Virginia Fitzgerald

Ch. 7 Creating the Constitution

Sec1 Governing a New Nation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Heading | My Notes | Additions and Corrections |
| Government by the statesWhat 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 ConstitutionsWhat 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 ConfederationWho 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 GovernmentWhat 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 GovernmentWhat 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 LandsWhat 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 1785What 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 OrdinanceWhat 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 problemsDescribe 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 AffairsHow 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
 |  |