Fitzgerald Plans for Thursday, 19 November 2015 with Mrs. Coleman

**American History** Please read as a class at the beginning of the hour.

Yesterday we discussed what the “abolish” and “create new” actually looked like.

We discussed the “abolish” as the American colonies publishing the Declaration of Independence and then holding on for six years through the American Revolution (noting specific ways the Americans were able to do this) till the British gave up.

We then discussed that the “create new” would have had to occur as soon as we declared independence, 4 July 1776, as the America colonies would have immediately needed a government to replace that of the British. We said that the colonies knew what they did not want in their new government, for instance no king, but did not know what they did want. We discussed be ***reactive***, action that is simply the opposite of what one does not like, versus being ***proactive***, actin that is guided by a set of belief, a goal, a vision of a desired future.

America would eventually develop a proactive form of government when it wrote the Constitution in 1789, but in 1776 what they came up with was a reactive government, the Articles of Confederation.

Your learning target from the state is for you to be able describe the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and explain why they would have been adopted, and then to be able to predict the potential economic and political problems these weaknesses could (and did) cause.

If the British created a government for the colonies in which all the power was held by the national government and almost no power was held by the colonies, then the government the colonies would create in reaction would give as little power as possible to the new national government and keep as much power as possible in the states. Note the diagram below which we drew in our notes yesterday.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| British Government of the Colonies –  Most power in national government,  almost no real power in smaller units  Called a unitary (one source of power) government | Government created by the Articles of Confederation –  Almost no power on the national government,  Smaller units retain most powers  Called a confederation |

The activity today is designed for you to use your knowledge to explain why the few powers that were given to the national government had to be given, and why each of the powers denied the national government was denied and what problems not having that power could potentially cause the new nation. You are to work with your two partners to complete the chart.

If you have extra time at the end, Mrs. Coleman will arrange for you to exchange ideas with another group. If you still have time, I have left an article on the presidential election process for you.

Fitzgerald Names\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chart Analyzing the Article of Confederation

The short chart below lists the very few powers the Articles gave to the national government.

The powers given were only given because it was decided they absolutely had to given. So your question is why? Why did the Second Continental Congress decide the new national government had to have each power?

Keep in mind the situation the colonies were in, fighting the British in the American Revolution.

**POWERS GIVEN**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Power given | Explanation of why that power needed to be given to the national government |
| The power to deal with foreign nations |  |
| The power to declare war and negotiate peace |  |
| The power to borrow money |  |
| The power to coin money for the nation |  |
| The power to create a postal service |  |
| The power to create laws necessary for executing the above powers, but . . .  NOT THE POWER TO ENFORCE THEM |  |

(over)

**POWERS DENIED**

The much longer chart below lists the many powers the Articles denied to the national government.

The powers denied were denied because of experiences the colonies had had with the British government.

So your question is what negative experience with the British motivated each denial (Think about our Road to Revolution topics)? Why did the Second Continental Congress decide not to give the new national government each power? AND then think about what problem(s) could occur if the national government did not have that power.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Power denied | What negative experience with the British would have caused the colonies to deny the new national government this power? | What problem(s) might be caused if the new national government did not have this power? |
| Could not create or collect taxes – only the new state legislatures could tax and would send money to the national government |  |  |
| Could not regulate trade |  |  |
| The new legislature would not be large, it would only have one house and in that house each state would only have one vote |  |  |
| Power denied | What negative experience with the British would have caused the colonies to deny the new national government this power? | What problem(s) might be caused if the new national government did not have this power? |
| Could not pass laws based just on a majority of the 13 states (7 of 13) –  instead 9 of the 13 states would be required to pass any law or act |  |  |
| Would not have a chief executive (no king, no president, no prime minister)   * The states would execute all the laws |  |  |
| Would not have a national court system –  State courts would hear all cases |  |  |