

Chapter 6 Terms

The Northwest Ordinance:

The Northwest Ordinance was a law developed in the late 1700s under the Articles of Confederation. The law, which was established by the Continental Congress, designated all land above the Ohio River as part of the Northwest Territory. The Northwest Territory would one day be divided into different states, including Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. The Northwest Ordinance forbade slavery and set aside land to be used for education. Three stages were set up that allowed people to enter the union: a governor and judge were appointed, people wrote a temporary constitution and elected a legislature, and then a Congress-approved constitution would allow for the formation of a new state after 60,000 people lived in the territory. The Northwest Ordinance is important because it helped lay orderly foundations for future states, influenced the movement of settlers, and set a precedent for education and a ban on slavery.

The Peace of Paris:

The Peace of Paris was a set of treaties that ended the American Revolutionary War in the late 1700s. In Paris, France, representatives from both America (Adams, Jay, Franklin) and Britain signed the Peace of Paris while two other treaties were also being signed in Versailles. Through the Peace of Paris America gained its independence, as well as land east of the Mississippi River (minus Florida, which belonged to Spain). France won a victory against Britain, but it cost the nation dearly. The nation, now in debt, would enter the French Revolution soon after. The Dutch did not win nor lose much, but the Spanish on the other hand regained Florida. The Peace of Paris is important because it brought an end to the first British Empire, gave the Americans more freedom, and granted America and European powers more land. The Peace of Paris was also a precedent to British and American conflict because British forts stayed in America because the Americans owed the British and Loyalists as well.

Articles of Confederation:

The Articles of Confederation were crafted by John Dickinson in the late 1700s. After the end of the Revolutionary War, America needed a new national government. Under the Articles of Confederation, there was a single-chamber congress that was elected by state legislatures. States received only one vote, despite their differences in size and population. Congress could ask for money from the states but could not directly impose taxes unless every state agreed to it. There were no executive or judicial branches either. Congressional committees oversaw financial, diplomatic, and military affairs in America. The first President of the Continental Congress was John Hanson. The Confederation had its fair share of problems, since the national government was weak and Congress had limited power. The Articles of Confederation were designed weak in order to prevent a tyranny from forming. They did give us, however, the Northwest Ordinance. The Articles of Confederation are important because they marked the end of the Revolutionary War after the signing of the Treaty of Paris and also included the Northwest Ordinance. They were also the first attempt at a new government, although soon replaced by the Constitution.

Shays' Rebellion:

Shays' Rebellion took place in the late 1700s. The rebellion took place because of an economic depression that hit Massachusetts especially hard, along with a huge tax increase. To make matters worse, bankers and merchants demanded to be paid in specie (gold and silver), which many poor farmers had very little of. Angry farmers, led by Daniel Shays, attempted to close courts in order to prevent sheriffs' auctions and foreclosures on mortgages. They were fighting against a "new tyranny"- the Massachusetts government. The Founding Fathers were upset and realized that the Articles of Confederation were too weak. Eventually, many of the rebels were captured and the rebellion ended. Shays' Rebellion is important because it was the first rebellion after the Revolutionary War and showed the rebellious spirit still present in Americans. The rebellion also led to the Philadelphia Convention and the adoption of the Constitution, as it was proven the Articles of Confederation were too weak.

Federalists vs Antifederalists:

When the Constitution was being created in Philadelphia in the late 1700s, people both supported and opposed it. Americans who were for the Constitution were called Federalists. Federalists believed that the Articles of Confederation were weak and needed to be replaced with a plan with a stronger national government. The national government would protect the people and there was no need for a bill of rights. Federalists were usually wealthier and had more influence. Important Federalists included George Washington and Alexander Hamilton. On the other hand, Antifederalists believed that the Articles of Confederation could be saved and that a strong national government would be harmful and threaten everyone's rights. They also disliked the fact that the proposed Constitution did not have a bill of rights. Important Antifederalists included Patrick Henry, James Monroe, and Thomas Jefferson. Antifederalists and Federalists are both important because they influenced the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These two groups also led to the start of political parties in America. It also showed that not everyone was happy with the government.

The Federalist Papers:

The Federalist Papers were written in the late 1700s by John Jay, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton. They were a collection of essays that explained how the new government would work and the benefits of a stronger central government. Their purpose was to convince the New York legislature to ratify the Constitution, and they were successful. *The Federalist Papers* are important because they helped get the Constitution passed.