

Georgia from Confederation to Constitution



In 1783, the United States and Great Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War and giving the colonies their independence.

The former colonies had to begin to govern themselves as a nation.

Georgia also had to recover from the Revolution and begin again.

Georgia under the Confederation Government

I. The Articles of Confederation

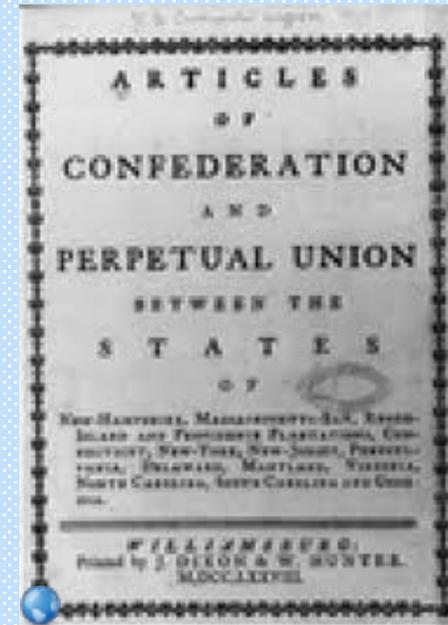
A. During the Revolution, the states had been governed under the Second Continental Congress.

B. In 1781, the Articles of Confederation were passed.

C. The government's functions were to :
defend the country, pay its debts, settle arguments between states, maintain relationships with other countries and set up a postal service.

1. No executive branch

Why not?





2. No national court system
3. Unicameral legislature
 - a. Could not tax or regulate trade between states or with foreign nations
 - b. Each state had one vote, but measures passed were not national laws, just suggestions to the states.
 - c. To change the Articles, every state had to agree.
- ★ 4. State governments more powerful than the national government

Federal = National = Central government

II. Georgia's Government -At end of Revolution, Georgia's government based on Constitution of 1777, with a weak executive branch

Each county had a Superior Court that oversaw elections, controlled roads, and gave aid to the poor.

Main issues facing the new state

- rebuilding structures and farms
- paying the state's debt
- establishing better relations with Creek and Cherokee



This early American flag varied in the position and number of stars from 1783 until the full fifty states had entered the Union.

A. Land - After the Revolution, land was the most important issue for Georgians.

1. A landowner could cut wood, grow food for animals and family, and make some cash for extras.

2. What to do with Loyalists' land?????
 - a. The most active Tories were not permitted to return.
 - b. Those who had tried to stay out of the fighting were allowed back.
 - c. Confiscated lands were sold to others or given to former soldiers.



Former royal governor,
James Wright's,
25,000 acres were
confiscated by Georgia.

3. Soldiers in state militia and Continental Army were given land for their service - *bounty grant*

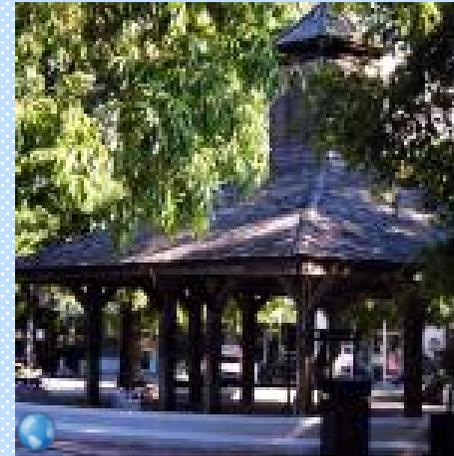
a. privates - 200 acres

b. Col. Elijah Clark - several thousand

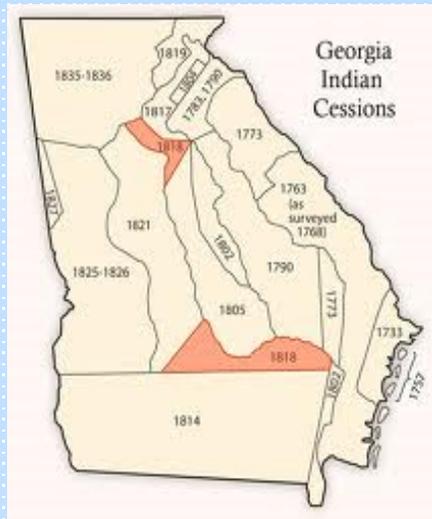
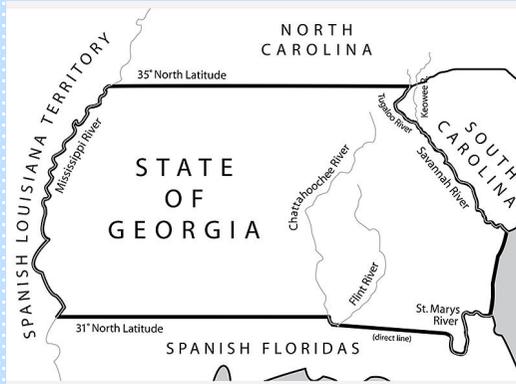
c. 2 new counties formed, Washington and Franklin

