



# Chapter 7

Creating a New Constitution (1776-1790)

Section 1- Governing a New Nation

# What's the Diff?

- What was the Declaration of Independence?
  - A formal document, written by Thomas Jefferson, that detailed our reasons for declaring ourselves independent from Great Britain.

- What is the US Constitution?

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# Governing by the States

- Writing State Constitutions
  - -In 1776, 11 of the 13 states began creating their own constitutions to support their governments (RI and CT modified colonial charter)
  - -constitution- a document explaining the rules under which a government can operate
  - -to avoid problems they had experienced under British rule, states limited \_\_\_\_\_ and made legislatures very powerful (rep of people)
  - -governors were the state's \_\_\_\_\_ (person who runs the \_\_\_\_\_ government and sees that laws are carried out)
  - -appointed officials- usually approved by legislature

# Governing The States

- -more people could vote than before BUT:
- -most states did not allow \_\_\_\_\_ to vote
- -only NJ allowed some \_\_\_\_\_ to vote  
(ended in 1807)
- -white men had to be 21 and most states required \_\_\_\_\_

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- Protecting Rights
- -states wanted to protect individual rights
- -Virginia was the first to create a \_\_\_\_\_
- -freedom of press, right to trial by jury, no cruel and unusual punishment, freedom of religion, limits on searches and arrests
- -many states followed VA and created a Bill of Rights of their own

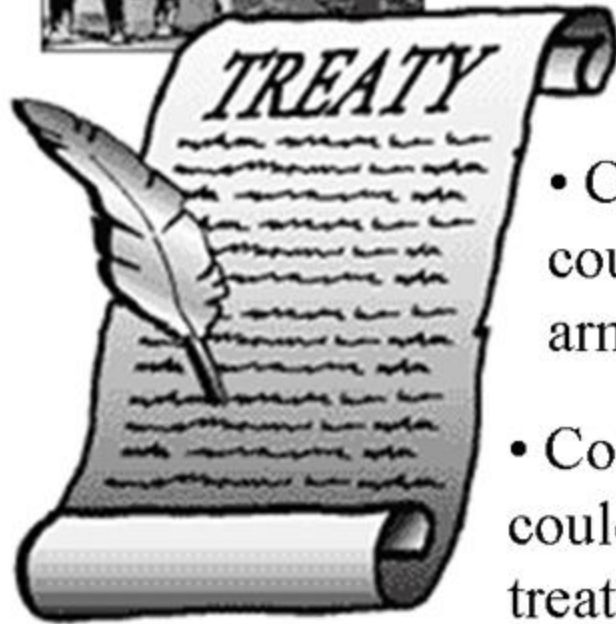
# The Articles of Confederation

- Form of Government
- -1777- Continental Congress created a constitution for the nation as a whole- called \_\_\_\_\_
- -one branch of government- \_\_\_\_\_ - one rep from each state
- -to pass a law, needed \_\_\_\_\_ states to agree
- -why? To avoid a central government with too much power (like their experiences with Britain)
- -Congress could not:
- -regulate trade, levy taxes, raise a military
- -Congress could:
- -deal with Native Americans and foreign countries, make laws, declare war, coin money, run postal service

## POWERS GRANTED BY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION



- Congress could declare war



- Congress could raise armies
- Congress could sign treaties

## POWERS WITHHELD BY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION



- Congress could not raise revenue through taxes



- Congress could not regulate trade and collect tariffs

# Settling Western Lands

- -all 13 states approved Articles
- -BUT wouldn't enforce until land claims of west were final
- -VA finally let go some land claims in 1781, MD then ratified and Articles went into affect
- -land was given to national government to be organized- very valuable
- \_\_\_\_\_
- -surveyors sent to western lands to divide it into 6 square mile blocks called townships
- -townships were cut into \_\_\_\_\_ blocks- sold for no less than \$1 a piece (one was set aside for schools)



