**Unit 5: Creating the Constitution Study Guide**

**Timeline of events:** Colonial **independence 🡪 Articles of Confederation 🡪 Shays’ Rebellion 🡪 Constitutional Convention**

**Articles of Confederation:** Nation’s first plan of government. Written by the Second Continental Congress.

* Weak central government to preserve the powers of the individual states.
* The central government was not able to tax citizens as the British government had tried to do.
  + This problem was solved by the U.S. Constitution (gave the national gov. the power to tax)
* No national court system under the AOC 🡪 problem was addressed by the Constitution.
* No executive to enforce laws under the AOC 🡪 problem was addressed by the Constitution.
* Weaknesses of the AOC: Created only one branch of gov., no system of checks and balances, & no power to tax., national government could not settle disputes between states

**Preamble:** The introduction to the U.S. Constitution, which lays out the six purposes/goals of the government.

* Insure domestic tranquility: keep the homeland at peace.
* Protect the rights & freedoms of all citizens
* “We the people” – phrase begins the Preamble to indicate that the American people were the ultimate sources of the government’s authority.
  + The government depends on people for its power & exists to serve the people.
  + This phrase is played out through the direct election of Congress members

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| **Anti- Federalists** |
| Constitution should protect fundamental rights |
| Constitution did not include a list of protected rights for individuals |

**Outcome of debate between federalists and anti-federalists:** the later addition of the Bill of Rights

**Posterity:**  Future generations.

**Shays’ Rebellion:** 1786 uprising led by a farmer in Massachusetts. Followers protested the foreclosures of farms for debt and briefly succeeded in shutting down the court system.

**General Welfare:** Create a better life for all.

**Common defense:** Protect the country from other countries/people that might try to harm us.