Shays' Rebellion

(cake in blue)

Intro Video

- During the Revolution, there had been high demand for farm products. To increase production, farmers had borrowed money to support the armies.
- When the war ended and soldiers returned to their farms they were consumed by debt and had been paid very little.

- In western MA, state taxes were raised to recover from the war.
- The courts seized farms from those who could not pay taxes or loans and jailed many.
- Ultimately, angry farmers felt that they were being treated and taxed unfairly

- In 1786, Daniel Shays organized an uprising. Nearly 2,000 farmers took part.
- They attacked courthouses and prevented the state from seizing farms.
- They tried to capture an arsenal filled with guns. Eventually, a private army would end the rebellion, arresting many.

Though Shays' Rebellion was not successful. It shed light on the weakness of the national government and proved that the Articles of Confederation did not work.

George Washington warned that crisis was at hand…
“No day ever more clouded than the present… I predict the worst of the consequences from a half starved, limping government”

Thomas Jefferson believed this was a necessary act…
“Let them take arms…the tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time by the blood of patriots and tyrants”

To avoid further crisis, leaders from several states called for a convention to revise the Articles of Confederation. They met in Philly in May of 1787.

It would do much more than revise the Articles…

How does Shays' Rebellion relate to previous learning?

How does Shays' Rebellion cause a change in the government?