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| Class Notes / PowerPoint Presentation / Textbook Notes  **American Government**  Name:  Period:  Date:  **Chapter 2: Origins of Government / Section 3: The Critical Period** | |
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| **Objectives** | 1. Describe the structure of the government set up under the Articles of Confederation. 2. Explain why the weaknesses of the Articles led to a critical period for the country in the 1780s. 3. Describe how a growing need for a stronger national government led to plans for a Constitutional Convention. |
| **Key Terms** |  |
| **Articles of Confederation** | the agreement, effective in 1781, that established the first central government of the United States as a confederation government |
| **ratification** | formal approval of a proposal, agreement, law, treaty or constitution |
| **FOCUS QUESTION** | * **What weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation made a lasting government impossible?** |
| **Articles of Confederation** |  |
| **Government Structure** |  |
| **Powers of Congress**  **& State Obligations** |  |
| ***CHECKPOINT!*** | * **What powers did Congress hold under the Articles of Confederation?** |
| **Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation** |  |
| **The Critical Period,**  **The 1780’s** |  |
| **Shays’ Rebellion** |  |
| ***CHECKPOINT!*** | * **How did events in the 1780s reveal the economic &**   **political weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?** |
| **The Need for Stronger Government** |  |