

**STUDY GUIDE: REVOLUTION AND THE CONSTITUTION**  
**1776-1789**

**THE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:**

- To what extent were Americans united in their opposition to the British during the American Revolution?
- To what extent did the failures of the Articles of Confederation lead to the Constitutional Convention of 1787?
- Was the U.S. Constitution created primarily from compromise or consensus?
- What elements of the Constitution make it a “living” document?
- What tensions from the Colonial Era remain through the post-Revolutionary Period?

**IN A NUTSHELL:**

After the end of the American Revolution in 1781, the British recognized American independence.

Americans established their first national government under the Articles of Confederation, a constitution that created, in the minds of many leaders, a central government too weak to solve national problems.

Weaknesses in the national government under the Articles of Confederation led to a Constitutional Convention in which a new and more powerful central government was created.

Compromise becomes a major political means for holding together the union of states.

## KEY TERMS:

### EVENTS

Battle of Saratoga, 1777  
Treaty of Alliance, 1778  
Battle of Yorktown, 1781  
Articles of Confederation take effect,  
1781  
Treaty of Paris, 1783  
Land Ordinance of 1785  
Annapolis Convention, 1786  
Shays's Rebellion, 1786-1787  
Northwest Ordinance, 1787  
Constitutional Convention, 1787  
Publication of *The Federalist*, 1787-  
1788  
Ratification of the Constitution, 1788

### PEOPLE

Thomas Jefferson  
John Locke  
George Washington  
Marquis de Lafayette  
Charles Cornwallis  
Daniel Shays  
Alexander Hamilton  
John Adams  
Benjamin Franklin  
James Madison  
Patrick Henry  
John Jay  
Edmund Randolph  
William Paterson  
Roger Sherman

### OTHER TERMS

Hessians  
Whigs  
Tories  
tariffs and duties  
Virginia Plan  
New Jersey Plan  
Great Compromise  
Three-Fifths Compromise  
republican form of government  
federal system of government  
separation of powers  
states' rights  
three branches of government:  
    executive, judicial, legislative  
checks and balances  
writ of habeas corpus  
Federalists/Anti-Federalists  
Strict construction  
Loose construction

### ALSO...

The names and locations of the 50  
states and significant landforms and  
waterways