Radicalism of the
American Revolution*, 1992

Chapter 9 THE NEW NATION

Theme 1

The American Revolution was not a radical transformation like the French or Russian revolutions, but it did produce political innovations and some social change in the direction of greater equality and democracy.

Theme 2:

The federal Constitution represented a moderately conservative reaction against the democratic and centralizing effects of the Revolution and the Articles of Confederation.

Constitution Making: The Articles of Confederation

Constitution making in the states

A. Congress in 1776 asked colonies to draft new constitutions.

- **Sovereignty of new states was based on republicanism**

B. **Features of State Constitutions**

1. **Most included a bill of rights**

2. Annual election of officials

3. Weak executive & judicial branches

4. **Legislatures powerful and democratic**

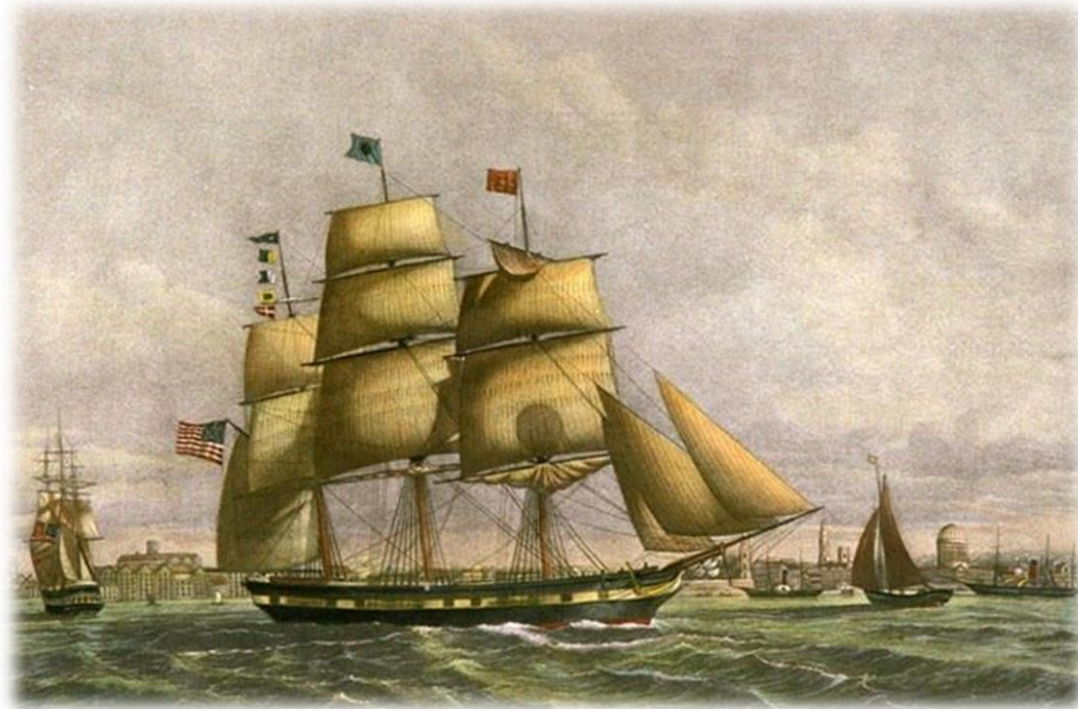
5. **Poorer western districts more represented**

Economy in the 1780s

A. Severe economic depression in the 1780s

1. Large national and state debts
2. Excessive use of consumer credit
3. Lack of currency
4. Foreclosures on farms
5. Inflation
6. Britain flooded the U.S. with cheap goods

- B. Manufacturing helped by non-
importation agreements
1. Americans lost markets in the
British empire
 2. U.S. pursued new economic
markets (e.g. Baltic, Asia)



Foreign Policy Challenges

A. Britain

1. Refused to make a commercial treaty or repeal its Navigation Laws
- **U.S. was cut off from the West Indian trade**
2. **Britain remained on the U.S. frontier and helped Amerindians attack frontier settlements**



King George III

British and Spanish threats on the American Frontier



3. Congress did not have the right to control commerce

-- States refused to adopt a uniform tariff policy.



