

Exercise walk-through

3.7

The Articles of Confederation

AP United States History

The powers that moved, and the ones that did not

After declaring independence, leaders wrote new **constitutions and declarations of rights** that reflected republican ideals, generally limiting executive power.

The **Articles of Confederation** created a deliberately weak central government: no power to tax, no power to regulate commerce, no executive, and no national judiciary.

Two documents worth naming

Northwest Ordinance

The Confederation's one real success: it organised western settlement, set out how territories became states, and barred slavery north-west of the Ohio.

Washington's Farewell Address

George Washington urged national unity and warned against political factions and permanent foreign alliances – a warning issued as the first party system was already forming.

Naming a document *and* what it did converts a date into evidence.

The new republic's first arguments

the central dispute	under Washington and Adams, leaders split over the national–state balance of power
Hamilton's programme	a national bank, assumed state debts – a broad reading of federal power
Jefferson's objection	a strict reading, and an agrarian republic of independent farmers
the French Revolution	war between France and Britain forced hard choices; the government pursued neutrality and diplomatic initiatives
a national culture	developed in art, literature and architecture – alongside continued regional variation
American Indian nations	repeatedly re-evaluated their alliances with European powers and the new republic

The first party system grew out of a constitutional argument, not a policy one – which is why it was so bitter so quickly.

Moving west, and the competition it caused

Migration west

Growing numbers of migrants moved west, intensifying competition over **resources, boundaries, and trade**.

Shifting alliances

American Indian groups repeatedly **evaluated and adjusted their alliances** with European powers and the new United States as circumstances changed.

An ambiguous status

The relationship between the federal government and American Indian tribes stayed **ambiguous**, and conflict recurred.

In the Southwest

Spain expanded its **mission system**, supported by the bonded labour of local American Indians.

Westward expansion is the period's clearest *continuity*: independence changed the government, not the pressure on Native land.

The powers that moved, and the ones that did not, in detail

	Articles of Confederation	The Constitution	Why it mattered
Taxation	no power to tax; could only request funds	Congress may lay and collect taxes	<i>war debts went unpaid</i>
Commerce	no power to regulate trade between states	Congress regulates interstate and foreign trade	<i>states taxed each other</i>
Executive	no president	a single executive with defined powers	<i>no one could enforce law</i>
Judiciary	no national courts	a federal judiciary	<i>no way to settle disputes</i>
Amendment	unanimous consent of all states	three-quarters of states	<i>reform was impossible</i>

After declaring independence, leaders wrote new **constitutions and declarations of rights** that reflected republican ideals, generally limiting executive power.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State what the Articles created.

[2]

2.2 Name four of the five difficulties.

[2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State what the Articles created.

[2]

2.1

- they unified the newly independent states, creating a central government with limited power

2.2 Name four of the five difficulties.

[2]

2.2

- any four of: international trade; finances; interstate commerce; foreign relations; internal unrest

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 The Northwest Ordinance was a working achievement.

(a) Name its three provisions.

[3]

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(a)

- public education; the protection of private property; a ban on slavery in the Northwest Territory

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 The Northwest Ordinance was a working achievement.

(b) State what many state constitutions maintained.

[1]

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[1]

(b)

- property qualifications for voting and citizenship

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Many new state constitutions placed power in

[1]

☐

A the legislative branch

B the executive

C the courts

D the army

3.2 The Northwest Ordinance banned

[1]

☐

A slavery in the Northwest Territory

B public education

C private property

D new states

Exercises 3.1-3.2

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- ☐ **A** slavery in the Northwest Territory
B public education
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D new states

3.2 A

- slavery in the Northwest Territory

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A student describes the Articles government as a total failure.

(a) State what this overlooks.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A student describes the Articles government as a total failure.

(a) State what this overlooks.

[1]

(a)

- that the Articles unified the states and produced the Northwest Ordinance

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A student describes the Articles government as a total failure.

(b) Explain the accurate description.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A student describes the Articles government as a total failure.

(b) Explain the accurate description.

[2]

(b)

- they created a central government with deliberately limited power which proved inadequate to specific difficulties, not to everything