

# THE CRITICAL PERIOD, 1781 to 1789

notes1

## 1. Impact of the Revolution

- All Men Created Equal ✨
  - Slavery attacked
  - Voting increases
  - Women's rights

## 2. Representative Democracy ✨

## 3. US problems

- debt ✨
- Spanish and British ✨
- between states ✨

## 4. Westward Expansion ✨

## 5. Articles of Confederation -- 1781 to 1789

➤ Why AOC failed...? 

➤ Shay's Rebellion 

➤ Anarchy = "mobocracy"

## 6. Call for a new constitution

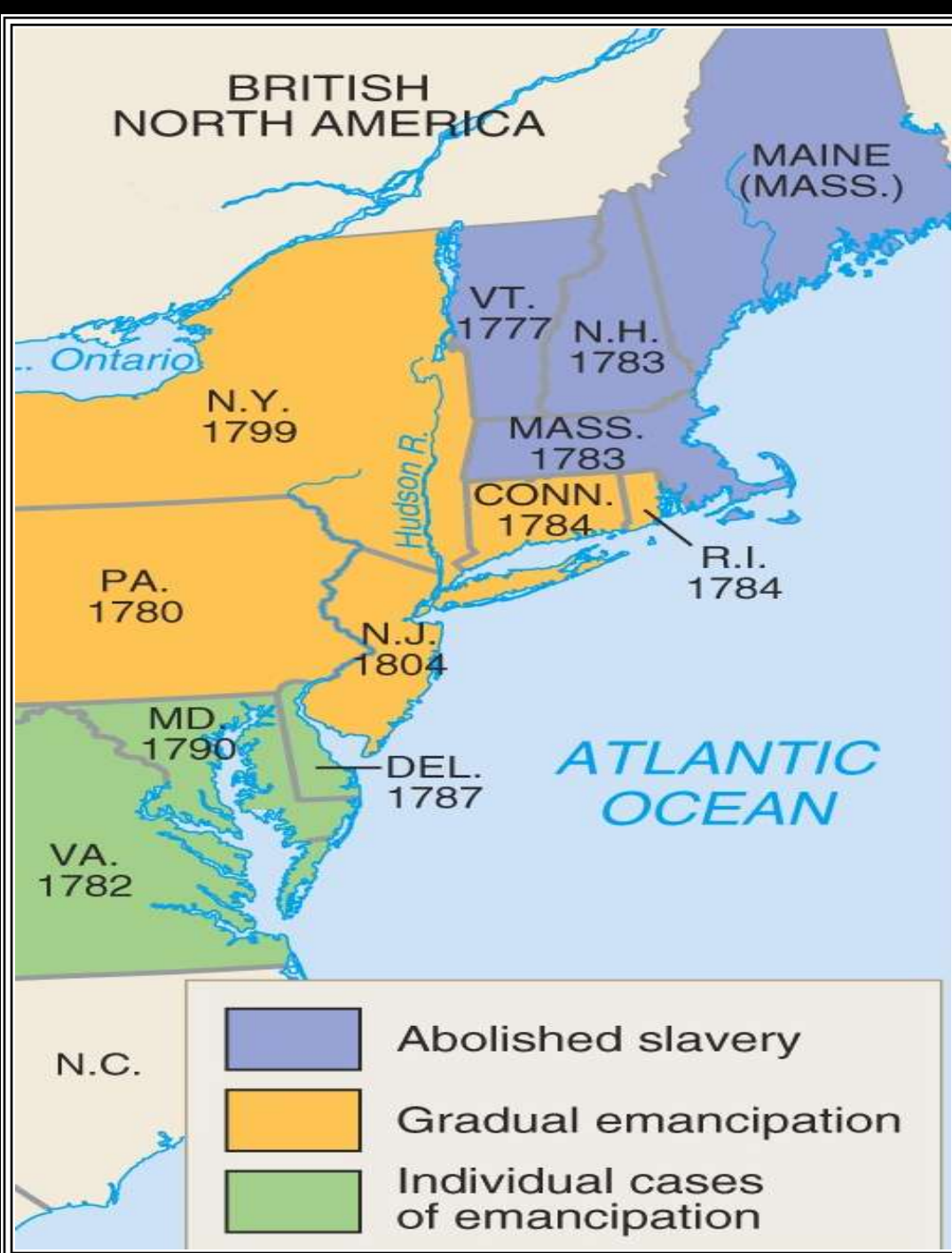
# THE CRITICAL PERIOD, 1781 to 1789

notes1

1. Impact of the Revolution
  - Principles of the DOI

# ***“All Men Created Equal”***

- New England states are the first to abolish slavery after the Revolution.
- Middle States would abolish later....
  - In 1791, the Quakers formed first Anti-Slavery Society and **Underground Railroad**
- Southern States would expand slavery after the invention of the cotton gin.
- As country expands, North and South would compromise over the issue of slavery.....



# “All Men Created Equal”



- Mason Dixon Line set the precedent over dividing the country over slavery.

- Ohio River would be the dividing boundary between North and South.**





1800

CANADA



- Property qualifications
- Taxpayer qualifications
- Universal white male suffrage

WMA 21 yrs. old, educated and property owner.....

1830

CANADA



- Property qualifications
- Taxpayer qualifications
- Universal white male suffrage

Several states would drop property qualifications and education.....



# WOMEN'S RIGHTS



- **Abigail Adams—1790's to early 1800's**

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

## Republican motherhood

- Concept that a woman's role was to stay at home and raise the next generation of **PATRIOTS**.
- This was a role to be proud of because a woman's responsibility was to teach and raise their children in **REPUBLICANISM**.