British and Spanish threats on the American Frontier

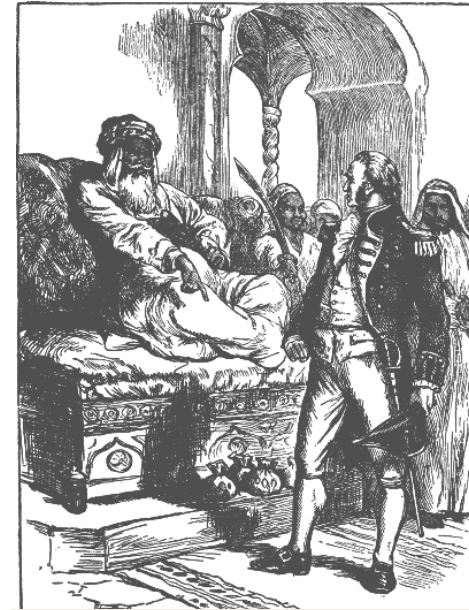


B. France

1. Demanded repayment of money loaned during the war.
2. Restricted U.S. trade with West Indies & other ports

C. North African Pirates

1. America's Mediterranean commerce being ravaged
2. Dey of Algiers
3. U.S. no longer had British protection



*U.S. Captain
Bainbridge and the Dey
of Algiers*

The Articles of Confederation

A. Second Continental Congress was weak

1. Consultative body (except military & foreign policy)

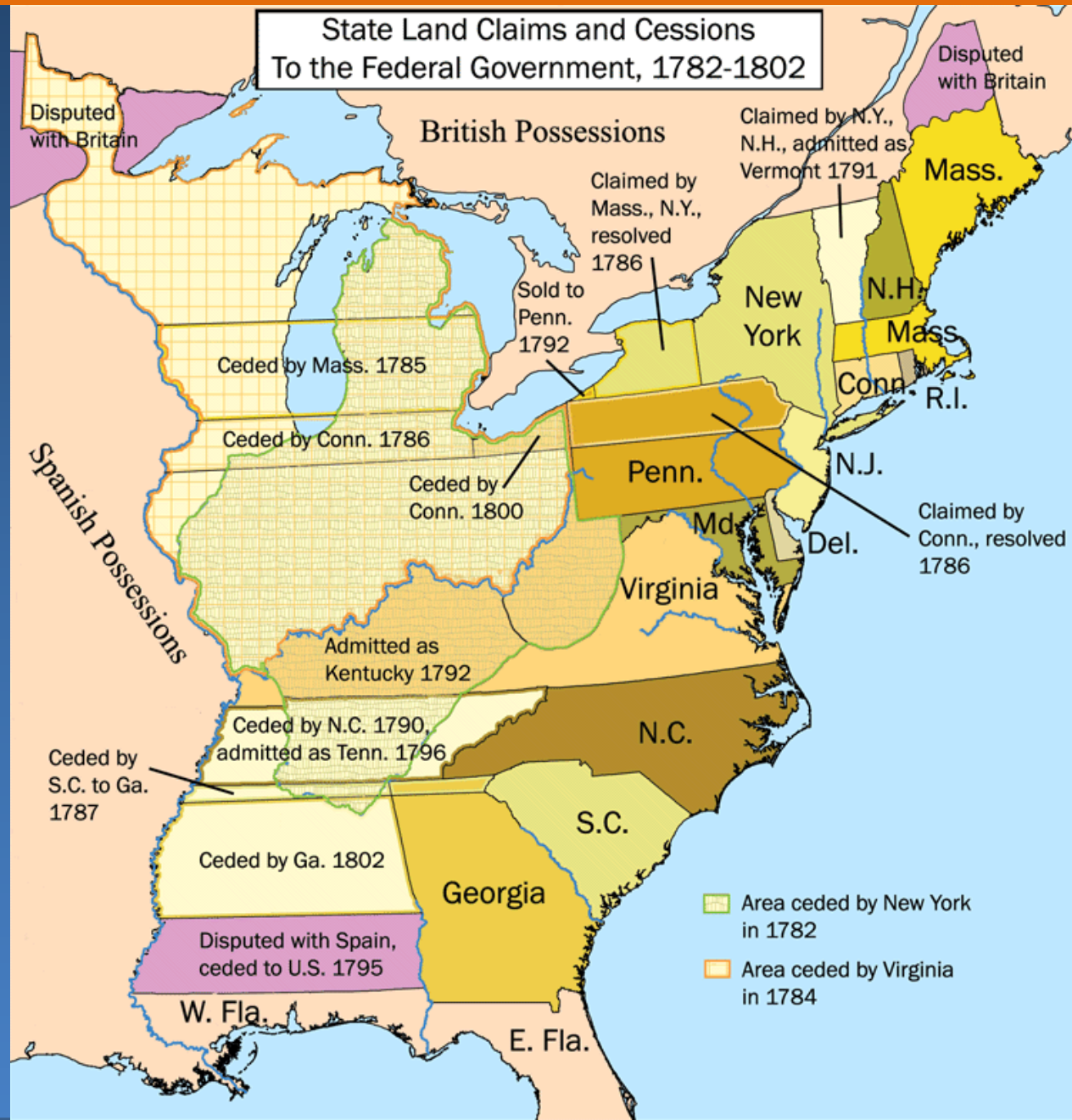
2. No constitutional authority; states were sovereign

