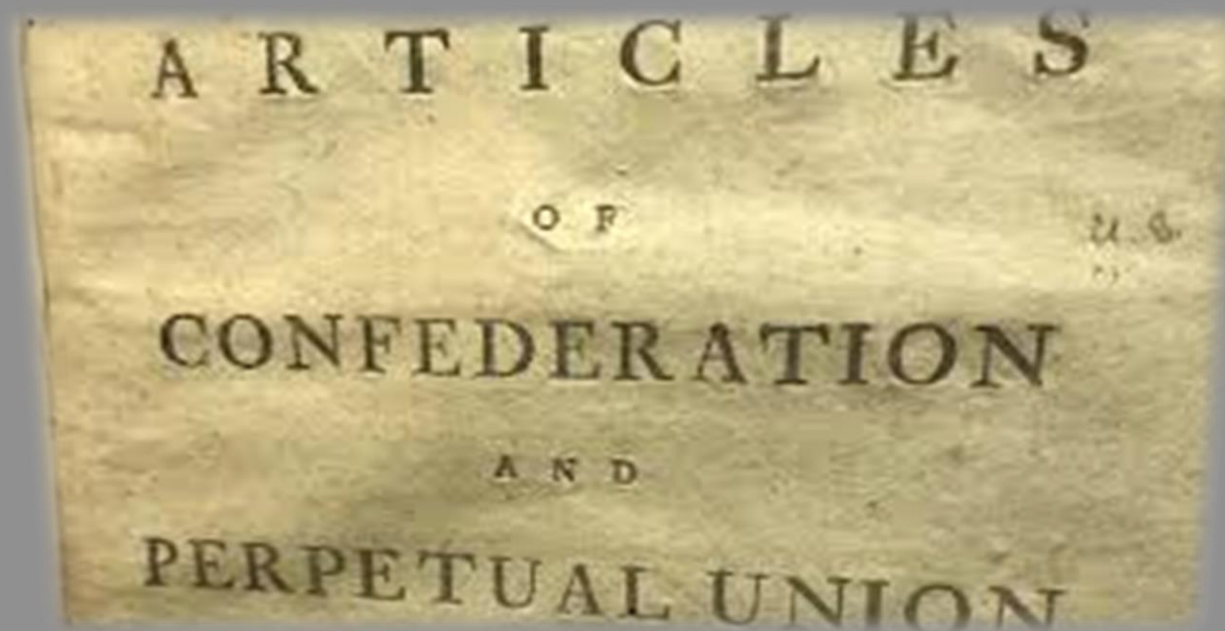


What were the motives of the authors of the Articles of Confederation?



Do Now-

- Given the choice (you can't say both), what is more important to you -- being free or being safe and secure?
- How might your response to this question differ depending on the time period you are living in? How do you believe most Americans would answer this question today?
- How do you think most Americans would have answered this question in 1776? Why?