- **Supported the abolition of slavery**

- **Republican motherhood**

- **Despite their contributions, women's rights did not progress and would remain 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens**



# THE CRITICAL PERIOD, 1781 to 1789

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1. Impact of the Revolution
2. Republicanism (Representative Democracy)



# REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

- Also referred to as a republic

## Concept: Republicanism

- Government authority comes from the people who elect officials that represent their interests
- Promoted the end of slavery, encouraged education and sacrifice for the public good



# REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY



- 13 colonies had a tradition of governing themselves.....
- Elected their own representative law making bodies.
- Passed laws to keep peace within their communities.
- Colonies had a tradition of representative democracy.
- That's why they fought the Revolution.

# ***State Constitutions & State Governments***

- **Common aspects**

- *Each state listed the basic rights and freedoms that belonged to all citizens*

- “unalienable rights”
- i.e. jury trial and freedom of religion

- *Separation of powers*

- Legislative powers to an elected two-house legislature
- Executive powers to an elected governor
- Judicial powers to a system of courts

- *All white males with property could vote*

- Based on the assumption that property-owners had a larger stake in government than did the poor and property-less
- Elected officials higher qualifications than the voters

# State Constitutions

## Popular Sovereignty

1. Popular sovereignty was the basis for every new State constitution.
2. Government can exist and function only with the consent of the governed.
3. People hold power and are sovereign.

## Limited Government

1. Limited government was a major feature of each State constitution.
2. Powers delegated to government were granted reluctantly and hedged with many restrictions.

## Civil Rights and Liberties

1. In every State it was made clear that the sovereign people held certain rights that the government must respect at all times.
2. Seven of the new constitutions contained a bill of rights, setting out the “unalienable rights”

## Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances

1. State governments were purposely divided among three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial.
2. Each branch was given powers with a system of checks and balances.





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## 3. US problems



# US DEBT AFTER THE WAR

**Foreign Debt**  
**\$11,710,000**



We owed France, Spain and other countries who helped us with the Revolutionary War.

**State Debt**  
**\$21,500,000**



Individual states owed citizens who loaned money to their state.

**Federal Domestic Debt**  
**\$42,414,000**



US Govt. owed soldier's for fighting in the war, debts to British and Loyalists.