B. Articles of Confederation ratified in 1781

1. Adopted in 1777 to gain French aid in war

2. Ratification delayed: western lands were the main source of disagreement
 - a. Seven states had enormous land claims (e.g. New York and Virginia)
 - b. Six states had no territory beyond the Allegheny Mountains
 - Complained their war effort had helped the large states.
 - c. Unanimous approval was required to ratify the Articles
 - Maryland held out until NY & VA gave up their western lands.
 - d. Congress pledged to create new territories from western lands

Western Land Cessions



Articles of Confederation: United States' first Constitution

A. Provisions

1. Each state, regardless of size, had one vote
 - Disproportionate power for smaller states
2. No executive branch existed to enforce Congress' laws
3. Judicial branch was left to the individual states
4. Amendments could be adopted only by unanimous vote
5. Bills required 2/3 vote
6. Congress could not regulate commerce between states, collect taxes, or force states to contribute to gov't needs.
7. Congress could only *ask* states for troops

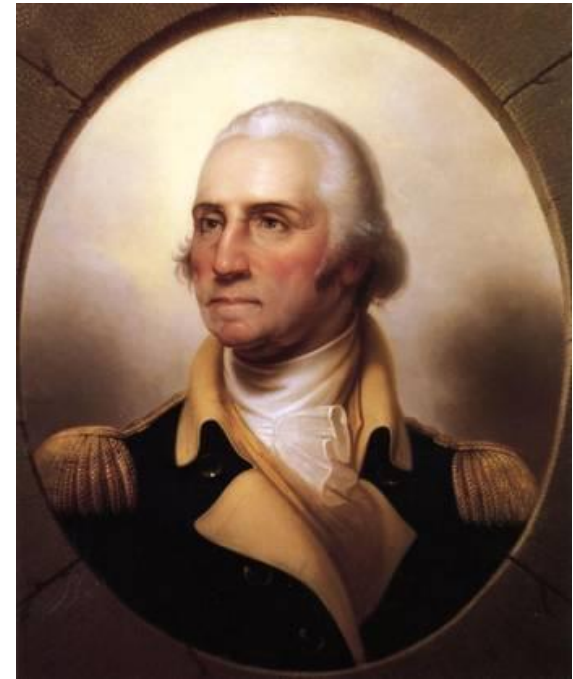
Articles of Confederation were weak and ineffective

1. Intentional: individual states had more power
2. **Two crippling limitations:**
 - a. **No power to regulate commerce**
 - Led to conflicting laws between states
 - b. **Could not enforce tax collection.**
 - Gov't received only 25% of its requests
3. Could not act directly upon individuals from states.

4. Articles were vulnerable to revolutionary challenges

a. Newburgh “Conspiracy,” 1783

- Plot by certain military officers to overthrow the government
- Washington convinced the conspirators to abandon the plot



b. Congress was forced to flee
Philadelphia from 1783 to 1787!



Nassau Hall, Princeton University. After Congress was chased out of Philadelphia in 1783, it moved the government to Princeton, New Jersey

