

6-Revolutionary War & Articles of Confederation

Great Britain, the most powerful country in the world quickly captured all four major U.S. cities. (New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Charleston)
Washington's army was falling apart and morale was low.

Two victories saved morale
Battle of Trenton(December 1776)-American surprised drunken mercenaries on Christmas night
Battle of Princeton (January 1777)-another American victory soon after

Saratoga (October 1777)-turning point of Revolutionary War, large American victory convinced the French to help the colonists (we had second most powerful nation on our side now)

Valley Forge-a very bad time, Washington kept the army together through a terrible winter in Pennsylvania. They did not have enough food, clothes, and other supplies. Lack of a central government made it hard to get these things. (no taxes=no supplies)

War was hard on the civilian colonists also. Shortage of goods, inflation, worthless money.

British turned South where they had more support from Colonists. Lost Battles at King Mountain and Cowpens. British won at Guilford Courthouse, NC but were badly damaged and had to move North to wait for reinforcements.

British waited on a peninsula at Yorktown, Virginia for reinforcements. An American army cut them off by land and a French navy cut them off from the sea.

British army under Lord Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington. British government decided the war was costing them too much

Treaty of Paris (1783)-Ended the Revolutionary War. Gave the new United States formal independence and all British lands east the Mississippi River

OUR FIRST GOVERNMENT
Articles of Confederation-1781
A near total failure because it was largely powerless. Had no executive branch and required 9 of 13 states to pass a law. Could not tax, could not regulate trade.

2 Accomplishments of Articles government

1. Land Ordinance of 1785-set up settlement west of Appalachian Mountains based on a grid system. (Indians?)
2. Northwest Ordinance of 1785-set up process of adding new states and banned slavery in the Northwest Territory

Major Problems

1. No money from taxes
2. States were near brink of war with each other over trade
3. Shay's Rebellion-Former patriot soldiers rebelled over pay they had not received since government had no money-this was the main reason the Constitutional Convention was called