

# Articles of Confederation





**United States of America**

**Objective:** To examine the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.

**Articles of Confederation**



# Strengths

- ◆ Wage war
- ◆ Sign treaties (make peace)
- ◆ Set up post offices
- ◆ Appoint ambassadors
- ◆ Settle conflicts between states

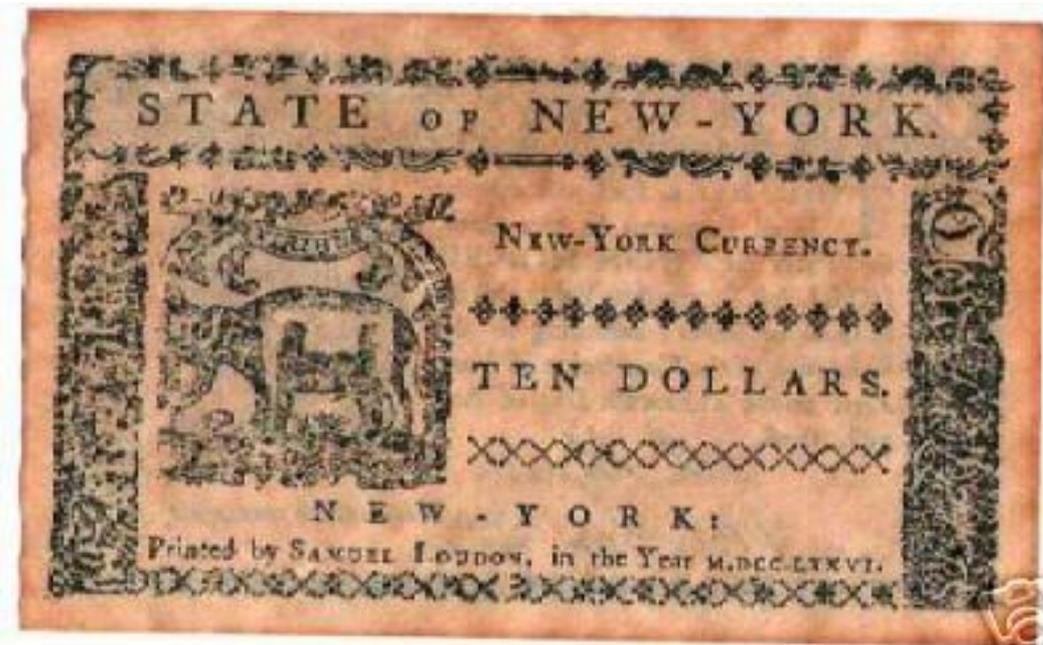
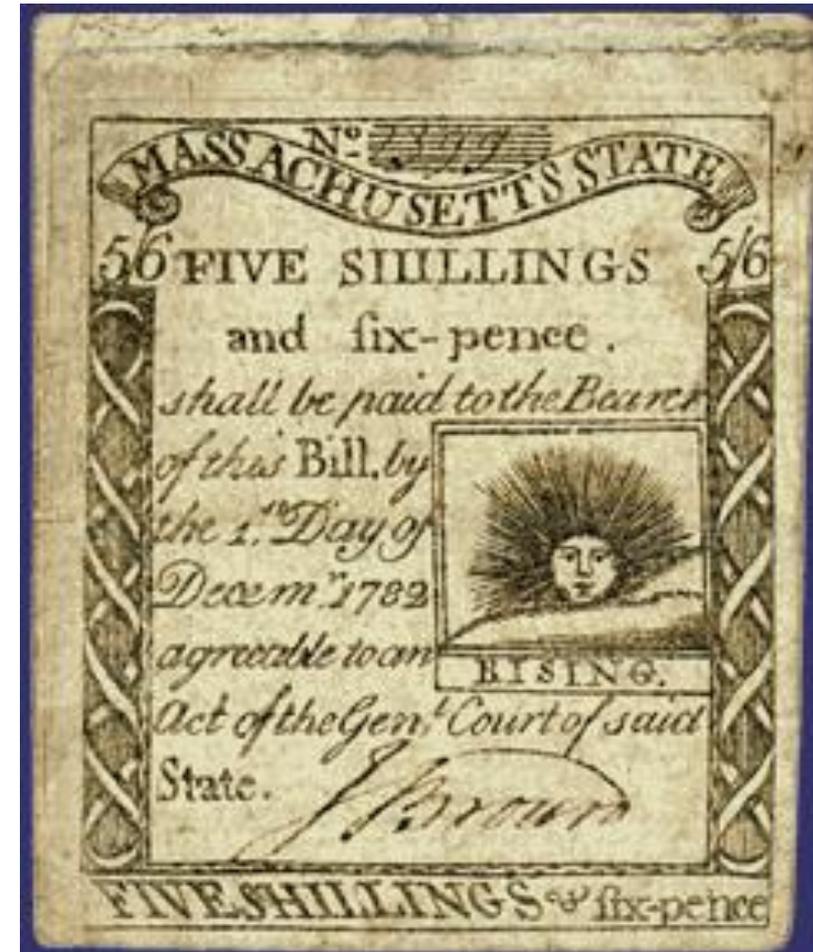
# Weaknesses

- ◆ NO President (Executive)
- ◆ NO Armey
- ◆ NO Courts (Judicial)
- ◆ NO Taxing Power (monetary problems)
- ◆ No power to enforce laws (regulate trade)
- ◆ States were sovereign
- ◆ One vote per state regardless of population
- ◆ 9/13 states to pass a law
- ◆ 13/13 states to amend (make changes)

# Why did the Articles of Confederation fail?

## I. Currency Issues

- The United States did not have a common currency.
- Americans carried money from the federal government, state government, and foreign nations.



