



The Articles of Confederation

Chapter 5, page 154

Unit V - The Critical Period

- **The Articles of Confederation served as the framework for the American Government during the American Revolution up to the organization of the Constitutional Convention of 1787.**



Who was responsible for developing the Articles?

- **The Second Continental Congress organized the Committee of Thirteen to develop the Articles.**



What does *Ratification* mean?

- To approve and accept something, making it officially valid



When did the 13 original states ratify the Articles of Confederation?




- The 2nd Continental Congress sent the Articles to the states for ratification in 1777.
- Because of disputes over Western land claims and the need for unanimous acceptance, the Articles of Confederation were not officially accepted until 1781

Organizational Structure of the Articles of Confederation

*Established a UNICAMERAL [one-house] legislature
(Called the Confederation Congress after 1781)*

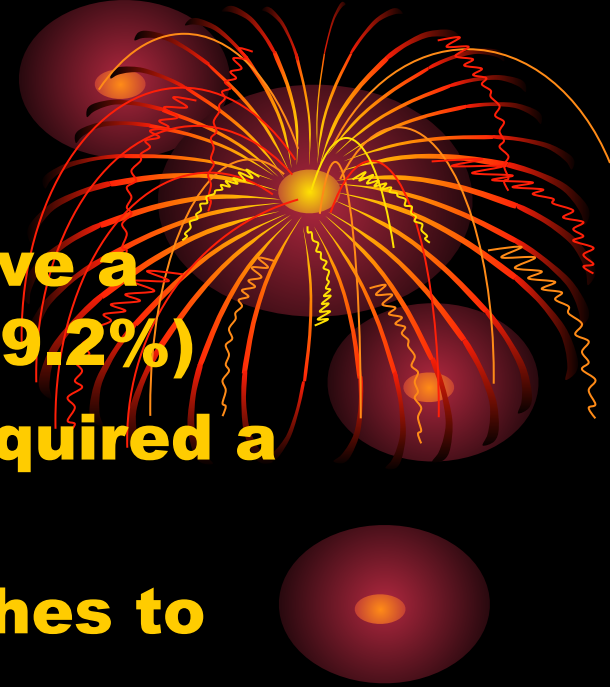
Each State had only ONE (1) vote in all decision making actions.

Powers & Provisions

- **Could settle disputes between the states**
 - **Conduct Foreign relations (make treaties)**
 - **Had control over maritime affairs**
 - **Est. relations/ policies with Native Americans**
 - **Est. value of state & national coinage**
 - **Could BORROW money from states**
 - **Could ASK states to organize and mobilize Militia to help maintain national defense**
- 

Weaknesses

- **9 out of 13 states had to approve a measure for it to be adopted (69.2%)**
- **Amendments to the Articles required a UNANIMOUS decision**
- **No Executive or Judicial branches to enforce / interpret laws**
- **Could not regulate trade or economic affairs between states or with other countries**
- **Individual states were allowed to print their own PAPER money and states did not have to accept currency from other states**



Weaknesses (continued)

- **Congress has no power to TAX states to raise money**
- **Could not maintain or support an adequate “standing” army**
- **Each state retained its own power and control over everything not assigned to the national government**
- **The Confederation Congress had NO AUTHORITY to make the states accept its rulings**



Relationship between *Western Land Claims* and the *Articles of Confederation*:

- **Maryland was the last state to ratify the Articles because they refused to do so until the states that held western land claims had given those claims to the national government.**
- **It was only after Jefferson promised that western lands would become future territories and states (NOT extensions of existing states), would Maryland agree to the terms of the Articles.**

