<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>How did the colonies govern themselves after declaring independence?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>• During the Revolutionary War, the individual states adopted the Articles of Confederation for their collective security (defense of their people and borders).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Under the Articles of Confederation, the states created a confederate form of government.</td>
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<td>• A confederation is a form of government in which the individual states have considerable independence from the central government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Under the Articles of Confederation, the central government did not have the power to regulate trade among the states or with foreign nations, nor did it have the power to tax.</td>
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<td>• Despite these weaknesses, the government under the Articles of Confederation successfully provided a method of adding new states through the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787.</td>
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# Were Shays and his followers justified in their actions?

- At the conclusion of the American Revolution, many of the newly formed states were deeply in debt due to their participation in the Revolutionary War.

- Since the Articles of Confederation did not give the central government power to tax, the cost of the war was mainly the responsibility of the states.

- To raise money to pay for the war effort, some states increased taxes, which angered poor farmers. Many of these poor farmers had fought against taxation in the Revolution but now faced jail time, loss of property, and the loss of their voting rights for not paying taxes.

- In Massachusetts and elsewhere poor farmers rebelled. Known as Shays’ Rebellion, this event, along with other problems, led some Americans to question whether the Articles of Confederation needed to be changed.

# Why did the delegates want to alter the Articles of Confederation, and what role did the different perspectives of states play?

- The deficiencies of the Articles of Confederation led many leaders of the states to call for a meeting to alter certain aspects of the Articles of Confederation.

- Though many state leaders still feared an over-reaching central government, some delegates to the convention favored strengthening the central government’s power relative to the states.

- Some of the major issues at the convention were the balance of power (decision-making) between state governments and the central government, election of the executive, slavery, and representation in the legislature.

- States varied on how they wanted to resolve these issues based on their perspective.
### How did compromise around the issues of power and slavery affect the creation of the Constitution?

- At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, the delegates decided that a new plan of government was necessary.

- Because the states had different ideas about power and slavery, compromise was necessary to create a new government.

- One of the issues about power was how to balance the authority of the central government with that of the states. Through compromise, the delegates resolved this issue by creating a federal system of government (federalism). Under this system, states retained some power for themselves (reserved powers), gave some powers to the federal government (delegated or enumerated powers), and allowed some powers to be shared (concurrent powers).

- Another issue about power involved representative government. The delegates addressed this issue by creating a bicameral legislature. Representation in the Senate was equal, while a state’s population determined representation in the House of Representatives. This compromise is known as the “Great Compromise” or “The Connecticut Compromise.”

- A third issue involving power concerned whether the executive branch should be comprised of a small group or one person. The delegates agreed to have one person serve as president.

- The delegates compromised on several issues related to slavery.
  - They agreed to count enslaved people as $\frac{3}{5}$ of a person for taxation and representation. This is known as the “Three-Fifth’s Compromise”.
  - The delegates also agreed to allow the slave trade to continue for 20 years, after which the importation of enslaved persons would end.

- Nobody was satisfied with the compromises concerning slavery, which would be an ongoing dilemma and ultimately a catastrophe for the new nation.