- “Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

- Ben Franklin

Confederation

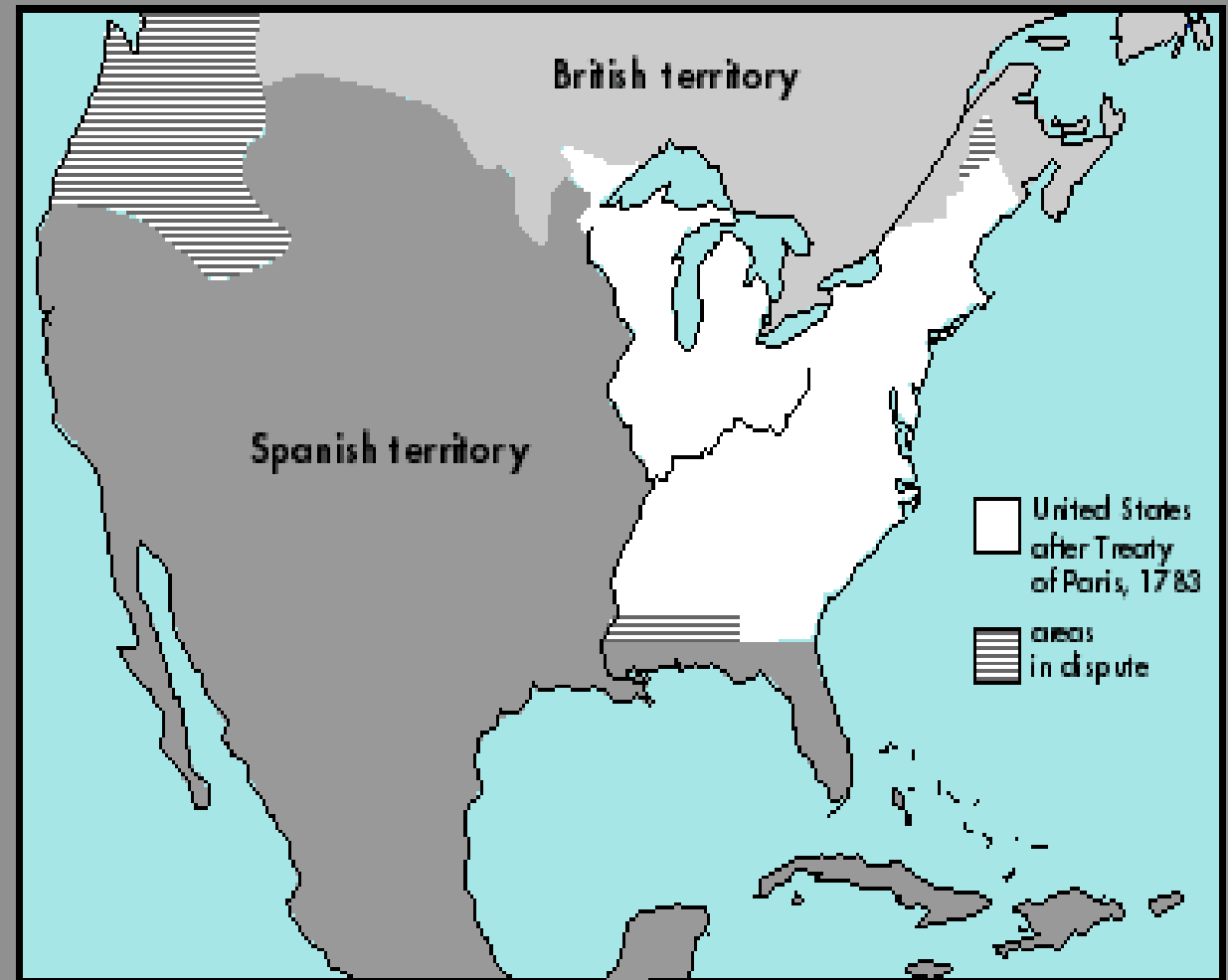
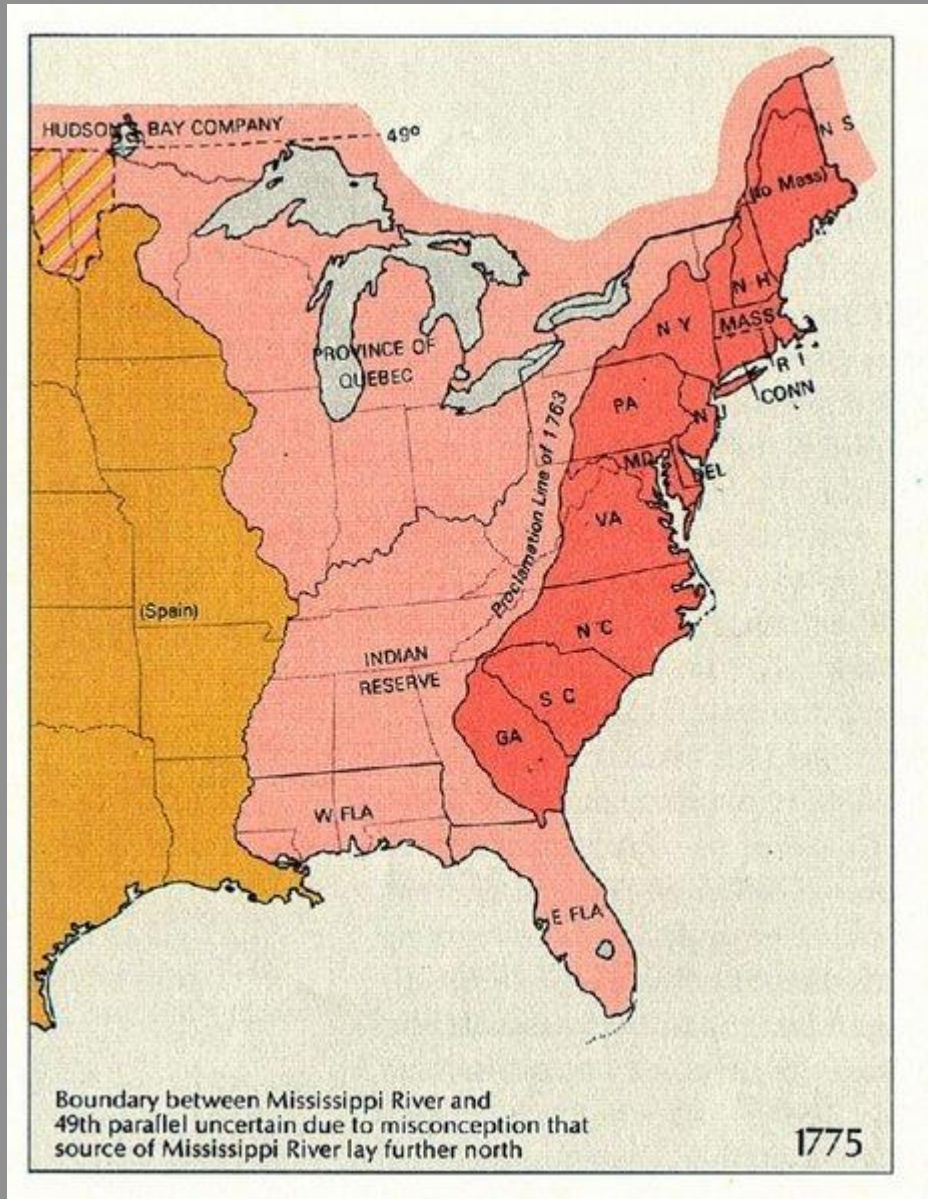
Definition – a loose union of states, nations or other political entities with the central “authority” having very limited powers relative to its component parts.

