

Chapter 8 IDs: Significance

Articles of Confederation

- 1st document to legitimize the American Govt following the revolution
- Decentralized govt proved too weak to deal with the country's problems following the war

Northwest Ordinance

- Set up orderly rules for transition from territories to states
- Legalized the possession of land belonging to Indians
- Failed to take a firm stand against slavery

James Madison

- Chief architect of the Constitution
- Proponent of strong central govt, one of the leaders of the Federalists
- Author of the Bill of Rights

New Jersey Plan

- Proposal favored by small states to preserve the power of the states vs the national govt
- Counter-proposal to the Virginia Plan

Federalists

- Pro-Constitution proponents of a strong national govt
- Tended to be those who needed a strong national govt to prosper: large farmers, those holding govt IOUs, traders, & merchants

Shays' Rebellion

- Massachusetts farmers rebellion that highlighted the weakness of the national govt created by the Confederation
- Led directly to a call for a reformed govt, which led to the Constitutional Convention

Virginia Plan

- Plan proposed by Virginia & supported by the large states
- Created a strong national govt that eventually became the framework for the govt under the Constitution

Connecticut Compromise (Great Compromise)

- Compromise that satisfied both large & small states concerning representation in Congress
- Since several states threatened to leave unless representation issue resolved, so Compromise literally saved the Constitution (and country)

Anti-Federalists

- Coalition of opponents to strong central govt, & by extension, the Constitution
- Concerns over strength of central govt led to their demands for a bill of rights to protect the individual rights of citizens, led directly to Bill of Rights

Republicanism

- Idea that monarchies should be replaced with a govt where people hold all political power & are governed through representatives elected to vote on their behalf
- Ideas formed the basis of the Revolution, Constitution, and most state constitutions

