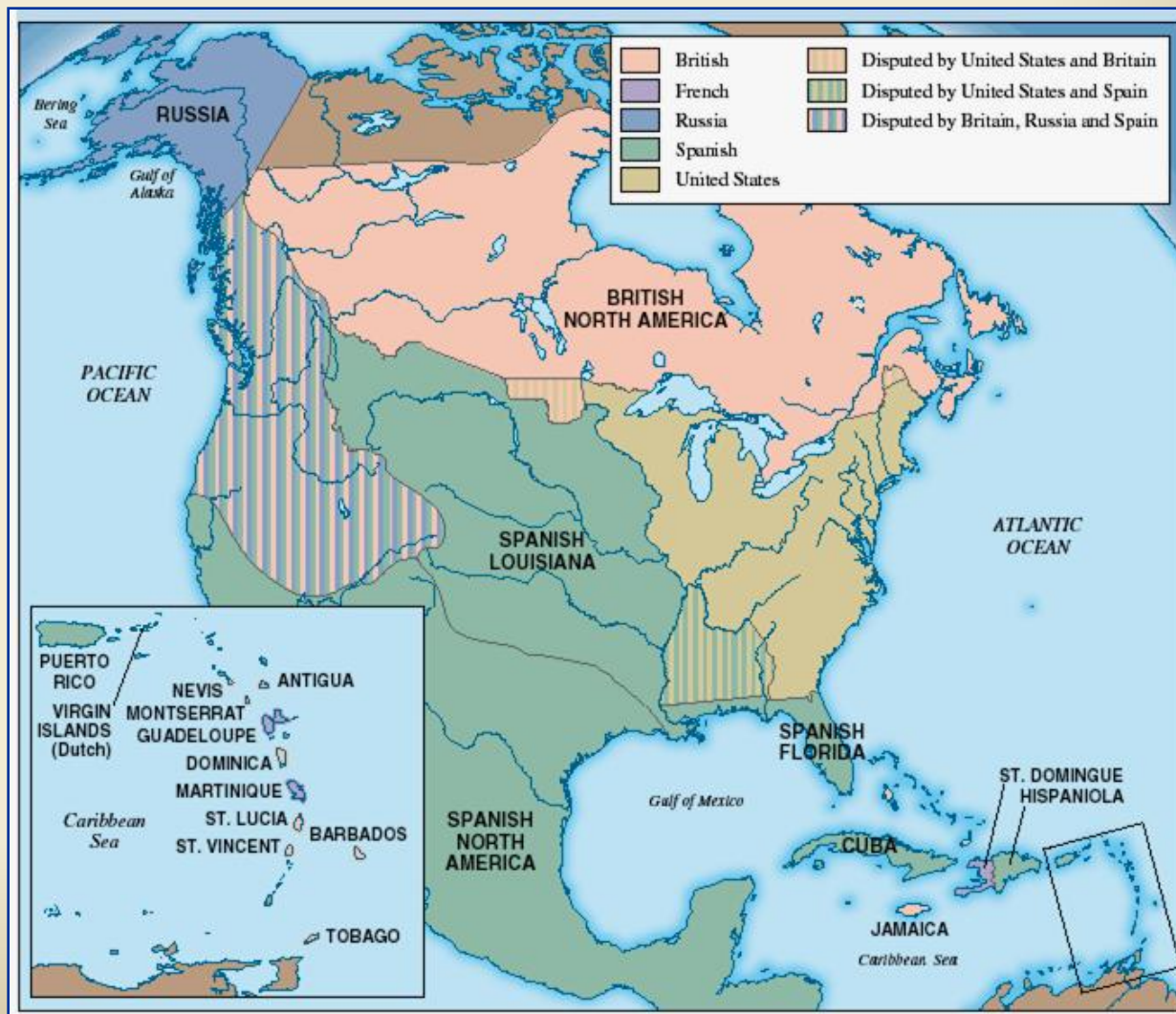




Articles of Confederation Government: 1781~1789

North America After the Treaty of Paris, 1783



How do the Articles Form?



- Adopted in 1777 by Continental Congress eventually ratified by all 13 states by 1781
- The hot debate was what to do with the land west of the Appalachians
- Seven states had land they could sell off, the other six felt they should be able to reap some of the profits due to their efforts in the war.
- Eventually the states with landholdings in the west gave in and agreed that land was for the common good

What did the Articles Do?

- Created a system where new lands would be territories and in time become states to the union.
- Loose confederation of 13 independent states (league of friendship)
- The central government was to make treaties
- Set up a common Postal system
- Only a legislative branch with each state having one vote
- Designed to be weak out of fear of losing state rights and power



Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation



A unicameral Congress
[9 of 13 votes to pass a law].



13 out of 13 to amend.



Representatives were
frequently absent.



Could not tax or raise armies.



No executive or judicial
branches.



It could not regulate commerce

State Constitutions



Republicanism.



Most had strong governors with veto power.



Most had bicameral legislatures.



Property required for voting.



Some had universal white male suffrage.



Most had bills of rights.



Many had a continuation of state-established religions while others disestablished religion.

Occupational Composition of Several State Assemblies in the 1780s

Membership in the revolutionary assemblies reflected differences in the economies and societies of the various states. Those differences often generated political conflict throughout the Revolutionary era. What are the major differences between northern and southern state assemblies, and how do you explain them?