5. Despite its weaknesses, the Articles was a significant stepping stone towards the present Constitution

A Positive: Landmark Land Laws

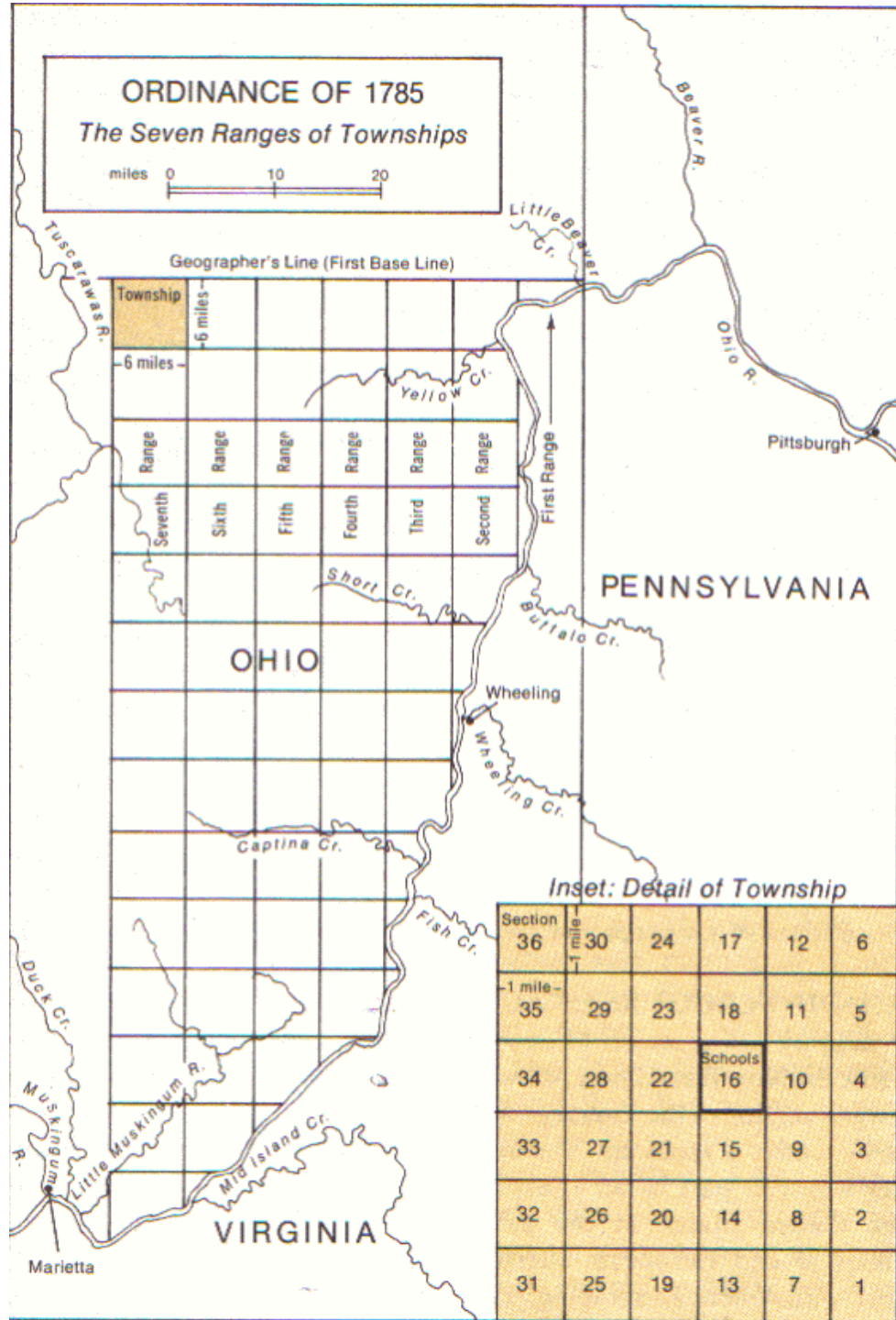
1. Land Ordinance of 1785

- a. Land in the Old Northwest would be sold to pay national debt.
- b. Split land into townships six miles square; each split into 36 sections of one square mile
 - 16th section set aside for public schools
- c. Contrasted with land south of Ohio River; chaotic development

Seven Ranges



Land Ordinance of 1785



LAND ORDINANCE - 1785

Land Ordinance of 1785

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

Monumentation and Reserves in the Original Seven Ranges, Ohio.

Northwest Ordinance of 1787

a. Old Northwest regions would begin as subordinate territories

b. **Could become a state when it had 60,000 inhabitants**

- Equal status with other states

- **Significance:** by granting equality to states, it ensured peace between east & west.

c. **Forbade slavery in the Old Northwest**

Northwest Territory



Fall of the Articles of Confederation

1. Major problems

- a. Requisition system of raising money from the states was breaking down.
- b. Interest on the public debt was growing
- c. Several states quarreled over boundaries; some minor battles.
- d. Some states levying duties on goods from neighbors.
- e. Some states printing depreciated paper currency

2. Shays' Rebellion (1786)

a. Causes

b. Alliance of farmers prevented courts from seizing farms and sending debtors to prison.

