

# 4.1

## **The Articles of Confederation**



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- **Explain how the states' new constitutions reflected republican ideals.**
- **Describe the structure and powers of the national government under the Articles of Confederation.**
- **Summarize the Congress's plan for the settlement and governance of western lands.**
- **Understand why tensions with foreign countries revealed the weakness of the U.S. government.**
- **List the main weaknesses of the Articles.**

# Time for a New Nation!

All the states called for **republics**, governments in which the people elect their representatives

Some favored a **unicameral legislature**, a single legislative house whose members were elected by people

Others wanted a **bicameral legislature**, a lawmaking body with 2 houses such as a Senate & House of Representatives.

States argued who could vote, free men or those who owned property

# A New Union

States also wanted **religious liberty**, the freedom to choose their own religion free from government support

In 1777, The Continental Congress signed **The Articles of Confederation**, “league of friendship”.

**Key Point!** Wanted a **federal**, national, government to oversee the states via delegates

**Key Point!** Congress had power to make & enforce law!

**Key Point!** Congress could declare war, work with American Indians.

# The Northwest Territory

**This was land of the Ohio River & west of Pennsylvania that farmers wanted to own.**

**The [Land Ordinance of 1785](#)- Congress distributes the land & issues taxes.**

**The [Northwest Ordinance of 1787](#)- Provided Government for the region & laid out how states were made.**

**Also barred slavery from the region & new states in region had to enter the Union.**

# **Issues with the New States**

**100,000 American Indians faced relocation & would fight to keep settlers out of the region.**

**Spain discouraged settlement & banned trade with America at New Orleans.**

**Britain resumed Mercantilism & the Navigation acts & would only trade via their interests.**

**Britain also kept forts on the frontier & cited violations of the peace treaty.**

# **Weakness of the Articles**

**Congress could not create a common currency or levy taxes. They could only borrow money!**

**Each State only had 1 vote in Congress, & 2/3rds majority to pass a law.**

**Each State had to agree to amend the Articles & there was no executive branch.**

**Shay's Rebellion-** Farmers take up arms to block foreclosure hearings & lose of property

**The States had to join together once more to create a new national government.**