4. The "headright" system still in use

5. Backcountry began to fill up - 1796
Assembly voted to move the capital to a new town Louisville on Ogeechee River



Augusta
Louisville
Milledgeville
Athens

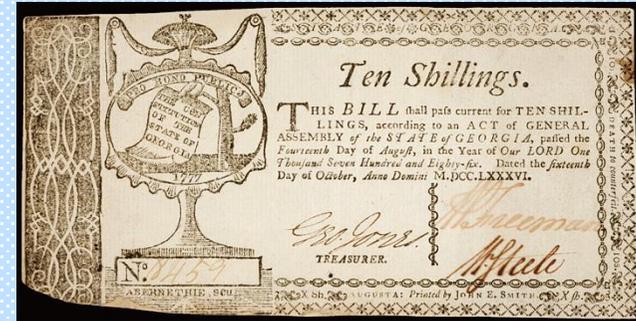


B. Indian Relations - Georgia's border extended to the Mississippi - but Everything west of the Ogeechee was claimed by the Cherokee in the North and Creek in the South

1. Georgia wanted more land, but did not want major conflict with the Indians.
 - a. 1782 - Cherokee ceded land west of Savannah River and south and west of the Tugaloo
 - b. Upper Creek led by Alexander McGillivray were opposed to ceding any more land.

C. Finances

1. At the end of the War, Georgia was in debt.
2. It hoped to get money from sale of confiscated Loyalist property.
3. No income or property tax.
4. State's finances improved gradually.

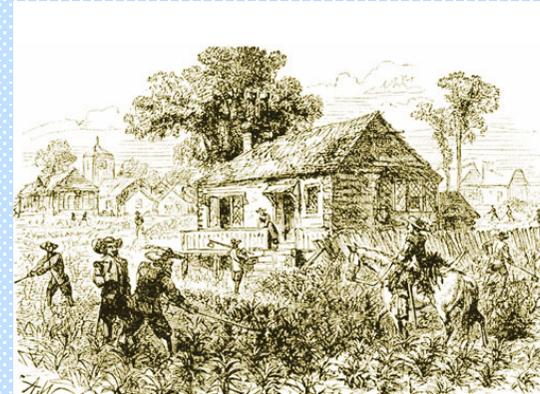


Georgia's Economic, Educational and Religious Development

I. The Economy in Georgia

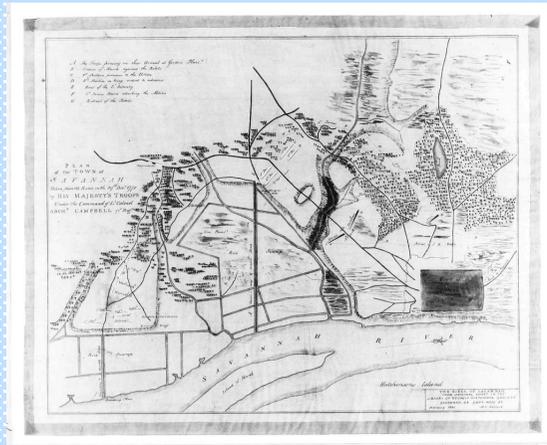
A. Agriculture

1. Rice planters along the coast rebuilt and bought more slaves.
2. Indigo production restarted but not as much as before the war
3. Sea Island cotton was a new crop along the coast.
4. Tobacco was the main cash crop.
 - a. Small farmers could grow a few acres.
 - b. Larger farmers with slaves could grow much more.
 - c. People moved further into backcountry to grow tobacco





5. Most farmers in back country raised hogs, cattle, and chickens.
 - a. They grew wheat, corn, and vegetables. Any extra could be sold for cash.