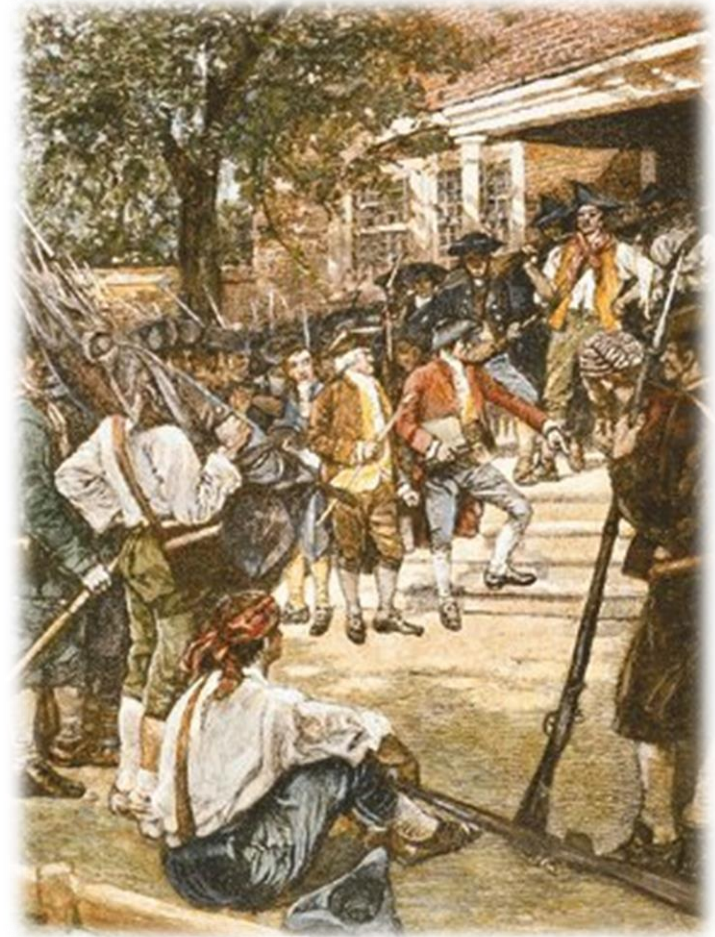
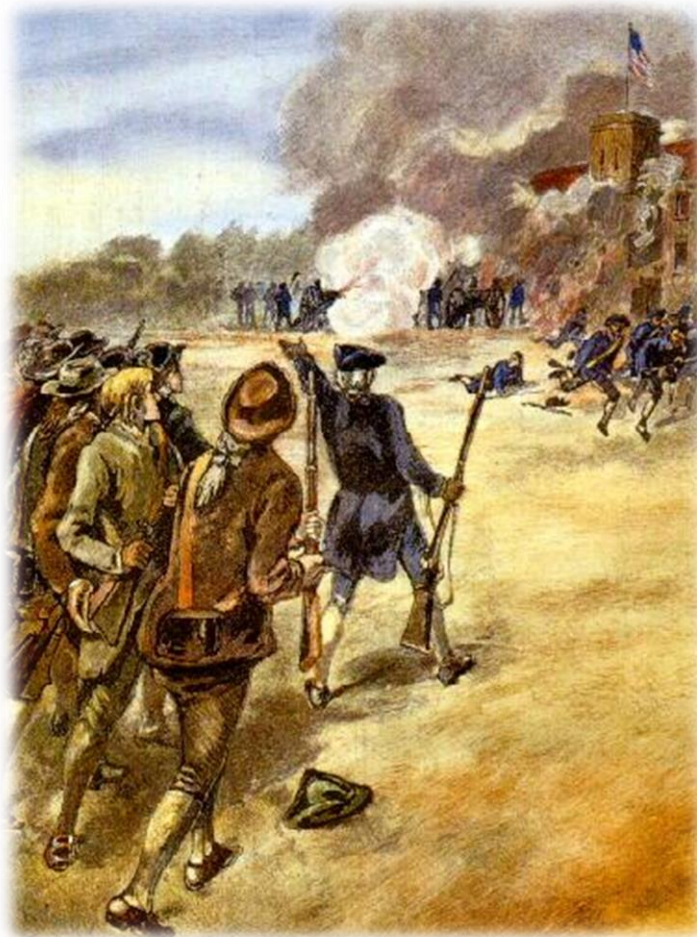


In Springfield, during Shays' Rebellion, a mob seeks to prevent the holding of the Courts of Justice.



Captain Daniel Shays

c. Jan. 1787, Shays & 1,200 others
marched to Springfield
- Result: 4 dead; the rest scattered



- d. **Significance:**
- i. Propertied class feared the restless masses
 - ii. **Prominent citizens cried for a stronger central gov't.**
 - iii. Conservatives were eager to scrap the Articles of Confederation
 - iv. **Most people agreed the Articles needed strengthening**

THE PLANS

Failed Annapolis Convention (1786) -- (only 5 states showed up)

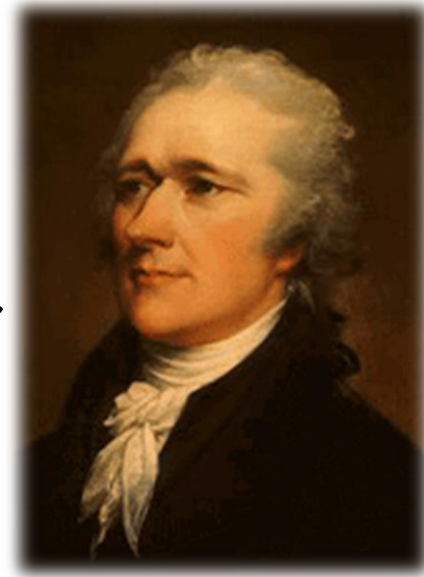
a. Principle purpose: Settle the issue of interstate commerce

b. Alexander Hamilton gained commitment to a new convention the following year

i. Purpose: Overhaul Articles of Confederation

ii. Congress reluctantly agreed when 6 states appointed representatives

-- Some in Congress saw this as its death warrant.