***\$80 Million***

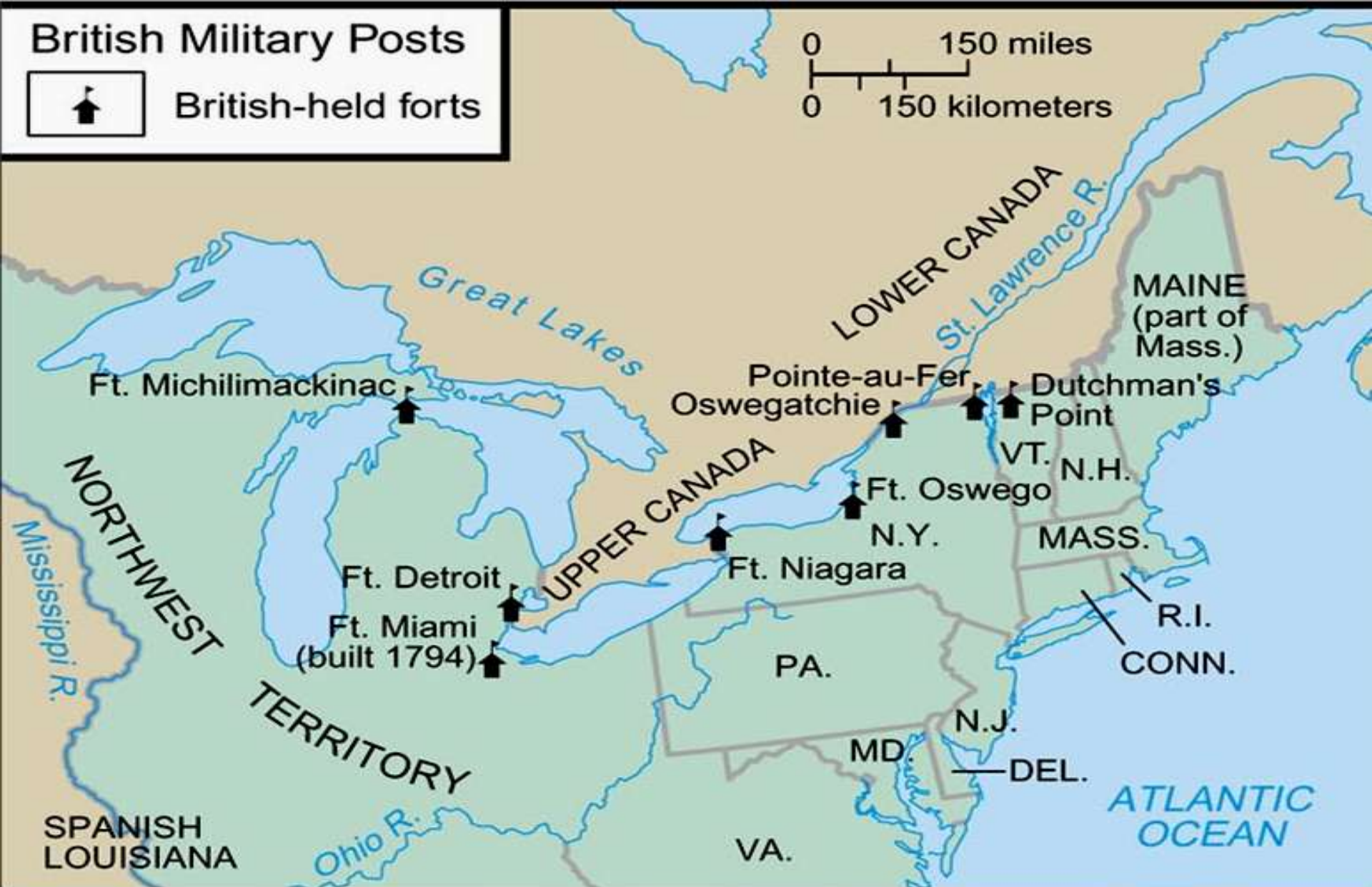


## British Military Posts



British-held forts

0 150 miles  
0 150 kilometers



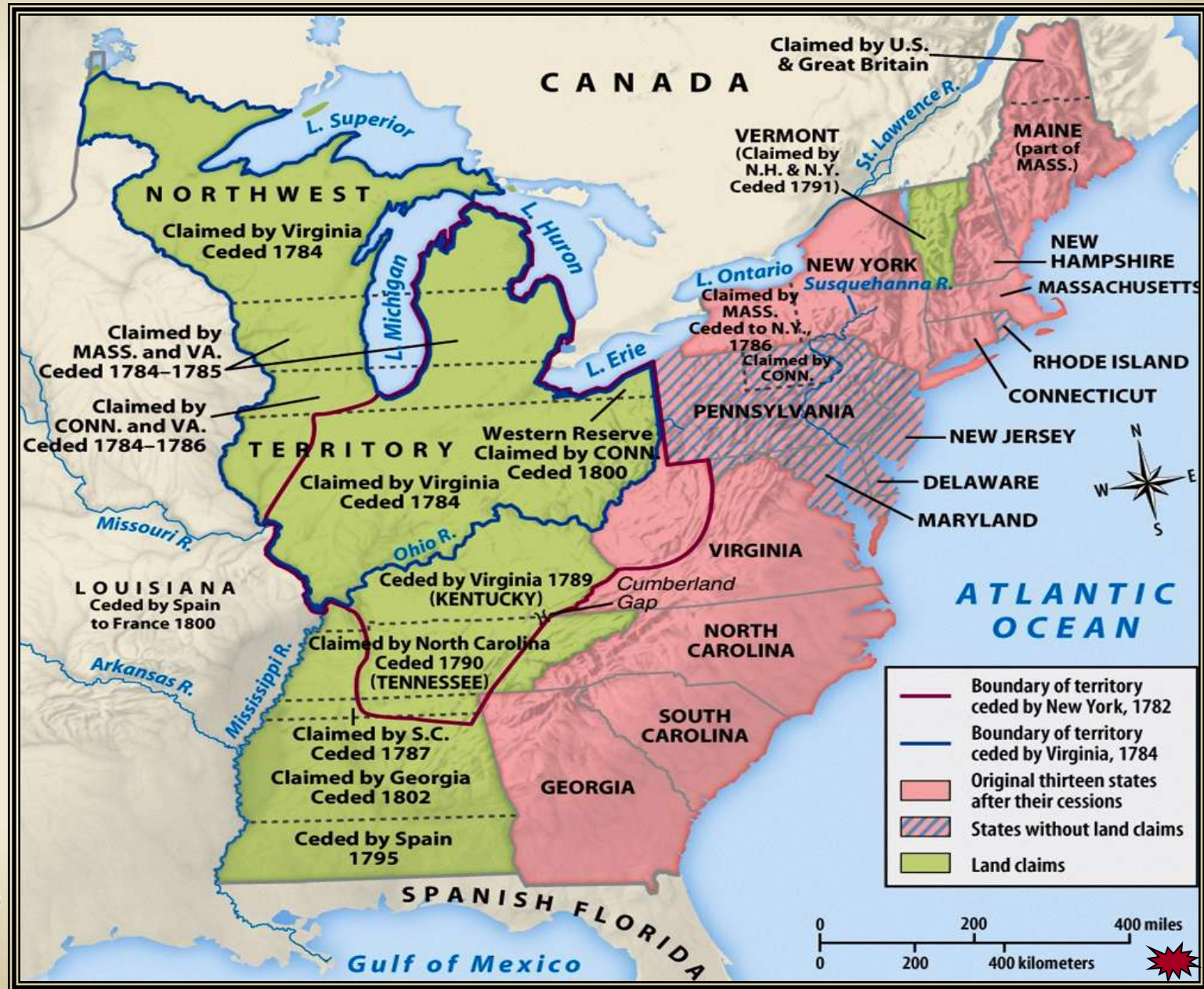
**British were to remove their troops from US soil.....The National Government under the AOC was powerless to force Great Britain to honor the Treaty of Paris, 1783**

# Disputed Territorial Claims Between Spain & the US: 1783-1796





# State Claims to Western Lands



# **THE CRITICAL PERIOD, 1781 to 1789**

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- 1. Impact of the Revolution**
- 2. Representative Democracy**
- 3. US problems**
- 4. Westward Expansion**



ALASKA

# North America, 1783

Claimed by  
Britain, Spain,  
and Russia

Hudson Bay

CANADA

Claimed by U.S.  
and Britain

ST. PIERRE AND  
MIQUELON  
(France)

MAINE  
(Mass.)

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

RHODE ISLAND  
CONNECTICUT

NEW YORK

New York

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

NEW JERSEY

DELAWARE  
MARYLAND

ATLANTIC OCEAN

BERMUDA  
(Britain)

Northwest  
Territory

USA

LOUISIANA

Arkansas R.

Colorado R.

