

Events Leading up to the Constitution

I. Impact of French & Indian War

A. Before the war

- Salutary neglect- healthy neglect
- Self-rule
- No taxation by England

B. French & Indian War

-Costly war for England

C. “No taxation w/out representation”

-Taxes levied

II. American Revolution

A. First Continental Congress, 1774

- Delegates sent to Philadelphia
- Wrote Declaration of Independence
- Wrote Articles of Confederation

III. Articles of Confederation

A. What is established:

-“League of friendship”, not a strong unified govt.

-One house legislature, one vote per state

B. Weaknesses

-No president

- No national courts
- No power to tax
- Couldn't regulate trade

C. New state legislature policies

- Favored debtors over creditors
- Printed large amounts of money-caused inflation & helped debtors pay off debts

D. Shays' Rebellion

- Revolutionary vets from farms of western Mass. kept foreclosures on farms from happening.
- No militia/army to put down this uprising.
- Eventually a private militia broke it up.