



## Chapter 5

### Section 1: Government by the States



# Early Government

- ◆ The Articles of Confederation 1777
  - Approved in 1781
- ◆ Established limited national government
  - Most power remained in the states



- ◆ National government
  - One legislative branch
  - Congress- makes the laws
  - Carried out the duties of the legislative & executive branches
    - Could declare war & borrow money
    - Couldn't tax (asked states for money)



- ◆ Each state maintained its own court
- ◆ Allowed the states to send as many representatives as they want
  - Only had one vote
- ◆ To pass a law required 9 votes
- ◆ Changes to the Articles required all states



# State Constitutions

- ◆ Important models for our Constitution
- ◆ PA gave voting rights to all white men over 21, who paid taxes
- ◆ Unicameral government
- ◆ Representative had to run for election every year
  - Responsive to people's wishes



# Opposition to the Articles

## ◆ Economic Problems

- Wealthy, educated men worried that the government gave too much power to ordinary citizens
- War debt of \$ 50 million
- Borrowed money from foreign governments & own citizens



- ◆ Some states printed money with no gold or silver backing
- ◆ Created economic chaos
- ◆ Some states put heavy taxes on goods



# Concerns about weak government

- ◆ Nationalists wanted to strengthen the national government
- ◆ Former military officers, many Congressmen, merchants, planters, & lawyers, Washington, Madison, Hamilton





- ◆ Pointed out that Congress was unable to act because so many lawmakers failed to attend the sessions
- ◆ Lack of national court & national economic policies would create chaos



- ◆ Most people thought it was better to have mistakes under a government of the people than to be ruled by tyrants



# Learning from History

- ◆ Nationalists knew from history that representative government failed in Europe & ended in tyranny



## America as a model

- ◆ Thomas Paine said the US would be a model for other nations



# The Annapolis Convention 1786

- ◆ Met to discuss the economic problems
- ◆ Only 12 delegates from 5 states met
  - Agreed to call another convention in Philadelphia in 1787 to try to fix the government



# Shays' Rebellion

- ◆ The Causes of the Rebellion
  - People who loaned money to the government wanted it back
  - Legislature passed heavy taxes
  - Mass tax had to be paid in specie
    - More scarce & worth more
    - Opposition from western farmers



- ◆ Courts started seizing their possessions

- ◆ Shays was going to be arrested for debts & led a rebellion that spread through the local area

  - Drove off tax collectors & protested new taxes



- Rejected by the courts & forced them to close
- National government could do nothing. No powers





# Effects of the Rebellion

Demonstrated that steps had to  
strengthen the national  
government & avoid civil  
unrest