VIRGINIA

NORTH  
CAROLINA

SOUTH  
CAROLINA

Charleston

GEORGIA

Claimed by U.S.  
and Spain

New Orleans

FLORIDA

United States  
of America

British

French

Russian

Spanish

BAHAMAS

CUBA

JAMAICA

PUERTO  
RICO

HISPANIOLA

Gulf of Mexico

MEXICO

Rio Grande

PACIFIC OCEAN



500 Miles

1000 Kilometers

Tropic of Cancer

Tropic of Cancer

120°W

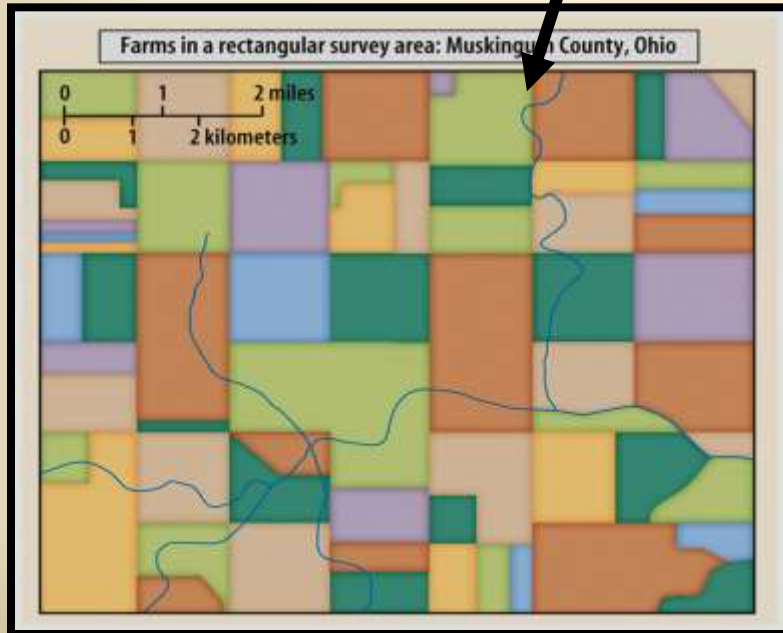
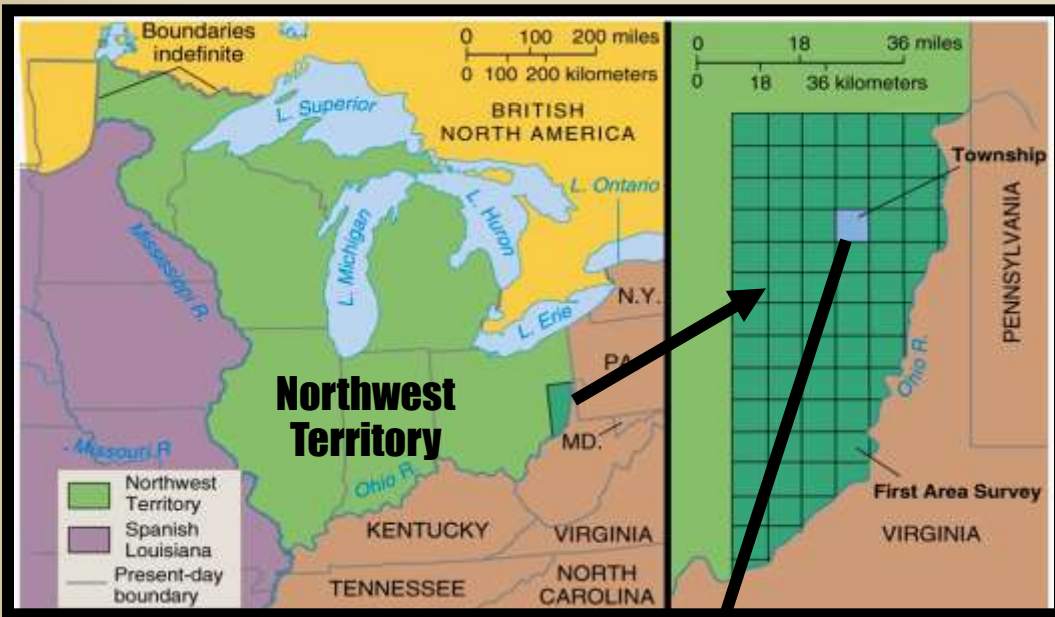
90°W

