

## The Articles of Confederation

### Thirteen Independent States

- The British kept troops at frontier posts in American territories.
- The British believed the new American government was weak and ineffective.

- America needed to establish their own political institutions.

### State Constitutions

- constitution-plan of government
- The states adopted constitutions that limited the power of the governor.
- Pennsylvania replaced the office of governor with an elected council of 12 members.

### Limiting Power

- Government functions were divided between the governor and the legislature.
- bicameral-legislatures to divide the power even further
- The state constitutions restricted the powers of the governors, which made the legislatures the most powerful branch of government.

### Forming a Republic

- republic-a government in which citizens rule through elected representatives
- At first Americans favored a weak central government.
- They assumed the states would be independent.

### Planning a New Government

- In 1776 the Second Continental Congress appointed a committee to draw up a plan for a new government.
- The Congress adopted the committee's plan, the Articles of Confederation, in November 1777.
- Under the Articles of Confederation, the government - consisting of the Congress - had the authority to conduct foreign affairs, maintain armed forces, borrow money, and issue currency.
- On March 1, 1781 the Confederation

of the United States.

### The Confederation Government

- The Articles of Confederation did not provide a government strong enough to handle the problems facing the United States.
- The Articles of Confederation could not pass a law unless nine states voted in favor of it.
- Americans won their independence and expanded foreign trade.

### New Land Policies

- During the 1780s all of the states except Georgia gave up their claims to lands west of the Appalachians, and the central government took control of these lands.
- In 1784 Congress, under a plan proposed by Thomas Jefferson, divided the western territory into self-governing districts.
- petition-apply to