



# *The Constitutional Convention*

The Articles of Confederation to the  
Constitutional Convention



# *The Articles of Confederation*

- Major Points
  - Established Confederation Congress
  - Placed Majority of power with the states
    - Each state with one vote
- Submitted to Congress in 1777
  - Took a while to get approval
    - States wanted to be sure it would be fair



# *Weakness of the Articles*

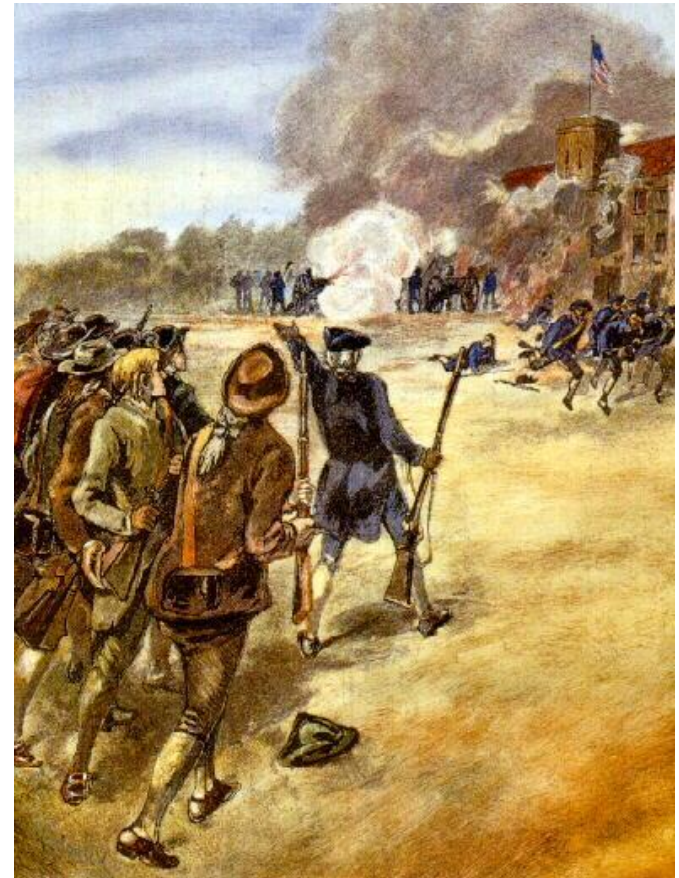
- Congress could not establish a currency
- Could not Levy taxes
- Could not collect money from states
  - Could not repay war debt
- Almost impossible to amend articles





# *Shay's Rebellion*

- Farmers Angry they could not pay their debts shut down the courts
- Showed problems with state's power
  - “A little rebellion now and then is a good thing”
  - Led to a push for stronger central government





# *Constitutional Convention*

- 1787 – Delegates met in Philadelphia to come up with new government
  - Virginia Plan – Three Branches with a powerful president
  - New Jersey Plan – Favored a stronger congress



# *Compromises*

- Great Compromise - Combined the New Jersey Plan and the Virginia Plan
- Federalism – Divided power between the Federal Government and the States
- Three-Fifths – Solved question of how to count slaves in the south



# *The Anti-Federalists*

- Did not want the new constitution to be ratified
  - It gave too much power to the national government
  - Allowed for a standing army in peace time
  - No Bill of rights
  - Executive Branch had too much power
  - ‘Necessary and proper’ clause



# *The Federalists*

- Defended the new constitution
  - Needed a strong central government
  - The separation of powers into three independent branches protected the rights of the people.
  - No one branch could be too powerful
  - We can't list all rights so don't limit them by restricting them to a list





# *Ratification*

- By 1788 nine states had ratified the new constitution
  - Ten were needed to ratify
- A Bill of Rights was promised once the constitution was ratified
  - Bringing in three more states
  - Constitution Ratified June 21, 1788