B. Non-farming economy

1. In towns, trades and craftsmen reemerged after the war.
2. In larger towns, more goods were available for purchase.
3. In Savannah, merchants begin to trade beyond the state again, including trade with England and other countries.

II. Education in Georgia - Georgia believed that voters(white men) should be educated.

A. 1783 - Academy of Richmond County established

1. academy = today's high school
2. Other counties planned academies



B. Free public schools not available - children taught at home

1. boys - farming
2. girls - cooking, sewing, home skills

C. Public schools not free - charged tuition

1. Wealthy parents still hired tutors for their children



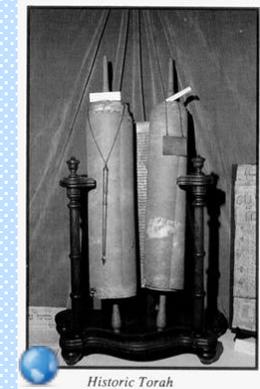
D. Colleges - Georgia was first to establish a public college, UGA in 1785

E. Newspapers

1. 1783, *Gazette of the State of Georgia* in Savannah
2. 1786, *Augusta Chronicle*

III. Religion in Georgia

- A. Anglican = Church of England
1. suffered during war - priests fled
 2. After 1777, became Episcopal Church
- B. Jewish congregation continued in Savannah
- C. Lutherans continued at Ebenezer
- D. Methodists - became separate from Anglican Church in 1785
1. formed Methodist Episcopal Church
 - a. first conference in Georgia in 1788
 - b. preachers were circuit riders
 - c. churches were connected through districts and conferences.
 - d. grew quickly in back country
- E. Baptists - established independent congregations in 1770s and 80s in back country - grew quickly
- F. Presbyterian churches also spread.



Historic Torah



Creating a New Constitution

I. Problems under the Articles of Confederation

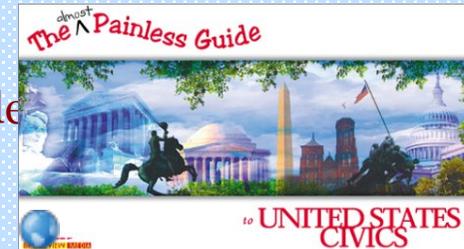
A. Problems all related to weak central government

1. no power to tax = no money to run gov.
2. no national court system
3. no executive branch
4. requirement for unanimous votes

B. Feb. 1786 - Confederation Congress approved convention to revise the Articles

1. May 1787 - Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia

- a. Georgia interested because they wanted a stronger national gov. to negotiate treaties with Creek/Cherokee
- b. GA delegates - William Few, Abraham Baldwin, William Pierce, William Houstoun



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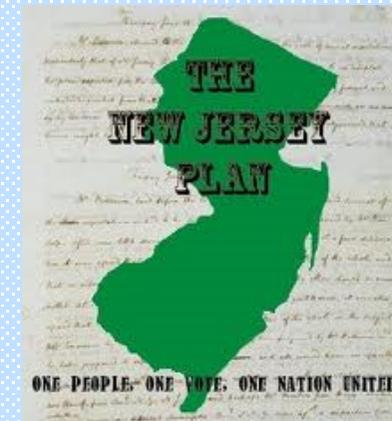
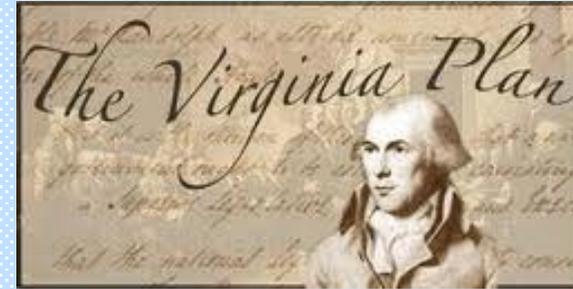
II. The Constitutional Convention

A. James Madison/Virginia Plan

1. Stronger national gov. - collect taxes, make laws, court system
2. 3 branches of gov.
 - a. executive
 - b. legislative - 2 house - based on state's population
 - c. judicial
3. Georgia supported the Virginia plan