Articles of Confederation

- First Constitution or Plan of National Gov't
- Written – 1777
- Ratified – 1781
- Ended – 1789

- The “Critical Period” – 1781 to 1789
 - What does it mean to be in “critical condition”?

U.S. After the Treaty of Paris 1783

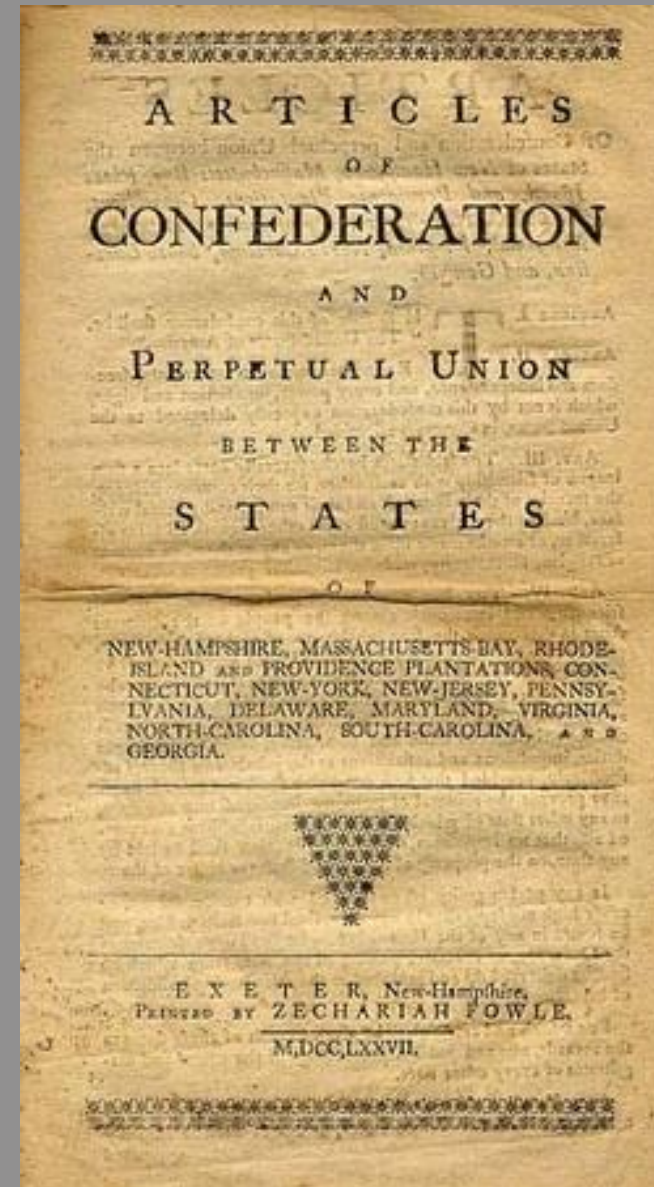


Preamble to the Articles

- "The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever."
- Does this sound like a government? Explain.

Articles of Confederation

- Structure
 - One branch
 - Unicameral legislature
 - One vote/state
- Powers
 - borrow money, declare war, make peace, sign treaties, regulate western territories



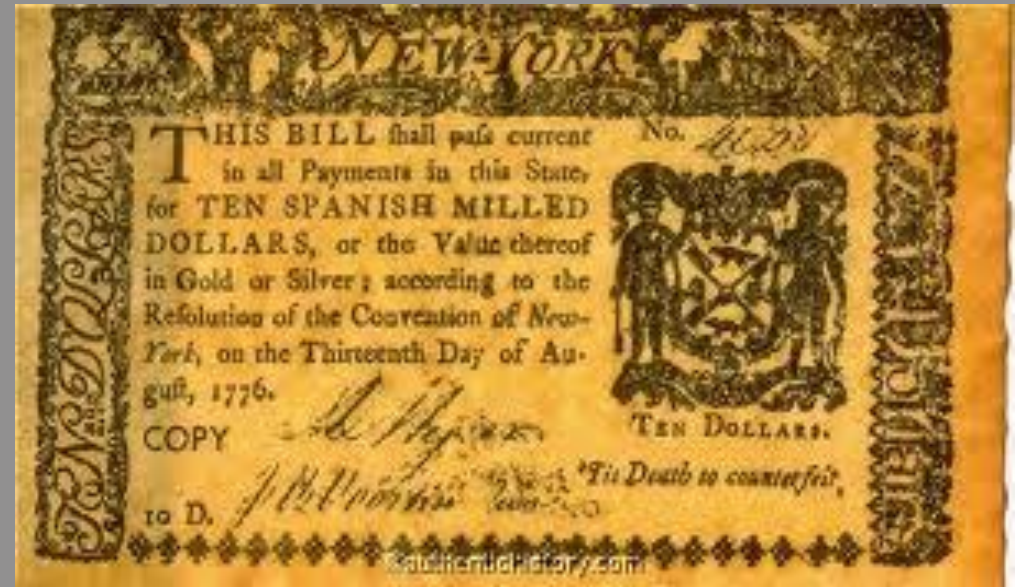
Weaknesses

- No Power to
 - Regulate interstate or foreign trade
 - Collect taxes
 - Enforce Legislation
- Other Problems
 - No executive or judicial branches
 - 9/13 majority required for passage of laws
 - Unanimity required for amendments



Powers of State Governments

- Taxation
- Regulating Commerce with foreign countries and between states
- Printing Money



Reasons for such a “government”

- Reaction to British colonial rule
 - Created a government that could not tax or regulate trade (mercantilism)
- Tradition of colonial legislatures unwilling to give up power to centralized authority (States' Rights v. Federal Power)