

Katharine Thiele

17½

Unit 3 History: Revolutions

SAC 3 DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

Outcome 2: Analyze the challenges facing the emerging new order, the way in which attempts were made to create a new society, and evaluate the nature of the society created by the revolution.

Using the following document, as well as your own knowledge, respond as fully as possible to the following questions. Provide evidence to support your answers where applicable.

Source 1

Letter from Thomas Jefferson To James Madison
Paris, Jan. 30, 1787

...DEAR SIR,

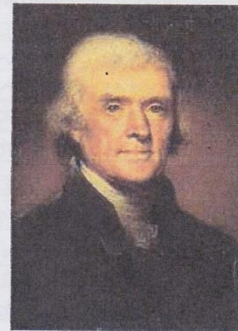
-- My last to you was of the 16th of Dec, since which I have received yours of Nov 25, & Dec 4, which afforded me, as your letters always do, a treat on matters public, individual & economical.

I am impatient to learn your sentiments on the late troubles in the Eastern states. So far as I have yet seen, they do not appear to threaten serious consequences. Those states have suffered by the stoppage of the channels of their commerce, which have not yet found other issues. This must render money scarce, and make the people uneasy.

This uneasiness has produced acts absolutely unjustifiable; but I hope they will provoke no severities from their governments...

I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, & as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.

Unsuccessful rebellions indeed generally establish the encroachments on the rights of the people which have produced them. An observation of this truth should render honest republican governors so mild in their punishment of rebellions, as not to discourage them too much. It is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government.....



Source 2

Sign: 15th May 1777
ARTICLES

Of Confederation and perpetual Union
between the States of New-Hamp-
shire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island
and Providence Plantations, Connecti-
cut, New-York, New-Jersey, Penn-
sylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Vir-
ginia, North-Carolina, South-Caroli-
na and Georgia.

1. Using your own knowledge and the extract, explain the factors that contributed to Shays' rebellion in 1787.

debt passed on to states
At the end of the war very few soldiers were paid or received their land that they were promised. The Continental Congress as well as the states had obtained a large debt from the war especially Massachusetts. With each state having their own currency, trade became increasingly difficult. Farmers found that they could no longer buy and sell which led to debt. With the new laws in Boston which aimed to raise revenue, farmers in debt could be taken to the Debtors court and possibly be jailed. This led to Shays' Rebellion in 1787 which was an indication of the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.

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2. Explain how the Articles of Confederation were designed to work and what flaws they were found to have

The Articles of Confederation were designed to prevent tyranny but essentially left the Continental Congress powerless. They were successful in enabling success such as the Treaty of Paris in 1783 and the passing of the North West Land Ordinance Act. There were

however several flaws found with the Articles of Confederation. Firstly, there was no executive power. This meant made passing legislature very difficult because 9 out of the 13 states had to be in favour of any new laws. Also, all 13 states had to be in agreement if any amendments to the articles were made. There was also ^{no} ~~no~~ economy and no military forces due to the Articles of Confederation. There was also no commerce or trade.

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needed a little more 'fleshing out'
perhaps "Firm League of Friendship".

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3. Explain the strengths and limitations of these sources as evidence to explain the success of the new country from 1776 to 1787. Include other people's views.

The first source written by Thomas Jefferson, aids the reader in understanding the New Society from 1776 to 1787 by highlighting the social and economical problems at the time. Jefferson mentions that... "states have suffered by the stoppage of the channels of their commerce" and that "money [was] scarce." Here he is referring to the economic crisis that occurred due to the lack of 'specie' or gold throughout and after the war. Congress decided to this led to the states and Congress finding themselves in major debt to which Congress responded by printing more paper money, causing hyperinflation. The paper money became worthless and so 'loans' became increasingly popular. The 'loans' became a point of conflict in 1786 with Shays' rebellion ^{after} ~~the~~ people ~~starting~~ started being jailed because they could not repay their loan. Jefferson also mentions this later on in his letter when he talks about the "unsuccessful rebellions". In source 7 the Articles of Confederation are only hinted at when Jefferson passively speaks of the

Acts of Government unlike the second source which is more directly about the Articles of Confederation. The second source provides that the Articles of Confederation were designed to be a firm league of friendship but does not detail the strengths and limitations. Many people believe that there were more limitations to the articles than strengths such as Historian Gordon Wood who said that "The Articles of Confederation were hampered by [an] inability to achieve/regulate commerce, to protect Congress from the states, the states from themselves and political abuses." The second source also fails to mention Shays' rebellion and the economic crisis. 10

needed to explain limitations more

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