



AP[®] United States History 2003 Sample Student Responses

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Americans of the infantile United States of America were finally free to govern themselves. ~~From this early to~~ Even before their Declaration of Independence, they were preparing to take on this role. They had created the Articles of Confederation as a guideline to their new government. Although ~~this~~ these Articles did manage to "unite" American colonies into one country and avoided the dreadful idea of Taxing, it was ineffective and simply useless in solving this new nation's problems.

Under these new Articles of Confederation, this new American nation found comfort in a broad agreement that they, not England, would now govern themselves. Each colony was given one seat in the executive government and ^{1:13} power. This new government was now forced to ask each state for revenues and had no right to tax the country. In the eyes of these early Americans the Articles granted the necessary freedoms that had been denied to them by mother England. The states were given control over themselves, control to regulate commerce, money, protection, everything was state decided, because

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that is why they fought and died in the Revolution for. However, under the Articles of Confederation, America was like Europe, a group of little ~~co~~ neighboring countries that could not manage to cooperate. This new nation seemed like the freedom of Utopia, however problems arose that proved the Articles ineffective for governing this new nation.

When the United States needed money to pay back the war debt, they had no way of obtaining it. The government asked the states for finances & received a small portion of the millions necessary to get out of debt. ~~No~~ No laws or acts could be passed to improve on the Articles because a unanimous vote was needed. Therefore any possible advances for the government were cut down by their own rules. Also, states felt they were not represented effectively under these Articles. A state like Georgia managed just as much pull in the government as the hugely populated Massachusetts.

In the end, the very freedom Americans now celebrated under the Articles, was the same freedom that stifled their new government. ~~But~~ Without the country's ability to tax, their

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can be no federal military to protect it, and no payments of debts to make it reliable. Lastly without federal control of commerce and finances, states began turning on each other because there was no common money. Many states put tariffs on neighboring states commerce, & the Articles decapitated the economy. Without an improving or even functioning economy, the nation is stagnant in everything. Therefore, if the Articles choke the economy, then they are a large part of the new nation's problem themselves.

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Between the ~~years~~ signing of the Declaration of Independence and the ratification of the Constitution, the young nation of the United States of America was governed by the Articles of Confederation. A government that allowed for state and individual freedoms previously denied by the British Parliament, the Articles failed to ~~the~~ effectively govern the ~~new~~ American ~~city's~~ population after the Revolution while the Articles of Confederation was successful in ~~winning~~ winning the American Revolution, and, most success~~fully~~, passing the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~failed~~ ^{did} this government to resolve the social and economic needs of its people.

The Articles unified the states to fight a common enemy in the "join or die" philosophy of Benjamin Franklin. The government ~~was~~ was able to win the Revolution by supplying soldiers and ammunition. Most importantly, the Alliance with France to fight a common enemy allowed for the final Patriot victory at Yorktown. After the war, the government issued the Northwest Ordinance ~~which~~ which provided an effective, systematic, and orderly way to settle territory ~~in the~~.

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and admit new state into the Union in areas east of the Mississippi, today's Midwest. Despite these two major successes of the Articles, the inability of it to respond to economic and social problems brought its down fall. Failure of the government included its inability to raise an army, to tax, to control interstate commerce were substantial. The lack of unity and power in the central government rendered it unable to solve problems such as Shays's ~~Rebellion~~ Rebellion. Because of its inability to tax or raise any sort of money, public works were impossible. ~~Paper~~ Paper currency had been overprinted leading to hyperinflation and varied currency from state to state. Debt to the people (including soldiers) Europe, and states were all unpaid. Ultimately, the economic turmoil experienced by the nation ~~undermined~~ overshadowed its success and undermined the Articles. Thus the Annapolis convention was called. In an attempt to restore economic order in five states, the ~~delegates~~ delegates realized a need for national representation to resolve problems. With the Constitutional Convention in ~~the~~ 1787, the Articles of Confederation were thrown out, after a decade of ineffective solutions to the nations problems.

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After the American revolution ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the previously British colonies under control of the crown had won the right to independence and self-government. The first government established in America was the Articles of Confederation. ~~It was not a very strong force~~ It sought to address the problems confronting the nation at the time. However, it was not a very strong force and could not ultimately handle these problems. Overall, the AOC was relatively successful in dealing with issues relating to expansion, but it failed to properly effectively address the economic and social troubles of the time.

The Articles of Confederation accomplished a very effective act to organize the wide expanse of land that now belonged to the new nation. Under the AOC, the Northwest Ordinance of 1789 was made. It outlined the process of gaining statehood in the northwest territories of the United States, specifying the population needed, and the rights that these territories would have when they became states. Further, it outlawed slavery in them. This action step towards ^{effectively} controlling the land it had acquired was essential in establishing an organized new nation.

While the AOC found success with the Northwest Ordinance, it was too weak to effectively handle many of the economic problems confronting the nation. After the war, the United States found itself in a period of economic stagnation. A large debt had been incurred, but it couldn't be paid off, because the AOC did not have the power to tax the states or the residents of those states. Since it couldn't establish a uniform national currency or regulate interstate →

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Commerce, ~~the~~ each state had its own currency and disputes between states occurred often. The paper money that had been printed during the war was ~~the~~ ^{now} valueless, so the gov. had virtually no spending power. In addition, British manufacturers were flooding the market with British goods, so American manufacturers were unable to flourish. Due to these economic problems, there was mass discontent, which also posed an obstacle that the AOC could not handle effectively.

The ~~the~~ ^{widespread} discontent was manifested in social unrest, especially among farmers ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ debt. ~~They~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~time~~ This ~~culminated~~ ^{culminated} in Shay's Rebellion, where Daniel Shay led a group of angry farmers to physically revolt, harming farm equipment ~~and~~ and seriously threatening the elite class and the government. The AOC did not have a chief executive, nor did it have the power to call on state militias. For this reason, the rebellion was inefficiently suppressed, and it raised doubts in the minds of those in power as to whether the AOC ~~was~~ could safely govern the nation, and effectively respond to their interests. The AOC was finally scrapped at the Philadelphia Conference, which met partly as a result of Shay's Rebellion, and also due to the economic issues which the AOC addressed poorly. ~~III~~