## The Land Ordinance of 1785



## TOWNSHIP, 1785

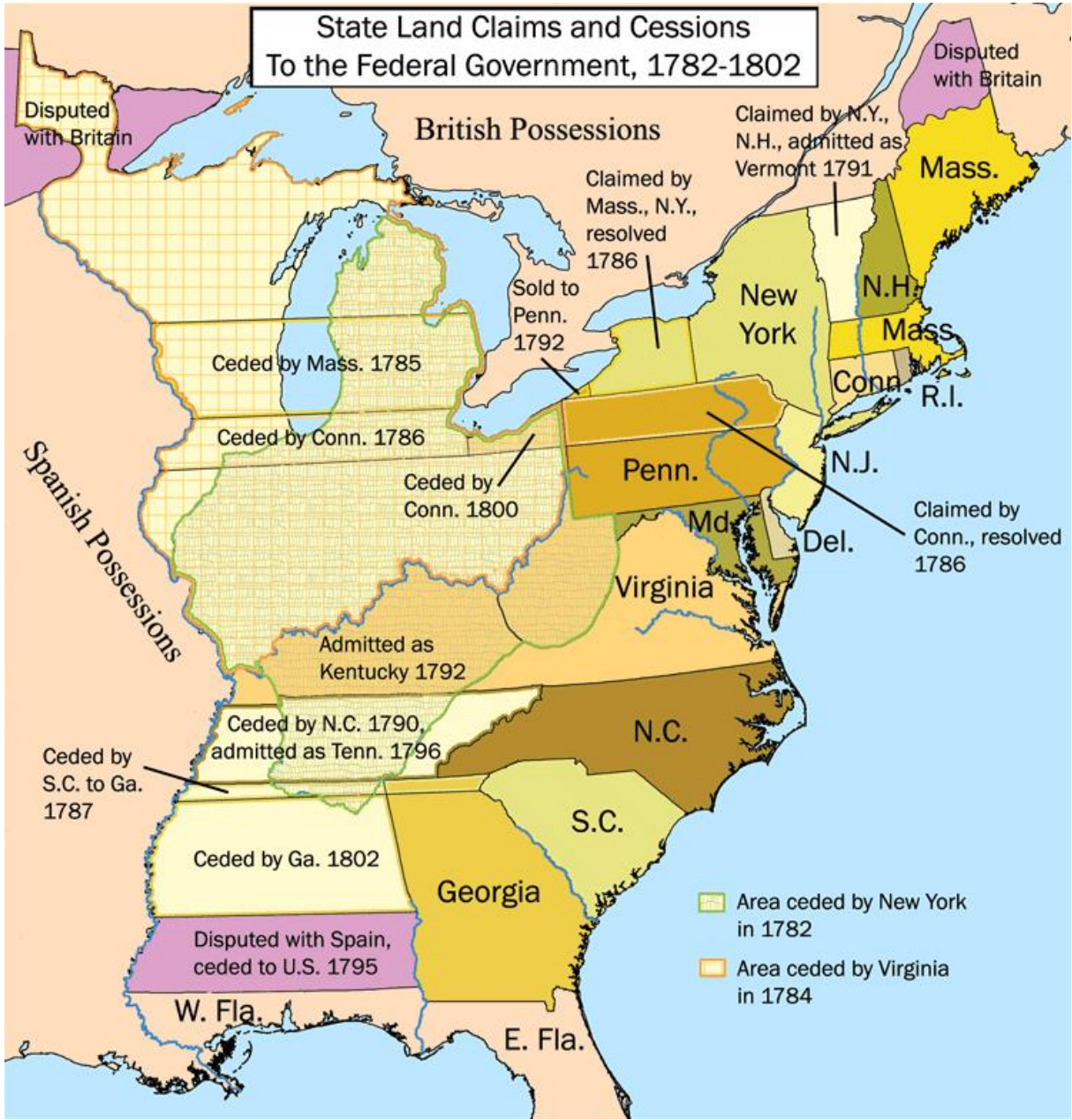
|    |    |    |    |    |   |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 36 | 30 | 24 | 18 | 12 | 6 |
| 35 | 29 | 23 | 17 | 11 | 5 |
| 34 | 28 | 22 | 16 | 10 | 4 |
| 33 | 27 | 21 | 15 | 9  | 3 |
| 32 | 26 | 20 | 14 | 8  | 2 |
| 31 | 25 | 19 | 13 | 7  | 1 |

Each township contained 36 sections. Each section was one square mile.

# Settling Western Lands

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- -investors wanted to buy in Northwest Territory (north of OH River)
- -to govern land, Congress passed Northwest Ordinance
- -set up governments, gave rights to settlers, banned slavery there
- -new territories would have a governor, secretary, and 3 judges (all appointed by Congress)
- -when territory had 5000 free adult male citizens, it could elect a legislature
- -when a territory got 60,000 free settlers, it could apply to
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- -eventually become, IN, OH, MI, WI, and IL
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State Land Claims and Cessions  
To the Federal Government, 1782-1802



# Growing Problems

- Economic Problems
  - -states set up \_\_\_\_\_ on goods from other states
  - -each state \_\_\_\_\_
  - -Congress couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ - had little money to run itself
- Foreign Affairs
  - -other countries didn't take US seriously
  - -British troops still occupied forts in \_\_\_\_\_ (violated treaty of Paris)
  - -Spanish (controlled New Orleans) refused to allow Americans to ship down MS River- westerners had to sent goods by land- very \_\_\_\_\_

# Growing Problems

- Shays' Rebellion
- -mid 1780s- economic \_\_\_\_\_ hits US (business activity slows, prices \_\_\_\_\_ and wages drop, and unemployment rises)
- -\_\_\_\_\_ hit hardest- couldn't pay taxes- many farms \_\_\_\_\_ seized and sold
- -farmers demanded sales of farms stop and that MA gov't issue more paper money to make it easier to get loans- gov't ignored
- -1786- former Revolutionary War Captain- \_\_\_\_\_ led a militia of 1000 farmers to seize MA armory \_\_\_\_\_
- -nearly captured it but were \_\_\_\_\_
- -people realized they needed a stronger central government to protect against popular unrest
- -Congress asked each state to send delegates to Philly in 1787 to revise the Articles