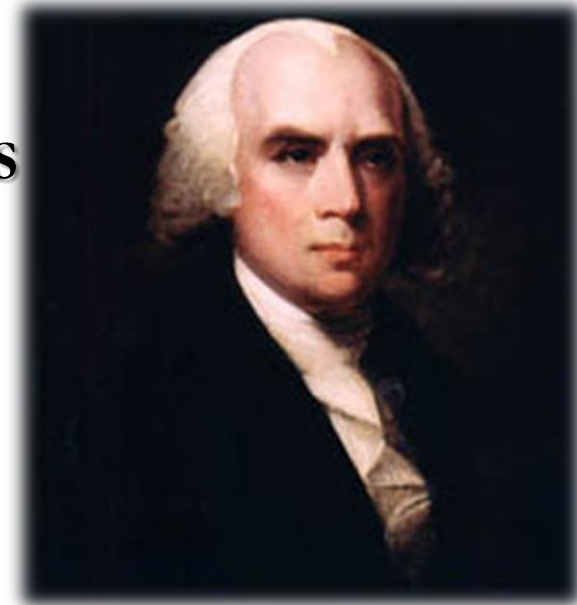


The Constitutional Convention (May 25 - Sept. 17, 1787)

- A. 55 delegates convened (all states sent delegates except Rhode Island)
 1. George Washington elected chairman
 2. Present: Franklin, Hamilton, Madison, J. Adams (strong nationalists)
 3. Absent: Patrick Henry, Sam Adams (strong states' rights advocates)

B. James Madison: “Father of the Constitution.” He believed that:

- a strong national government with the states no longer sovereign
- separation of powers between branches of government would prevent the consolidation of power
- a large republic would limit the influence of various factions



The Constitutional Convention



C. **Articles of Confederation was scrapped**

1. Went against Congress's explicit wish to revise
2. In effect, U.S. government was peacefully overthrown
3. States lost their sovereignty

D. **The issue of representation in Congress was the biggest of the Convention**

1. Two major plans were debated

a. **Virginia Plan ("Large-State Plan")**

i. Representation in both houses based on population

ii. Large states would have a political advantage

- b. **New Jersey Plan ("Small-State Plan")**
 - i. **Equal representation in a unicameral Congress by states regardless of size and population.**
 - ii. Small states feared that under Virginia's plan, large states would band together & dominate the small states
- c. The impasse threatened to break up the convention.

2. The "Great Compromise" (Connecticut Compromise)

- a. Representation by population in House of Representatives
- b. Smaller states gained equal representation in the Senate
 - Each state would have two senators
- c. Every tax bill would originate in the House since big states would have to bear a larger tax burden

- d. **Strong, independent executive branch**
 - 1. Reversed system most state constitutions had embodied
 - 2. Presidential powers:
 - a. Military commander in chief
 - b. Power to make appointments
 - c. Veto over legislation

3. Electoral College rather than a direct vote to elect president

- a. Conservatives did not trust leaving choice to the people
- b. Democrats wanted direct vote to empower the people
- c. **Compromise: states voted for electors who would vote for the president**

F. North-South issues

1. Slavery was the biggest issue

a. Three-Fifths Compromise

- i. Slaves = $3/5$ of a person for representation in the House
- ii. North had argued slaves not be counted; they were not citizens
 - Proposing abolition would have ended the convention
- iii. South feared its smaller population would lead to northern dominance

- b. **African slave trade to end in 1808**
 - i. Most states wanted immediate end to slave importation
 - ii. SC and GA protested; rice demanded many slaves
 - iii. Equality was sacrificed for Union

2. Commerce Compromise

- a. Agricultural states' argument
- b. Northern states' argument
- c. **Result: Congress could tax imports; not exports**

Ratification debate in the States

- A. Special elections/ ratifying conventions.
- B. **Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists**
- C. Four small states quickly ratified: DE, NJ, GA, CT
- D. Pennsylvania first large state to ratify (but with coercion)

