

Articles of Confederation

America's first government

Self-government

- Continental Congress (1776): states to write their own constitutions
 - Written
 - Guarantee of individual rights
 - Annually elected legislatures
 - Weak judicial/executive branches

A national (?) government

- Articles of Confederation (adopted by Cont. Congress 1777) loosely unified states
- Adopted by all thirteen states 1781
- Each state one vote
- Unanimous approval of amendments
- Weak congress: no reg. of trade or taxes
- No national military, currency, executive, judicial branch

Land distribution

- State seizure of Loyalist land, creation of states
- Land Ordinance 1785: sell land in Northwest, \$\$ pays off national debt, divided into townships, create public education funds
- Northwest Ordinance, 1787: process for creating states in the Northwest. Territories with a governor in control, then eventually apply for statehood and receive equal treatment as charter colonies. Forbade new slaves.