30°N

60°W

45°N

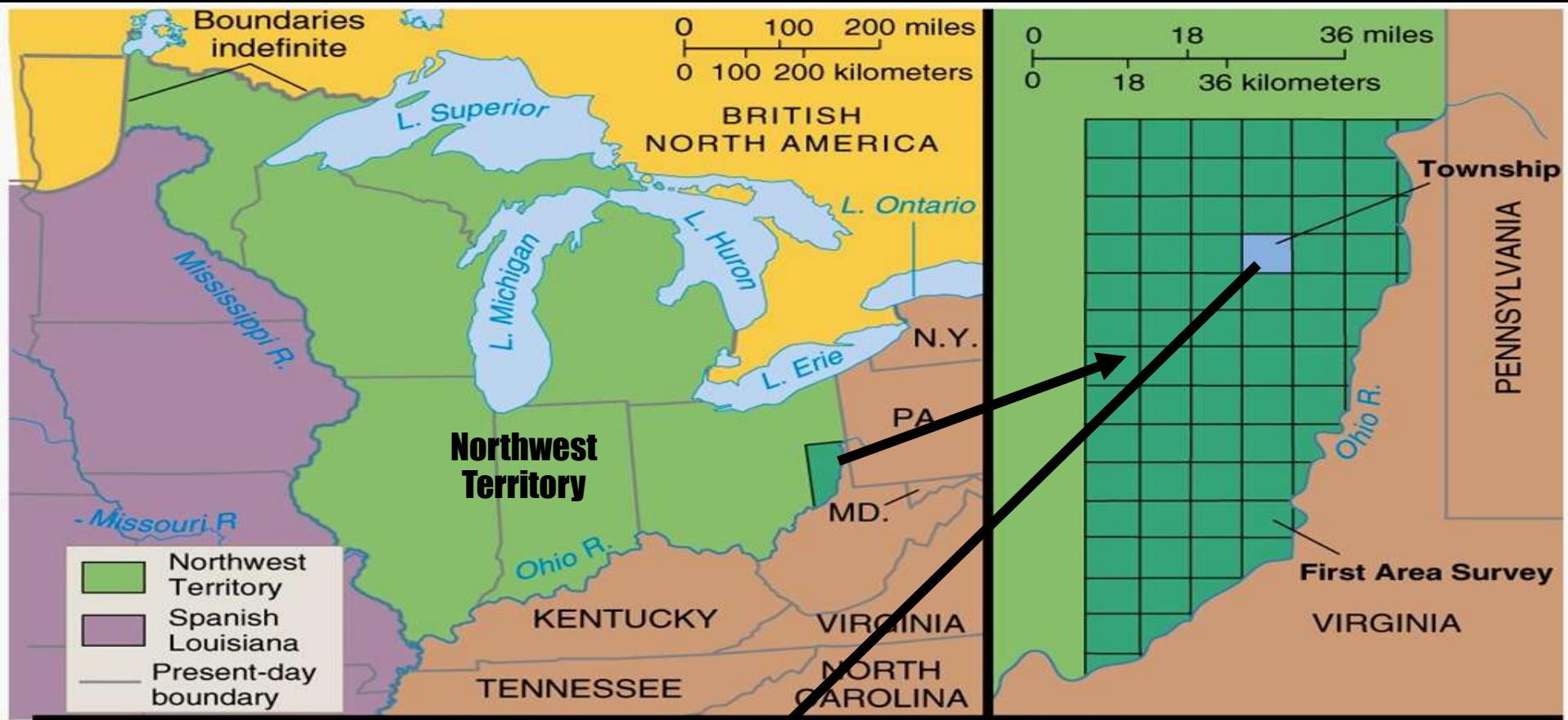
# LAND ORDINANCE OF 1785



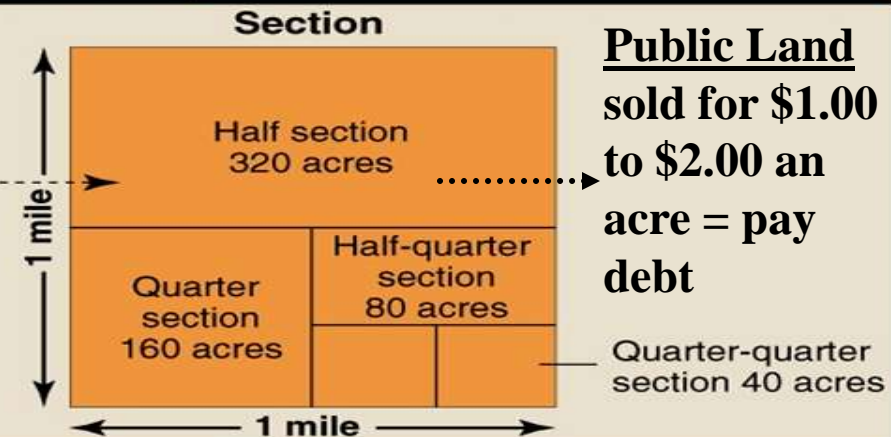
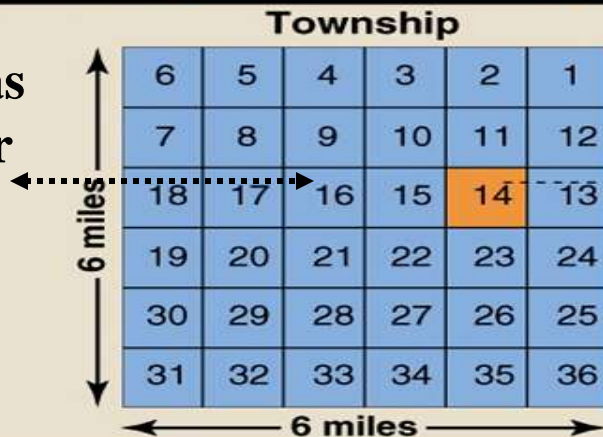
- Grid system was created by Thomas Jefferson...
- Structured and organized land policy
- Allowed for a peaceful purchase of land.
- Promoted an orderly expansion westward..
- Confederation Congress convinced states who claimed land out west to cede their land to the US Govt.
- US Govt. was to come up with a fair and reasonable land policy.....Unlike the Proclamation of 1763....