- Merchants stopped accepting money from outside of their own state, causing a lot of money to become worthless.
- This caused an increase in ***inflation***.



# Why did the Articles of Confederation fail?

## II. Debt

- Congress could not tax the people and depended on money from the states.
- Therefore, the U.S. was unable to pay its debts!

### Examples:

- The U.S. owed money to France, Holland, and Spain for loans made during the Revolutionary War.
- The U.S. had not paid many of their own soldiers!

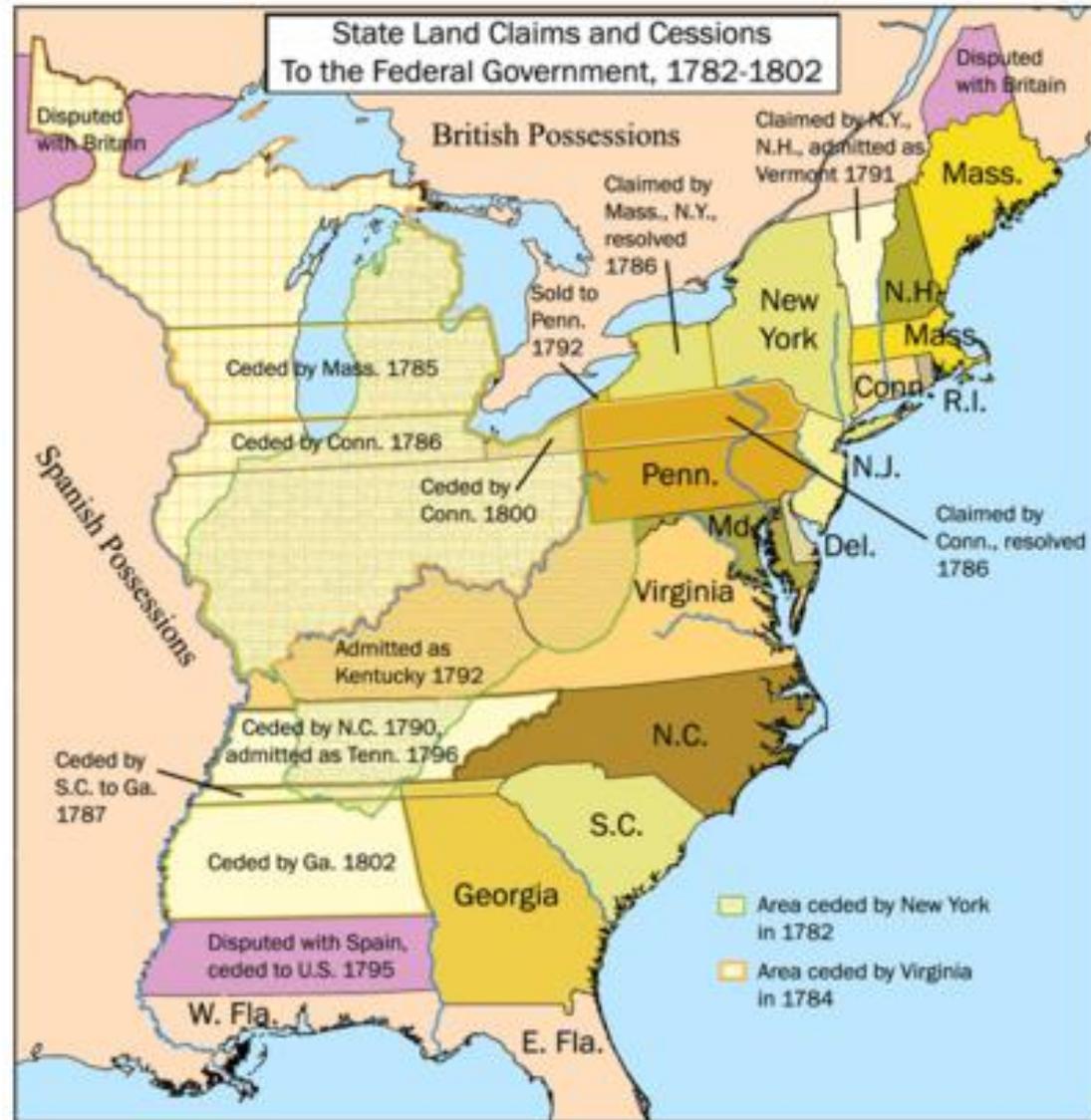
# Why did the Articles of Confederation fail?

## III. International and Domestic Problems

- The U.S. lacked the military power to defend itself against Great Britain and Spain.
- States acted as individual countries and seldom agreed.

Example:

- Connecticut and Virginia almost went to war over land claims!



# Why did the Articles of Confederation fail?

## Courts (Judicial Branch)



Supreme Court

- The nation lacked a national court system.

# Why did the Articles of Confederation fail?

## President (Executive Branch)



White House

- The nation did not have a President, or Chief Executive.

# Why did the Articles of Confederation fail?

## Congress (Legislative Branch)

- Congress had one house. (**unicameral**)
- Laws were difficult to pass, needing the approval of nine states.
- Congress was responsible to the states, *not* the people.
- Congress had no power to collect taxes, regulate trade, coin money, or establish a military.

# Effects/Results/Outcomes

- ◆ Northwest Ordinance of 1787
  - ◆ Set up rules for statehood once 60,000 people
  - ◆ Outlawed slavery in new states (Northwest territories)
  - ◆ Free education in new states
- ◆ Shays' Rebellion
  - ◆ Illustrated the Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
  - ◆ Led to the Constitutional Convention