

## **Articles of Confederation**

Federal gov't could not make taxes, regulate trade, draft army

Only individual states can tax and regulate trade within the state

Parts of Gov't:

-no judicial branch (states make and interpret own laws)

-executive branch is a 13-man committee

-legislative branch only one with any power

-called 'Congress' and each state gets 1 vote

-to pass a law need 2/3 majority (9 out of 13)

-to change anything need a unanimous vote (13 out of 13)

## **Agenda of Problems for Today's Articles of Confederation Congress Meeting**

Date: September 28, 1782    Location: Philadelphia, PA

Each of the 13 states has representatives at the meeting. Each state gets 1 vote. A 2/3 majority is required to pass a law; a unanimous vote is needed for a major change.

The President John Dickinson will lead the meeting and explain each problem. Each state may give its opinion and reasons. Then, we will vote.

### **Problem #1: Foreign Policy**

1) Britain refuses to remove troops from NW Territory

-Says will remove when we pay pre-war debt as outlines in Treaty of Paris

Proposals/Options:

1. Draft a national standing army to go to this territory

2. Allow the national Congress to start an import tax & use money to pay Britain

2) "Barbary Pirates" of North Africa holding our trading ships hostage

-Want gold payments for release of ships & safe passage in future

Proposals/Options:

1. Draft a national navy to protect our ships
2. Allow national Congress to start an import tax to raise money

### **Problem #2: Debt after Revolutionary War**

- 1) We owe France and Holland \$10 million
- 2) We owe American citizens who bought war bonds \$34 million

Proposals/Options

- 1) We allow national Congress to tax imports 5% and use money to pay off debts
- 2) We only pay one group and forget the other

### **Problem #3: Domestic Violence**

- 1) Farmers & Paper Money

During war each state printed its own money and paid farmers in this money for food and supplies for soldiers. Now, some states are saying this money is worthless. Many farmers have no money, no food, no supplies, nothing.

Many farmers owe lots of money; they refuse to pay money they owe and/or pay taxes.

Special example: Shay's Rebellion in Massachusetts

His "army" of farmers is larger than the Massachusetts state army and refuses to go home or pay any taxes.

Proposals/Options

1. Allow national Congress to make a Central Bank and regulate all trade and currency among all states
2. Allow Congress to draft a national army to take care of these "rebellions"

### **Problem #4: Interstate Problems**

- 1) Right now all 13 states trade with each other like foreign countries and put high tariffs and taxes on inter-state trade. This is hurting the economy.
- 2) Loyalists want to return to their homes and property. Each state can make up its own laws regarding this. New York has proposed a national law protecting all loyalist property.

Proposals/Options:

1. Allow the national Congress to regulate interstate trade and make national trade laws.
2. Allow the national Congress to make 1 law for all 13 states to protect loyalist property.