

Main Ideas

- War with Britain meant new local governments needed to be formed.
- People in each of the colonies—now states—wrote new constitutions.
- Each state constitution set up a government with three branches—legislature, governor, courts.
- Most state constitutions had a bill of rights guaranteeing basic freedoms.

Main Ideas

- The Articles of Confederation were the first national constitution.
- The Confederation government passed laws about settling and organizing the Northwest Territory.
- The Confederation government had several weaknesses.
- Shays's Rebellion convinced many leaders that a stronger national government was needed.