

1  **The Articles of Confederation**

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■ When Americans declared independence in 1776, they needed to form a new government:

– They wanted to form a republic where citizens vote for elected leaders to represent them

– They wanted to protect citizens & individual states from a powerful national government

3  **Thirteen Independent States**

4  **The Articles of Confederation**



9  **Successes of the  
Articles of Confederation**

10  **The United States, 1783**

11  **Western Land Claims**

**Ceded by the States**



13  **Land Ordinance of 1785**

14  **The Northwest Ordinance**

■ The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 gave government to the territories:

– When a territory had 5,000 residents, it could create a self-governing legislature

– When a territory had 60,000 residents, it could apply to become a U.S. state

– Slavery was outlawed in the NW

15  ***Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation***

16  **The Weaknesses of the Articles**

- The Articles of Confederation was America's 1<sup>st</sup> form of gov't:
  - The weakness the national gov't was originally seen as good because it eliminated tyranny
  - Later, these same weaknesses kept the gov't from solving serious national problems

17  **Economic Problems**

- The inability of the government to collect taxes led to problems:
  - America could not pay off debts from the Revolutionary War
  - Property foreclosures led an uprising among Massachusetts farmers called Shays' Rebellion in 1787 but the gov't could not pay for an army to stop it

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20  **America's First National Government: *The Articles of Confederation***

21  **Weaknesses of the Articles**

- After Shays' Rebellion, people like Hamilton & Madison began calling for a stronger national gov't
- In 1787, delegates met in Philadelphia to discuss ways to improve the Articles
- Instead of revising the Articles of Confederation, the delegates replaced it with the Constitution