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| **Articles of Confederation** | First written government of the U.S., set up a weak national govt., little unity among the states, states operating independently. **Northwest Ordinance of 1787:** procedure for dividing land and requirements for admitting new states and overlooked Native American claims. |
| **Shays’ Rebellion** | Farmer’s protest in Mass. over state taxes, nothing the national govt. can do to stop this rebellion, rebellion spreads. Ultimately: this demonstrates how weak the Articles of Confederation are. |
| **Conflict and Compromise** | Major issue: fair representation to large and small states. Virginia Plan: James Madison, bicameral (two-house) legislature based on population. New Jersey Plan: equal representation. Great Compromise: combine NJ and VA Plans. Two houses (population and equal). 3/5 Compromise: how a state’s slaves would be counted in the population. |
| **Division of Powers** | Federalism: division of power among state and national govt. Powers granted to national government are known as delegated powers. Not specifically granted are kept by the states (reserved powers). Separation of Powers: among three branches. Checks and balances: prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful. |
| **Federalists and Antifederalists** | Ratification: approval of the Constitution. Federalists: favored a new Constitution which favored a stronger national govt. Antifederalists: opposed a strong central govt. *Federalists Papers:* debate about the Constitution. Antifederalists demanded a Bill of Rights. |
| **Adoption of a Bill of Rights** | Bill of Rights: First 10 Amendments to the Constitution. Included: personal liberties, protection of individuals accused of crimes, right to bear arms, and limited powers of the federal govt. None of these issues belong to minorities (slaves, women, Native Americans).  |
| **Key Conflicts** | Strong Central Govt. vs. Strong States, legislature that benefited the large states or the small states, North vs. South and issue over slavery.  |