B. New Jersey Plan - the smaller states hated the Virginia plan - thought that larger states would control legislature

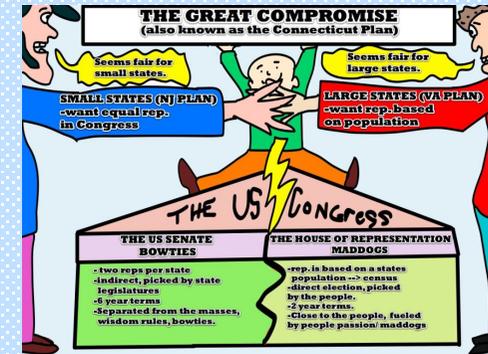
1. keep a 1 house legislature with 1 vote per state
2. give legislature more power



C. The Great Compromise

1. Two-house legislature

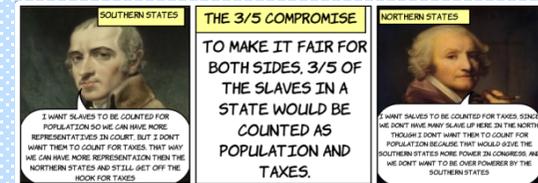
- upper house/Senate/2 per state
- lower house/House of Representatives/
based on population



D. Disagreement about counting population - Should slaves be counted?

1. northern states said no/ southern said yes

2. Three/Fifths Compromise - all free persons and 3/5s of "others" would be counted



III. The Constitution

Article I

1. Powers of the legislature
 - a. ability to tax and regulate trade
 - b. power to make laws
 - c. qualifications for serving in Congress



Article II

1. Executive branch with President and Vice-President
2. Set up Electoral College
3. President/Commander in Chief of military



Article III

1. Judicial branch with Supreme Court and lower courts as needed



Article IV.

1. set up the relationship between states and the federal government.
2. outlined how new states would be admitted

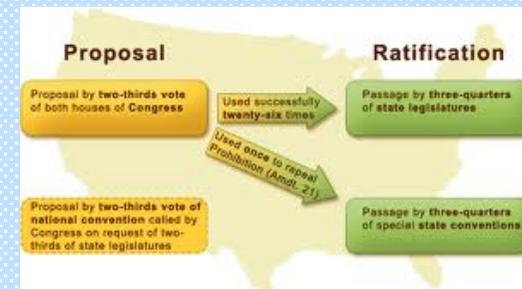
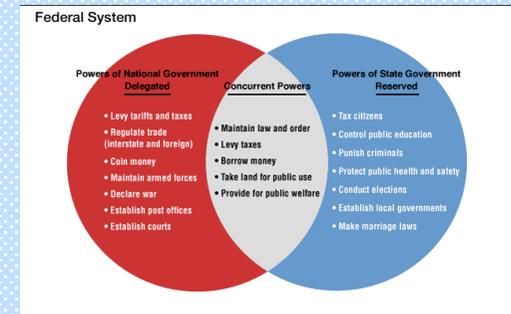
Article V.

1. described process for changing/amending the Constitution
 - a. 2/3 of both houses must agree to proposed amendment
 - b. 3/5 of states must ratify amendment

Article VI

1. Says that the Constitution is the highest law of the land

Article VII - the signatures



IV. Ratification of the Constitution



A. Georgia ratified (approved it quickly)

1. State Assembly met, discussed, voted on, and signed it by January 2, 1788
2. Georgia 4th state to ratify.

B. Why did Georgia support the new Constitution?

1.hoped that a stronger national government would offer more protection and negotiate with the Creek from a position of more power.
2. It would have the power to negotiate trade treaties and regulate trade.
3. It would allow the slave trade to continue 'til 1808.

C. Ratification harder in other states

1. Supporters = Federalists
opponents = Antifederalists
2. Antifederalists wanted guarantees of citizens' rights.
3. Bill of Rights - 1st 10 amendments
4. All 13 states ratified the Constitution by 1790

Statement of the periods at which the new constitution has been ratified by the several states which compose the new union.*

				<i>Majority.</i>
Delaware,	December	3, 1787,	unanimously.	
Pennsylvania,	December	13,	46 to 23,	23
New-Jersey,	December	19,	unanimously.	
Georgia,	January	2, 1788,	unanimously.	
Connecticut,	January	9,	128 to 40,	88
Massachusetts,	February	6,	187 to 168,	19
Maryland,	April	28,	63 to 12,	51
South-Carolina,	May	23,	149 to 73,	76
New-Hampshire,	June	21,	57 to 46,	11
Virginia,	June	25,	89 to 79,	10
New-York,	July	26,	30 to 25,	5