# LAND ORDINANCE OF 1785

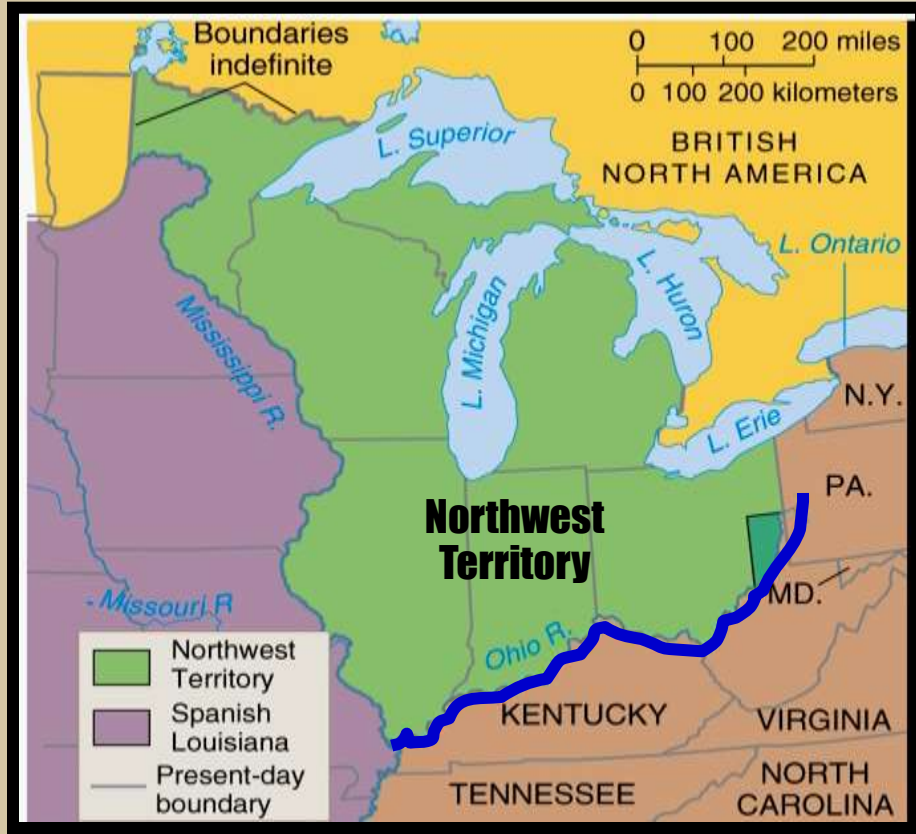


**Plot #16** was set aside for public education



**Public Land** sold for \$1.00 to \$2.00 an acre = pay debt

# NORTHWEST ORDINANCE OF 1787



- An addition to the Land Ordinance of 1785
- Congress sold land in large blocks, 40, 80, 160, 320 and 640 acres.
- \$1 to 2\$ an acre to help pay debt.

- Encouraged settlers to form townships.
- New states formed would be = to original 13
- Influx of settlers causes violence with Indians
  - Guaranteed settlers “unalienable rights”



# NORTHWEST ORDINANCE



## 1<sup>ST</sup> STEP

**WHEN PEOPLE  
FIRST SETTLE IN  
THE AREA:**

*Congress appoints a  
governor and three  
judges to govern the  
territory*



## 2<sup>nd</sup> STEP

**5,000 FREE ADULT  
MALES:**

*Landowners elect a  
congress to make laws  
and raise taxes with  
approval of governor. 1  
representative is elected  
to the US Congress who  
can debate but not vote.*



## 3<sup>rd</sup> STEP

**60,000 SETTLERS:**

*Becomes a state, with its  
own government and  
constitution. New states  
admitted with same rights  
as the original states. No  
more than 5 states can  
carved out of this area.*

**The Northwest Ordinance encouraged ideals of the DOI and republicanism (representative democracy) religious freedom, protection of liberty and property, encouraged education, admitted new states and no slavery. ✨**



## **5. Our first Constitution -- 1781 to 1789**

# ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- Our first constitution (*law of the land*) and attempt to create a democratic government based on the ideas of DOI.
- Written by 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress during War and took effect in March 1781... Becomes the Confederation Congress
- Founding Fathers were determined not to have a king.....

# ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

## *Confederation Government*

- ✓ govt. of loosely organized states
- ✓ Each state independent and conducted their own affairs
- ✓ Created a weak national govt. which had little powers to solve US problems
  - ✓ States held more power than US govt.
  - ✓ Would unite in times of crisis.
- ✓ “Treaty of Cooperation between the states”



# ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

## **Government Structure**

- Congress--1 branch
  - Confederation Congress
- No executive branch or president...
  - No judicial system.....
- One vote per state regardless of size

## **Powers of Congress**

- Make war and peace
  - make treaties
- build navy and army
  - settle disputes among states
- set up monetary system

## **State Responsibilities**

- Obey Articles and acts of Congress
  - provide funds and troops when “requested” by Congress
- States regulated own trade and taxed each other
- States had their own currency

**Major Problem:** Created a weak national govt that could not tax, regulate trade or enforce its laws because the states held more power than the National Government. 

## **5. Our first Constitution -- 1781 to 1789**

### **➤ Why AOC failed?**



## Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

- ◆ One vote for each State, regardless of size.
- ◆ Congress powerless to lay and collect taxes or duties.
- ◆ Congress powerless to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.
- ◆ No executive to enforce acts of Congress.
- ◆ No national court system.
- ◆ Amendment only with consent of all States.
- ◆ A 9/13 majority required to pass laws.
- ◆ Articles only a "firm league of friendship."



