The Constitutional Convention of 1787: Just the Start

Shay’s Rebellion

* Forced land sales
* Farmers hit with hardest economic impact
* Open revolt against Massachusetts government

Powerless National Government

* Federal government could do very little to end rebellion
* Massachusetts cannot get military aid they need now
* Leaders hear call for stronger central government

National Conference in Maryland

* Virginia called for national conference in 1786
* Discussions about economy
* Discussions about changes (amending) the AOC
* Only 9 states showed up leading to failure of conference

Another Try – Constitutional Convention

* Leaders such as James Madison and Alexander Hamilton call on all states to send delegates
* Philadelphia 1787
* Plan to revise the AOC (Amend only)

These Are Smart, Influential Men

* Most delegates are educated and served in their state govts.
* Ben Franklin, James Madison, George Washington
* Washington elected President of convention
* No women, African Americans, or Natives

Summary

After Shays’s Rebellion, many leaders begin discussing the ideas of changes for the plan of government. Evidence has already been seen that the Articles of Confederation lack considerably in certain areas. The government is in massive debt still, states are fighting amongst each other, our country can’t protect itself because we have no standing military, and we have no leadership to turn to in times of need. Leaders try to meet in Maryland in 1786 but fail to make an impact. In 1787 a Constitutional Convention is called in Philadelphia. Delegates meet to discuss the needed changes to the Articles. No one can expect what happens next.