Federalist & Anti-Federalist Strongholds



Debate Questions

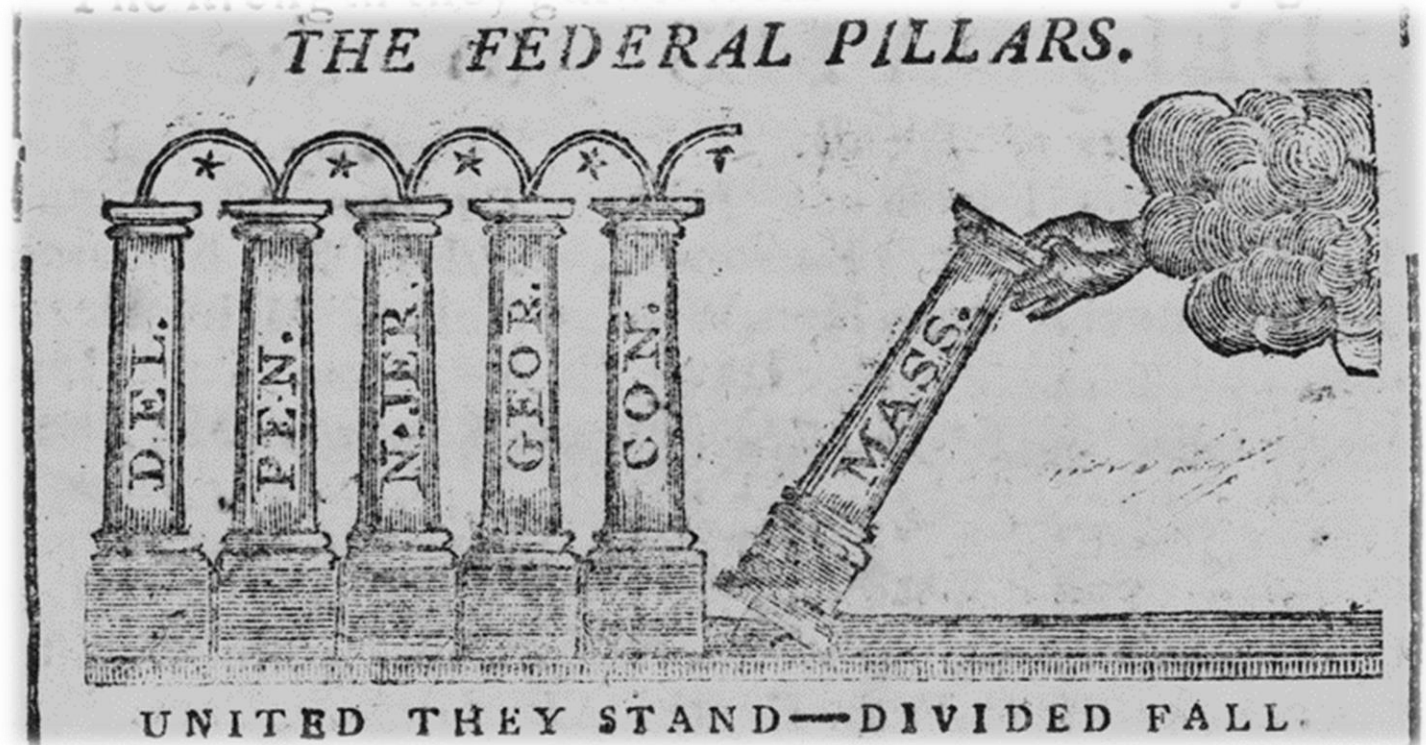
- What is the general federalist/Anti federalist argument?
- What should be the role of government?
- Keep the Articles of Confederation?
- Do we need a Bill of rights?

E. Massachusetts was the critical test

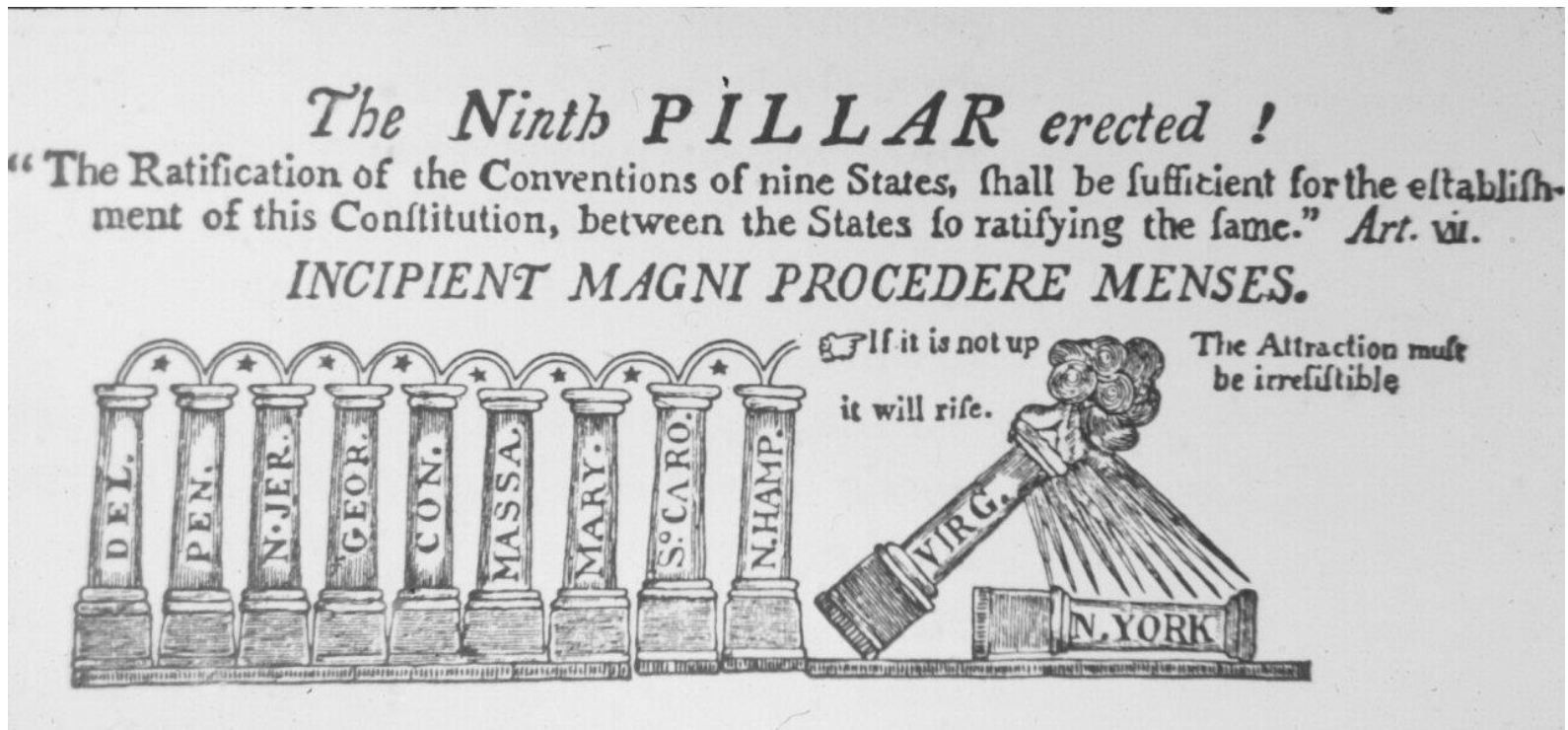
1. Main issue: Lack of Bill of Rights

2. Federalists promised one by
Congressional amendment

F. Constitution officially adopted June
21, 1788



- G. Last four states: ratified because they had to
1. Virginia - largest & most populous state; strongly Anti-Federalist



2. New York

- a. Alexander Hamilton led the Federalist cause



- b. *Federalist* by Madison and Jay

- i. Influential series of articles for NY newspapers
- ii. Propaganda, anonymous
- iii. *Federalist X* by Madison

c. NY ratified realizing it could not
alone.

prosper



3. North Carolina & Rhode Island

- Ratified after new gov't was in effect for several months.

The C E N T I N E L Vol IX

REDEUNT SATURNIA REGNA.

On the erection of the Eleventh PILLAR of the great National DOME, we beg leave most sincerely to felicitate "OUR DEAR COUNTRY."

Rise it will.

The foundation good—it may yet be SAVED.

The FEDERAL EDIFICE.

ELEVEN STARS, in quick succession rise—
ELEVEN COLUMNS strike our wond'ring eyes,
Soon o'er the whole, shall swell the beauteous DOME,
COLUMBIA's boast—and FREEDOM's hallow'd home.
Here shall the ARTS in glorious splendour shine!
And AGRICULTURE give her stores divine!
COMMERCE refin'd, dispense us more than gold,
And this new world, teach WISDOM to the old—
RELIGION here shall fix her blest abode,
Array'd in mildness, like its parent GOD!
JUSTICE and LAW, shall endless PEACE maintain,
And the "SATURNIAN AGE," return again.

“ARTICLES”

Articles of Confederation (structure)

Ratification Debate, 1787-88

Treaty of Paris, 1783

International threats (Eng, Fr, Spain, Dey)

Constitutional Convention, 1787

Land Legislation (1785 and NW Ord 1787)

Economic depression (interstate commerce)

Shays' Rebellion, 1787

Who wants to marry a founding
father?