

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## AOC Simulation

**Directions:** As a member of the Confederation Congress, you represent your state in the national government. Throughout the 1780s, the Congress meets to attempt to address a number of issues in the aftermath of American independence. You must represent your state using the information on your state sheet and vote on the following issues, indicating the larger significance, issue or weakness of the AOCs in each issue.

**Issue #1: Vermont Ghosts on New York-** Both New York State and New Hampshire have claimed the territory that is between them (modern day Vermont). Each has threatened to use militias to solve the problem, and New Hampshire is asking the Confederation Congress to prevent the powerful New York militia from taking territory that the people of New Hampshire feel they also have a right to. In 1777, this disputed territory, under the leadership of Ethan Allen, is demanding that they become a new state called Vermont. New York is refusing to grant independence to Vermont, and now Connecticut has angered New York by promoting Vermont's interests. The Independent Republic of Vermont (as they call themselves) is threatening to ally themselves with Great Britain for the remainder of the Revolution if Congress does not grant them statehood. Several skirmishes with New York have already occurred at the border.

Decision:

Issue/Significance:

**Issue #2: Congress needs that paper-** It's 1783. Congress is in debt \$45 million from the American Revolution. Because Congress has no power to tax, they borrowed money heavily during the war and owe money to the French, British and Dutch. Since Congress can't tax, they are requesting \$45 million from the states to pay back foreign debts and war veterans. If the resolution passes, each state will pay based on the value of their land and wealth--wealthier states with higher land values will have to pay more. This requires 9/13 states to pass.

Decision:

Issue/Significance:

**Issue #3: Tricky Tariffs-**The states cannot provide all the money Congress needs to pay off its debts and pay soldiers from the American Revolution. Congress has just gotten word that soldiers in Newburgh, New York are planning a coup to overthrow the government. In addition, the US economy is struggling because Congress cannot control trade and countries such as France and Britain are imposing tariffs and strict trade laws on the US. **Robert Morris has suggested an amendment that would allow Congress to regulate trade by and raise revenue to pay soldiers by**

- ▶ imposing a 5% tariff (tax on imported goods) to raise revenue and protect US industries.
- ▶ imposing a head tax on slaves

Decision:

Issue/Significance:

**Issue #4: New Land!**- In the Treaty of Paris of 1783, America gained all land east of the Mississippi River, from Canada to Florida. Some of the smaller states are arguing that Congress should take control of the new lands and sell plots to the public in order to pay off war debts. They believe this newly acquired land should go to the common benefit of the nation; plus, they don't want to see big states get even bigger and more powerful. The large states claiming ownership of these lands--North Carolina, Virginia, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts--disagree and think they should not have to give up their newly won land to a central government. Proclamation of 1763, anyone?

Thomas Jefferson has suggested that all states give up their land claims and instead give control of the Northwest Territory to the national government. The land would be divided into territories overseen by governors and the government will sell land & use money to fund public schools and pay off debts. When a territory's population reached 60,000 it could then petition for statehood. Finally, slavery would be banned in this region. Slavery would also be banned so these new territories would not compete with cash crop producing states. Instead, Jefferson wants to make an empire of liberty by providing affordable land to independent farmers.

Decision:

Issue/Significance:

**Issue #5: Redcoats and PIRATES and Indian, oh my!**- The British continue to refuse to evacuate the Northwest posts they have occupied since the end of the Revolution, knowing the US is in no position to force them out. The Spanish refuse to allow American trade in New Orleans, cutting off access to the Mississippi River to coerce western settlements in places like North Carolina to break off from America and join the Spanish. Settlers who pledge an oath of allegiance to Spain will get special trade deals and protection. On the frontier, hostile Native American tribes like the Creek, who have much larger armies than the Americans, raid settlements. Americans living on the frontier have requested protection or else they might turn to the Spanish, who can offer better protection.

On the seas, the Barbary pirates seize American ships. In the past, British treaties with the Barbary Pirates protected American ships. Now the pirates have begun seizing American ships, disrupting trade and taking sailors hostage unless they pay tribute. The states feel that they cannot deal with foreign nations because the national government is not respected by other nations.

Congress is asking the states for soldiers (who may or may not be paid) and a navy, including sailors and ships. They also need help deciding how to address these foreign threats. Force? Payments? Options seem limited.

Decision:

Issue/Significance:

**Issue #6: Don't tax me, bro-** Georgia is charging South Carolina merchants extremely high taxes to buy their products. South Carolina farmers are threatening to riot if the South Carolina government cannot convince Georgia to lower its taxes. Georgia says that it must charge high taxes because their economy is doing terribly since the war.

**Because there is no national court to settle disputes, South Carolina is asking Congress to:**  
Change the Articles to make it illegal for one state to tax another (Requires 13/13 votes)

Decision:

Issue/Significance:

**Issue #7: Shays's Rebellion-** In September of 1786, farmers in Massachusetts began to protest about the fact that their property was being seized because they were unable to pay off their debts and were unable to pay state taxes. Many of these farmers had fought in the Revolution and still had not been paid because Congress lacked the money. When protests and petitions did not work, a former military officer named Daniel Shays organized over 1,000 farmers and soldiers and resorted to tactics like the patriots had used before the Revolution, forming blockades around courthouses to keep judges from issuing foreclosure orders and threatening to take over the federal arsenal, where weapons are stored. Congress does not have an army to send to Massachusetts, so they are asking the states to contribute \$500,000 and troops. Each state decides individually if they want to help and how much, so there is no guarantee that all states will contribute the same, or anything at all.

Decision:

Issue/Significance:

**Bonus Round:** The larger states feel it is unfair that small states have the same representation in Congress (1 vote for each state) even though they have much smaller populations and therefore represent a much smaller portion of the country's interests. They have proposed an amendment that allows for proportional representation (representation based on population).

*Created by Catherine Brown, Cedar Shoals HS, GA*

Decision:

Issue/Significance: