U.S.A. Version 1.0: A Confederation of States

1781 **Articles of Confederation**

- "freedom and independence" for states
- laws needed 9 states to pass
- weak central government

1781-1786 **Problems in Congress**

 USA had large debts to pay from the war, but no power to tax - huge inflation during and after war, every state had own currency.

1787 This Isn't Working!

Congress calls for states to send representatives to Philadelphia for "the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation."

1787 **Northwest Ordinance**

Rules for becoming a new state: 1. appoint governor & 3 judges 2. elect legislature (>5000 adult males) 3. petition Congress for statehood (>60,000 adult males)

1781-1787

The Articles of Confederation prove to be too weak for effective national government

1781-1786

More Problems in Congress

 USA as a country couldn't negotiate with other countries for trade - Washington urges "If the powers of Congress are inadequate, amend, or alter them."

1784-87 **Expansion West**

- US gained land from the British in the Treaty of Paris of 1783 - territory west of Appalachians, north of Ohio River and east of the
 - Mississippi were opened for settlement

1786-87 **Shay's Rebellion**

- Daniel Shays organizes Mass. farmers to protest taxes - rebels close courts at Springfield fail in attack on federal arsenal to get weapons

1786 Problems on the farm

- many farmers in debt after the war - states levy taxes to pay for war - farmers lose their farms and are
- jailed for debts