## Major Problem

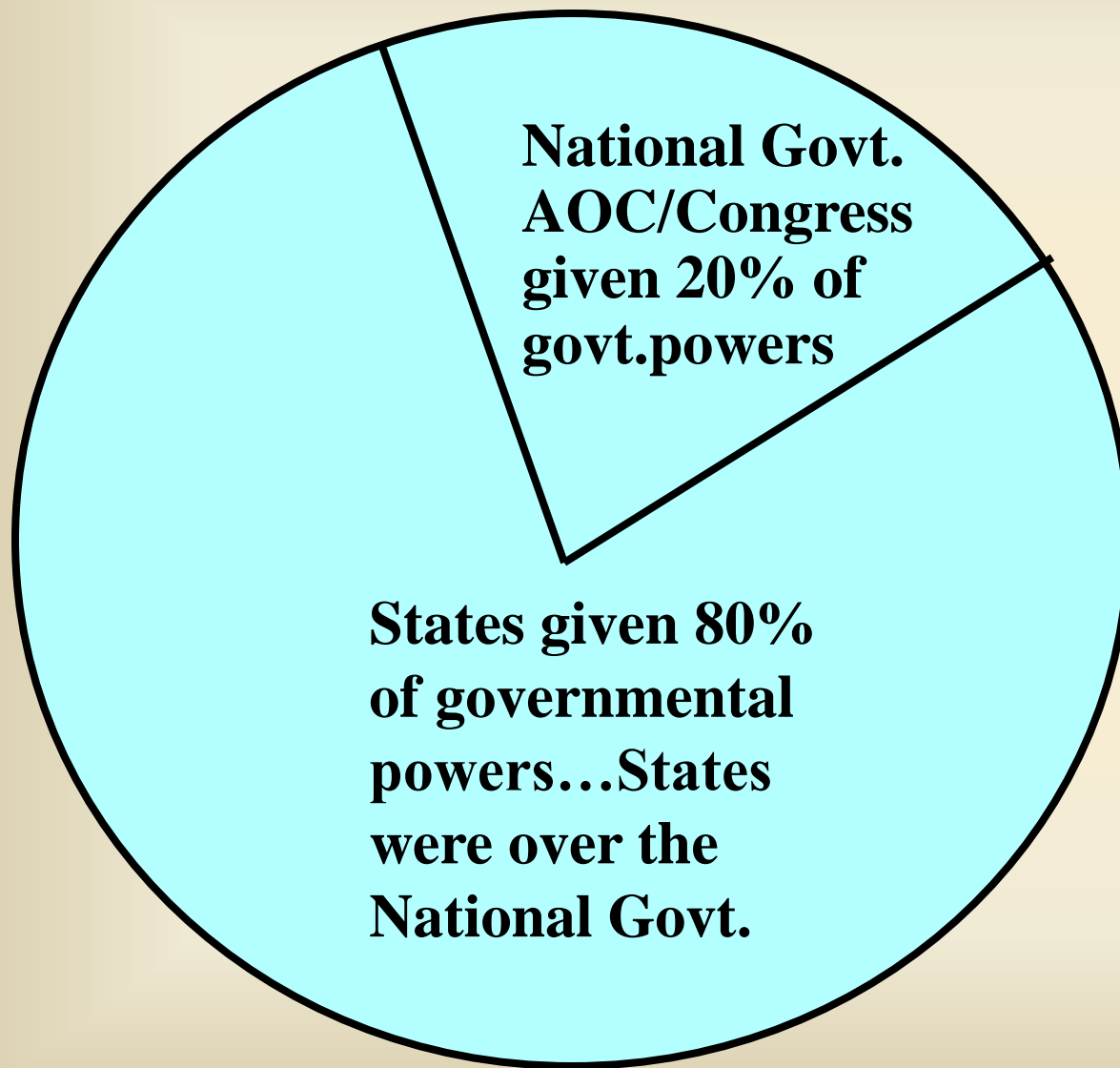
**Could not tax, regulate trade or enforce its laws because the states held more power than the National Government.**



## Why?

**Feared a government like King George**

# US GOVERNMENT IN 1781



Fearing a strong central govt. like King George the AOC created a weak National Government that was not given the power to tax, regulate trade or enforce their laws.



## **EFFECTS**

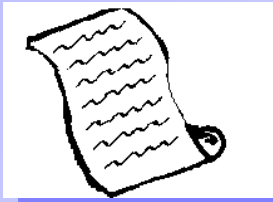
Could not deal effectively with US problems.



## **5. Articles of Confederation -- 1781 to 1789**

➤ **Why AOC failed?**

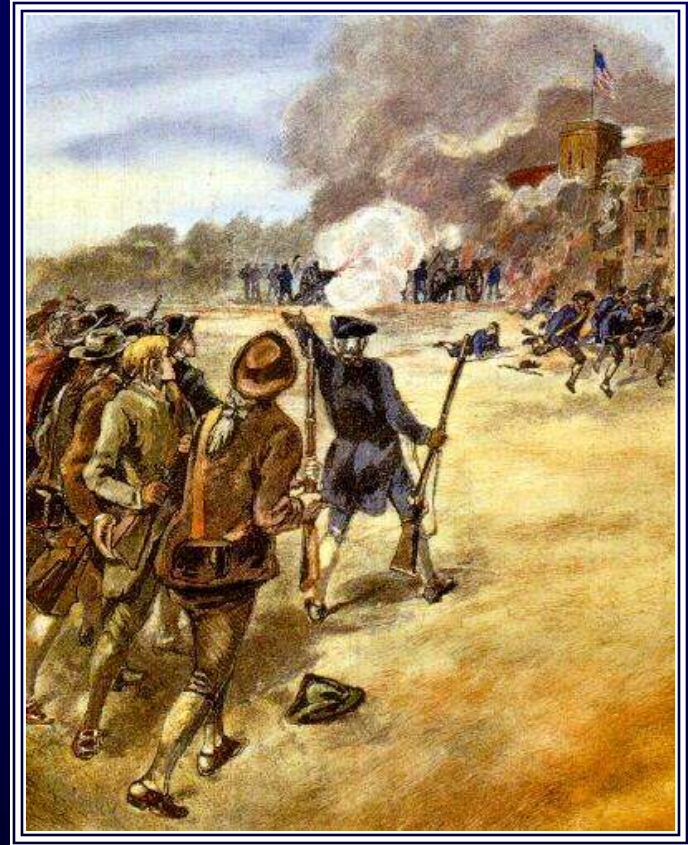
➤ **Shay's Rebellion 1786 to 87**



# **SHAY'S REBELLION**

- ✓ In early 1787 a group of small farmers protested against the Massachusetts govt.
- ✓ Why? They were in debt, their homes being repossessed and unfair taxation.
- ✓ They were led by Daniel Shays, a former army captain in the Revolutionary War.
- ✓ The purpose of the rebellion was to prevent foreclosures by keeping the courts from sitting until the next election.
- ✓ Shay's Rebellion was put down by private army paid for by wealthy merchants from Boston.
- ✓ The AOC was unable to put down the rebellion with a national guard or army.

# SHAY'S REBELLION, 1787



## Daniel Shay

1785 to 1787, unfair taxes, debt and foreclosure  
Farmer's rebellion to overthrow Mass. Govt.



# SHAY'S REBELLION, 1787



## Outcomes

Rebellion put down  
by a private militia

**US Govt. too weak  
to put down  
rebellion**

Americans feared  
govt. too weak =  
anarchy ✶

**Call for a Constitutional Convention to change  
AOC and create a stronger national government.** ✶

# **ANARCHY**

**total chaos, mob rule,  
survival of the fittest, no  
respect for law and order  
or attempting to  
overthrow the authority of  
govt. = unstable govt. =  
no govt.**

**“MOBOCRACY”**



## 5. Our first Constitution -- 1781 to 1789

➤ Why AOC failed...?

➤ Shay's Rebellion

6. Call for a new constitution



# *Why A New Constitution*

---

- ✓ The AOC was unable to act decisively in a time of crisis (*could not protect life, liberty and property*).
- ✓ Provided all the evidence needed to finally convene and revise the constitution.
- ✓ Why was *Shay's Rebellion* such a concern to our founding fathers?





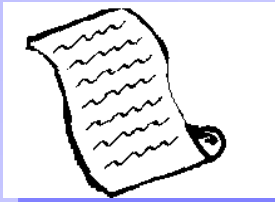


# *The Elites Response to Shay's Rebellion:*

**“Respectable”  
Americans were  
shocked by the  
violence. Feared  
“mobocracy”.**





Let us have  
{ a Constitution }  
by which our lives,  
liberties and properties  
will be secured...





# ***The Elites Response to Shay's Rebellion***

## **The Annapolis Convention (1786)**

-  George Washington hosted a conference at his home in Mt. Vernon, VA (1785)
-  Representatives agreed that the problems were serious enough to hold further discussions at a later meeting at Annapolis, MD, at which all the states might be represented
-  Only 5 states sent delegates
-  Alexander Hamilton and James Madison persuaded the others to call for a Constitutional Convention, to be held in Philadelphia for the purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation



# THE CRITICAL PERIOD, 1781 to 1789

## 1. Impact of the Revolution

- Loyalists????????????
- All Men Created Equal
  - Slavery attacked
  - Voting increases
  - Women's rights

notes1

U.S. begins to implement ideas of the DOI.

## 2. US problems after war

- debt
- Disputes:
  - Land claims between states
  - Spanish and British

## 3. Articles of Confederation

- First Constitution and Government---1781 to 1789
  - First attempt at representative democracy
  - no govt. related to a king
  - States held more power than national govt.

## ➤ Why AOC fail...?

### ➤ Major structural problems

- No power to tax, regulate trade or enforce its laws
- Could not solve problems in US

### ➤ Shay's Rebellion, 1786

- Americans feared govt. too weak = anarchy
- Call for a Constitutional Convention to change AOC

## 3. Successes under the AOC:

### ➤ Treaty of Paris 1783

### ➤ Land policies

#### ➤ **Land Ordinance of 1785**

#### ➤ Northwest Ordinance of 1787



## 2. U.S. problems after the war

### ➤ Debt

### ➤ Disputes:

➤ Between states 

➤ British and Spanish 

### ➤ Mobocracy

## 3. Our first Government/Constitution---March 1781

### ➤ Articles of Confederation

### ➤ Successes under the AOC:

➤ Peace and unity

➤ Land Ordinance, 1785 

➤ Northwest Ordinance, 1787

### ➤ Why AOC fail...?

➤ Could not solve problems in US

➤ Major structural problem 

➤ Shay's Rebellion, 1785 

➤ Call for a Constitutional Convention  to change AOC

- **Land policies**
  - **Land Ordinance of 1785** ✨
  - **Northwest Ordinance of 1787**
    - **Carved out new states**
- **Why AOC failed...?** ✨
  - **States held more power than national govt.**
  - **No power to tax, regulate trade or enforce its laws**
  - **Could not solve problems in US**
    - **Shay's Rebellion, 1786** ✨
      - **Govt. too weak to put down rebellions**
      - **Anarchy = "mobocracy"**
- **Call for a Constitutional Convention to change AOC** ✨
  - **Annapolis Convention**

# THE CRITICAL PERIOD, 1781 to 1789

## 1. Impact of the Revolution

➤ Loyalists????????????

➤ Egalitarian movements

notes1  
To bring about equality in society, political rights and economic opportunities.....

➤ Social Equality "all men created equal"

➤ Slavery attacked ✱

➤ Women's rights ✱

➤ Republican motherhood

➤ Political equality

➤ Increased voting ✱

➤ States write new democratic constitutions

➤ Representative democracy ➡

States begin to implement ideas of the DOI.

➤ Economic Equality

➤ Loyalist land sold

➤ Industry and trade increases

"Republicanism"

Republican form of government

# THE CRITICAL PERIOD, 1781 to 1789

notes1

## 1. Impact of the Revolution

- Egalitarian movements
  - Slavery attacked ✱
  - Women's rights ✱
- Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
  - Encouraged westward expansion
    - Land Ordinance of 1785 ✱
    - Northwest Ordinance of 1787
- Power of government comes from the people
  - Representative democracy = republic ✱
  - Voting increases ✱
  - State Constitutions ✱

## 2. US problems after war

- Debt = \$80 million ✱
- Great Britain and Spain ✱
- States fighting over new land ✱



# Social Change

- Abolition of Aristocratic Titles
  - Social mobility
- Separation of Church and state
- The institution of slavery contradicted the idea that “*all men are created equal*”
  - Several northern states would abolish slavery.
  - Majority of southern slave-owners came to believe that slave labor was essential to their economy
- Voting rights would expand
- Despite their contributions during the war, women remained in a second-class status

