

Prompt: Evaluate the extent to which the Articles of Confederation was effective in solving the problems that confronted the new nation.

WAYS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE ARTICLES WAS EFFECTIVE

- recognized the desire of the states for limited central government
- most states surrendered claims to lands west of the Appalachians
 - these lands would become sources of revenue and future states
- kept the Confederation together until it was replaced
- kept the nation out of war
- established the Land Ordinance of 1785
 - provided for the sale of public lands in the West
 - provisions included public education
- established the Northwest Ordinance of 1787
 - established territorial procedures for admission of 5 western states
 - prohibited slavery in these states
- allowed the Philadelphia Convention in order to revise itself
- negotiated mutual defense treaty w/ France
- reduced domestic debt
- established the government bureaucracy
- negotiated commercial treaties w/ Sweden, Prussia, Holland

WAYS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE ARTICLES WAS INEFFECTIVE

- decentralized government, lack of Executive Branch
- actions by Congress required nine votes, amendments required unanimous vote
- lacked a provision for independently raising revenues by duties or through taxation w/o consent of states
- was only able to obtain a small amount of taxes from the states
- no control of interstate commerce
- central government could not raise an army, establish a navy, or call the militias
- no independent Judiciary
- failed to establish a strong, effective diplomatic presence in international affairs
 - could not get Spain to allow access to New Orleans
 - unable to get Britain to reopen trade with the West Indies or import our products
 - could not keep Britain from flooding the states with manufactured goods (hurt American producers)
 - unable to get Britain to repeal navigation laws
 - no way to resolve the economic loss of 50,000 slaves during the war to the British
 - no way to stop British provocation and encouragement of Indian attacks on the border
- no provisions for admitting new states
- unable to foster any sense of nationalism