Virginia Fitzgerald

Ch. 7 Creating the Constitution

Sec1 Governing a New Nation

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| Heading | My Notes | Additions and Corrections |
| Government by the states  What did states do first after declaring independence? | * Colonies began to create individual state governments before 1776’s Declaration   + 11 of 13 states wrote constitutions   + Rhode island and Connecticut kept their charters striking out references to “King” | * Constitution – a document stating rules under which a government will operate |
| Writing State Constitutions  What are four key characteristics of the new state governments? | * States wrote their new constitutions thinking about the problems that had led to the declaration of rebellion   + Since they had been unhappy with governors appointed by the king     - They made governors less powerful  * + - They made legislatures more powerful  * Governors were chief executives  * + Carries our laws  * + Runs government   + Appointed officials but the legislature had to approve the appointment * More people could vote in new constitutions  * + Most states males, 21 years of age who owned property  * + No African-American or women     - New Jersey only – Some women | * Executive – someone who executes the laws (sees they are carried out), someone who runs the government |
| Protecting Rights | * States sought to protect individual rights * Because Britain had violated rights (think of grievances in D of I) * Virginia lead in including a bill of rights in its constitution –  * + freedom of religion, freedom of press, right to trial by jury   Other states follow   * New York follows Virginia lead * Massachusetts does too but keeps the official church |  |
| What are the three branches of government? | * Legislative – makes laws * Executive – executes laws – puts laws into action * Judicial – judges whether the laws fit the Constitution and were enforced correctly |  |
| The Articles of Confederation  Who wrote the Articles and when? | Plan created by Continental Congress for the nation as a whole   * adopted in 1777 right after declaring independence |  |
| Form of Government  What are five weaknesses of the Articles government? | * had only ***one branch***, not three   + ***a legislature***   + no executive, no judicial  * all states equal in Congress   + each had one vote   + nine of thirteen ( ***a super majority***) were needed to pass anything |  |
| Limited Government  What are five powers of the Articles government? | * Due to their feeling that Parliament had passed unfair laws   + did not want to give national government too much power     - it was farther away from people   + SOOO… government very limited * Most power remained with the states   + could not regulate trade or collect taxes  * + had to ask states for money * ***Congress had few powers***   + ***negotiate with foreign nations and Natives***  * + ***declare war and negotiate peace, borrow money, coin money, run a post office***  * + - ***could make laws but could not enforce them – states did*** |  |
| Settling the Western Lands  What needed to be done before states would approve the Articles? | * The Articles had to be approved by all 13 states   + Some states would not give their approval until other states had dropped their claims to land west of the Appalachians – see map p. 207 for claims   + This took years     - Virginia was the last to agree in 1781 * All western land was turned over to the national government   + it was valuable – in demand   + could be sold piece by piece to private companies to raise money |  |
| Land Ordinance of 1785  What did the Land Ordinance do? | * A system for land sales and settlement   + divide land into 6 mile sq. townships   + each township a grid of 36 one mile squares called sections   + sell land - couldn’t be sold for less than $1 a section * One section in each township set aside for education  * + “If a state expects to be ignorant and free,   it expects what never was and never will be.” Thomas Jefferson |  |
| Northwest Ordinance  What did the Northwest ordinance do?  What were the six goals of the Northwest Ordinance? | * Explained how new land had to be governed   + guaranteed basic rights – like religion, speech, jury, habeas corpus  * + banned slavery  * Three stage process for governing the land   + Stage 1 - a **territory** governed by  * + - a governor appointed by the president, a secretary, and three judges  * + Stage 2 – territory gets **elected legislature**  * + - When 5,000 free adult males     - Then write a state constitution   + Stage 3 – asks Congress to become a **state** when  * + - 60,000 free people (male, female, children)     - constitution completed * Five states created this way – Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin | Add rights!! |
| Growing Problems | * ***Successes***   + ***Revolutionary War wins independence***   + ***organizing and governing territories*** * But problems lead them to believe government does not have enough power |  |
| Economic problems  Describe cause of bad economy! | * Each state had its own trade policy   + tied to protect its farmers and manufacturers by ***taxing goods brought into the state from other***   + each state printed its ***own money***   + this ***discouraged trade*** between states * Also central national government ***couldn’t tax***   + little money to run gov’t * Situation get worse each year | ***Add – Each state also taxed imported goods – discouraging people from buying them and discouraging foreign merchants***  ***Discouraged trade with other nations, too!***  ***Alexander Hamilton*** –   * A brilliant young man in New York’s legislature – financial genius * Had served under Washington in war * Calls the ***Annapolis Convention*** -   + 5 states attend * Suggest writing new form of government (alter! Or will have to abolish!) * ignored |
| Foreign Affairs  How was the new nation perceived by other nations? | * Appeared weak to other nations – so treated with scorn   + *British* never left forts in West – thought we couldn’t make them   + ***Spanish*** blocked American use of New Orleans     - so farmer had to send produce across mountains |  |
| Shays’ Rebellion  What caused Shays’ Rebellion?  Describe the rebellion.  What did the rebellion cause? | * mid-1780s – depression   + depression – business activity slow, prices and wages drop, unemployment is high  * + caused widespread despair and anger * Hit farmers in Massachusetts hard   + unable to pay taxes (subsistence – no cash)  * + state gov’t seize farms to sell them for tax money  * + angry farmers demand that sales are stopped * 1786 -Revolutionary War hero Daniel Shays leads uprising   + 1,000 farmers  * + try to seize arms from a state warehouse   + militia arrests Shays and other leaders * Rebellion fizzles out – but starts talk of need for strong central government to prevent such unrest   + Congress calls convention in Philadelphia in 1787  * + task – revise Articles |  |