

How we got to the Articles of
Confederation... a brief review.

Early stuff....1600s...

- ◉ When the colonies were formed they were ruled almost completely by the Crown.
- ◉ Parliament had very little to do with the ruling of the colonies. Over time though, Parliament became more and more interested in matters of trade within the colonies.



Over 3,000 miles away

- Because their ruling body (the King) was 3,000 miles away across the Atlantic the colonists became used to a large measure of self-government.
- Each colony had a legislative body who began to assume broad lawmaking powers.
- Although there was a royal governor in each colony the colonial legislature would often threaten to not vote the money for his salary until he came to terms with the legislature.
- This is called the power of the purse- or the power of the legislature to vote on issues of money.



By the 1700's

- The relationship between Great Britain and the colonies had become federal- meaning: that the central government in London was responsible for colonial defense and for foreign affairs.
- The central government in London also provided a uniform system of money and credit as well as a common market for colonial trade.



The power of the Colonies...

- The colonies were allowed a fairly wide amount of self-rule.
- Hardly any money was taken from them in the form of direct-taxes to pay for the central government.
- The few regulations that were put in place by Parliament (mostly about trade) were ignored by a large majority of the colonists.

George III

- ◉ When George III came to the throne in 1760 Great Britain dealing more harshly with their colonies.
- ◉ Restrictive trading acts were expanded and enforced.
- ◉ New taxes were imposed- mostly to support the British troops in North America.



The Colonists' reactions...

- Many colonists were not pleased with the new policies under George III.
- They objected to taxes imposed on them from afar- “No Taxation without Representation”.
- The colonists saw themselves as subjects loyal to the Crown but refused to accept Parliament's claim that it had a right to control their local



What's it all going to lead to?

- The King's ministers were poorly informed and very stubborn about the new policies.
- They pushed to enforce them despite the growing resentments stirring in North America.
- Soon the colonists faced a decision: submit to the Crown or revolt.

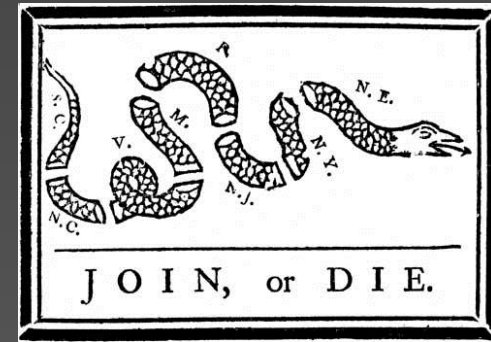


Unsuccessful tries at Colonial Unity...

- The first attempt was with the New England Confederation (remember what a confederation means?).
- The NEC was formed for defense against the Native Americans.
- As the danger from the NAs passed and friction amongst the settlements grew the NEC was no more.

The Albany Plan

- In 1754 Benjamin Franklin offered to the meeting of the seven northern colonies (Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island) his Albany Plan.
- Franklin wanted an annual congress of delegates from each of the 13 colonies.
- This body would have power to raise military and naval forces, make war and peace with the Native Americans, regulate trade with them, tax, and collect customs and duties.
- Unfortunately for Franklin his plan was ahead of his time. The colonies turned him down.



Then comes the...Stamp

Act

- Parliament was stretching its newly found powers in North America.
- They stretched a little too far with the Stamp Act of 1765.
- In retaliation to the Stamp Act the colonists organized a boycott of English goods.
- 5 colonists were killed when British troops fired on a jeering crowd in Boston- this is known as the Boston Massacre.
- The Boston Tea Party was also in protest to the new policies put in place by Great Britain.



The 1st Continental Congress

- The 1st Continental Congress was held in response to new policies by Great Britain.
- Delegates from every colony met and eventually produced a Declaration of Rights which was send to King George III and outlined protests to Britain's Colonial Policies.



The 2nd Continental Congress

- ◉ Was held after the Revolution had begun.
- ◉ At the 2nd CC representatives wrote the Declaration of Independence, created a continental army and appointed George Washington its commander and chief.
- ◉ The 2nd CC was the first government of the United States. It lasted 5 years until the Articles of Confederation went into effect



THE DECLARATION COMMITTEE.

WILLIAM STRICKLAND, SCULPTOR. JOHN B. HENNING, ENGRAVER. THE COMMITTEE CONSISTED OF THOMAS JEFFERSON, JOHN ADAMS, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, AND JOHN WILSON. THE COMMITTEE MET AT PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER 9, 1776. THE DECLARATION WAS ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1776. THE COMMITTEE WAS CHAIRED BY THOMAS JEFFERSON. THE DECLARATION WAS SIGNED BY THOMAS JEFFERSON, JOHN ADAMS, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, AND JOHN WILSON. THE DECLARATION WAS SIGNED BY THOMAS JEFFERSON, JOHN ADAMS, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, AND JOHN WILSON. THE DECLARATION WAS SIGNED BY THOMAS JEFFERSON, JOHN ADAMS, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, AND JOHN WILSON.

The Articles of Confederation

- ◉ The Articles established “a firm league of friendship” among the states.
- ◉ Under this plan each state kept its, “sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every Power, Jurisdiction, and right...not...expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled”.
- ◉ Why do you think the AoC weren't able to last?

Weakening of the Articles

- The Articles of Confederation had created a government that was unable to deal with the nation's troubles.
- The need for a stronger, more effective national government soon became evident.
- Assignment: use pages 44-45 to fill in a table about the Articles. Fill out only the first 3 columns.