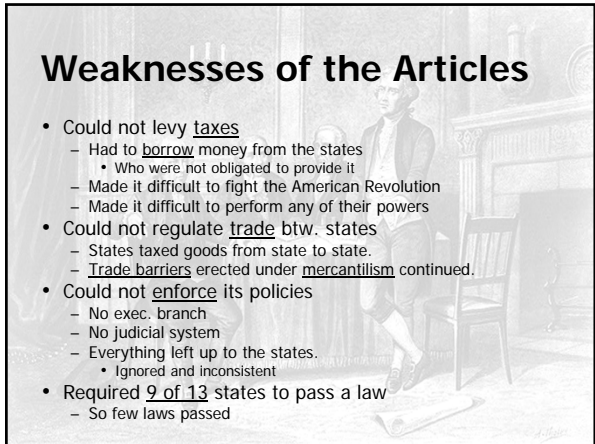


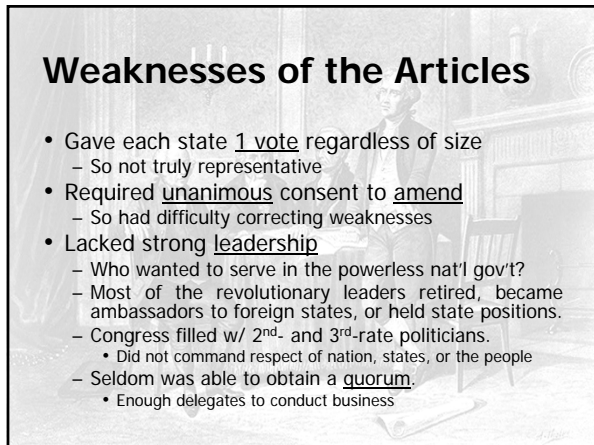
## The Critical Period

### Chapter 5, Section 1



## Weaknesses of the Articles

- Could not levy taxes
  - Had to borrow money from the states
    - Who were not obligated to provide it
  - Made it difficult to fight the American Revolution
  - Made it difficult to perform any of their powers
- Could not regulate trade btw. states
  - States taxed goods from state to state.
  - Trade barriers erected under mercantilism continued.
- Could not enforce its policies
  - No exec. branch
  - No judicial system
  - Everything left up to the states.
    - Ignored and inconsistent
- Required 9 of 13 states to pass a law
  - So few laws passed



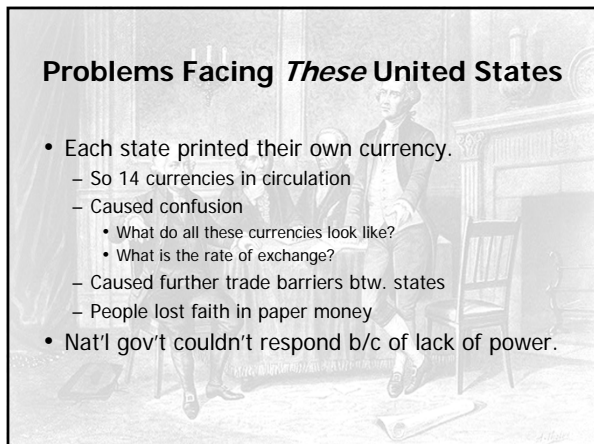
## Weaknesses of the Articles

- Gave each state 1 vote regardless of size
  - So not truly representative
- Required unanimous consent to amend
  - So had difficulty correcting weaknesses
- Lacked strong leadership
  - Who wanted to serve in the powerless nat'l gov't?
  - Most of the revolutionary leaders retired, became ambassadors to foreign states, or held state positions.
  - Congress filled w/ 2<sup>nd</sup>- and 3<sup>rd</sup>-rate politicians.
    - Did not command respect of nation, states, or the people
  - Seldom was able to obtain a quorum.
    - Enough delegates to conduct business



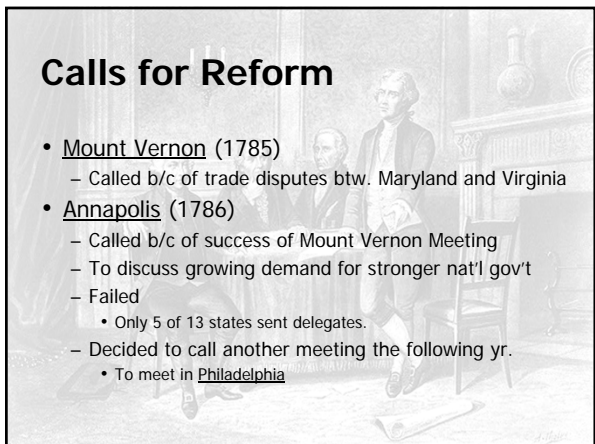
## Problems Facing *These* United States

- Foreign Trade
  - Britain remained major trade partner.
  - Britain wanted to continue profiting from + bal. of trade
    - Flooded the U.S. market w/ cheap manufactured goods
      - Stifled American manufacturing
    - Cut back on importing raw materials from the U.S.
      - Utilized other colonies for their raw materials
- Inflation
  - Increase in price of goods
  - Decrease in value of the currency
  - Resulted b/c of tremendous debt of Revolution
    - \$400,000 printed w/o being backed by gold and silver
    - By 1882, Continental Dollar worth 2¢ on the \$
      - “Not worth a Continental.”



## Problems Facing *These* United States

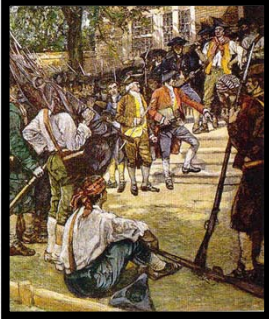
- Each state printed their own currency.
  - So 14 currencies in circulation
  - Caused confusion
    - What do all these currencies look like?
    - What is the rate of exchange?
  - Caused further trade barriers btw. states
  - People lost faith in paper money
- Nat'l gov't couldn't respond b/c of lack of power.



## Calls for Reform

- Mount Vernon (1785)
  - Called b/c of trade disputes btw. Maryland and Virginia
- Annapolis (1786)
  - Called b/c of success of Mount Vernon Meeting
  - To discuss growing demand for stronger nat'l gov't
  - Failed
    - Only 5 of 13 states sent delegates.
  - Decided to call another meeting the following yr.
    - To meet in Philadelphia

## Shays' Rebellion (1786)



- Led by Daniel Shays
  - From W. Mass.
- Rebelled against nat'l gov't
- Caused by farmers angered by the economy
  - Many of them veterans
  - Faced foreclosure on farms
- Failed, but showed problems w/ Articles
- Helped make meeting in Philadelphia successful