

# A Loose Confederation

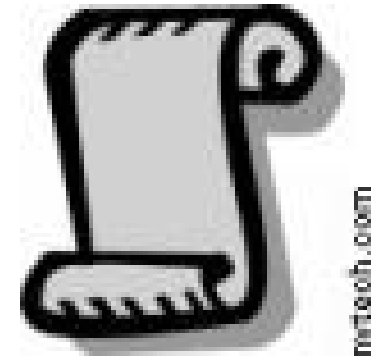
(A.T. p. 152)

Government of the early U.S



# State Government

- After the U.S. declared independence, states started writing constitutions
- Some states included a bill of rights



# First Constitution

- March 1, 1781: the **Articles of Confederation** was ratified by all 13 states
- A loose alliance of 13 independent states with one branch of government  
- a legislative branch (A.T. p.153)
- Each state has one vote (A.T. p.155)

# Under the Articles

(A.T. p. 153)

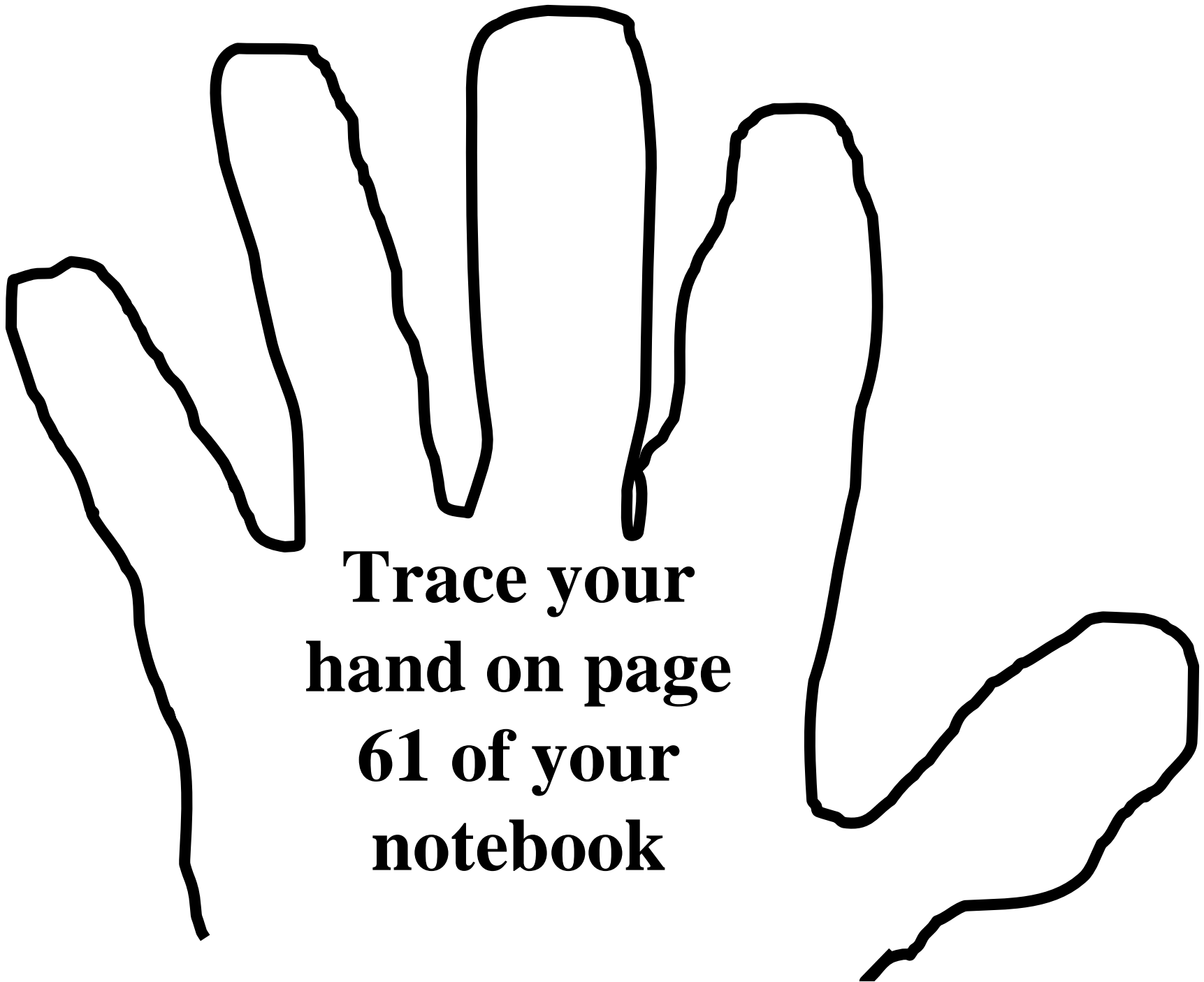
Congress could:

- Declare war
- Appoint military officers
- Coin money

(A.T. p. 157)

Congress was limited by:

- Hard to pass a law; 9 of 13 states must approve
- Could not regulate trade
- No power to tax
- No executive branch (leader)
- No judicial branch (courts)



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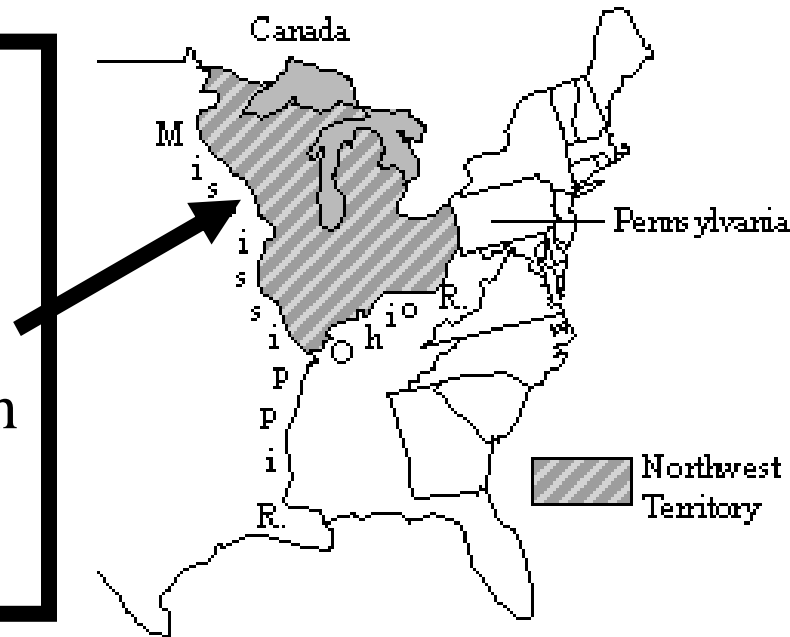
# Problems after the Revolution

(A.T. p. 157-158)

- Conflict between states (box 4)
- Debt; printing too much money – Continental dollar bills “not worth a continental” (box 2)
- NO respect from other countries (box 6)

# Northwest Territory

The area from the Mississippi river east to PA and from the Ohio River north to the Great Lakes



- Land Ordinance of 1785 (A.T. p. 154): law setting up a system for settling the Northwest Territory



# Northwest Ordinance of 1787 (A.T. p. 155)

(Allowed territories to be admitted  
as equal states)

## Steps to Statehood:

1. Congress appoints governor, secretary and judges to rule the territory
2. When territory has 5,000 free adult males, they may elect a legislature
3. Total free population of 60,000 may write a constitution and submit to Congress for approval

# Shays' Rebellion 1787 (A.T. p. 158, box 7)

- Country falls into a depression
- Many farmers could not repay loans from Revolution and had farms taken from them
- Daniel Shays, a Revolutionary War veteran, led a rebellion of farmers in Massachusetts
- Militia ends uprising
- Signals need for a stronger national government

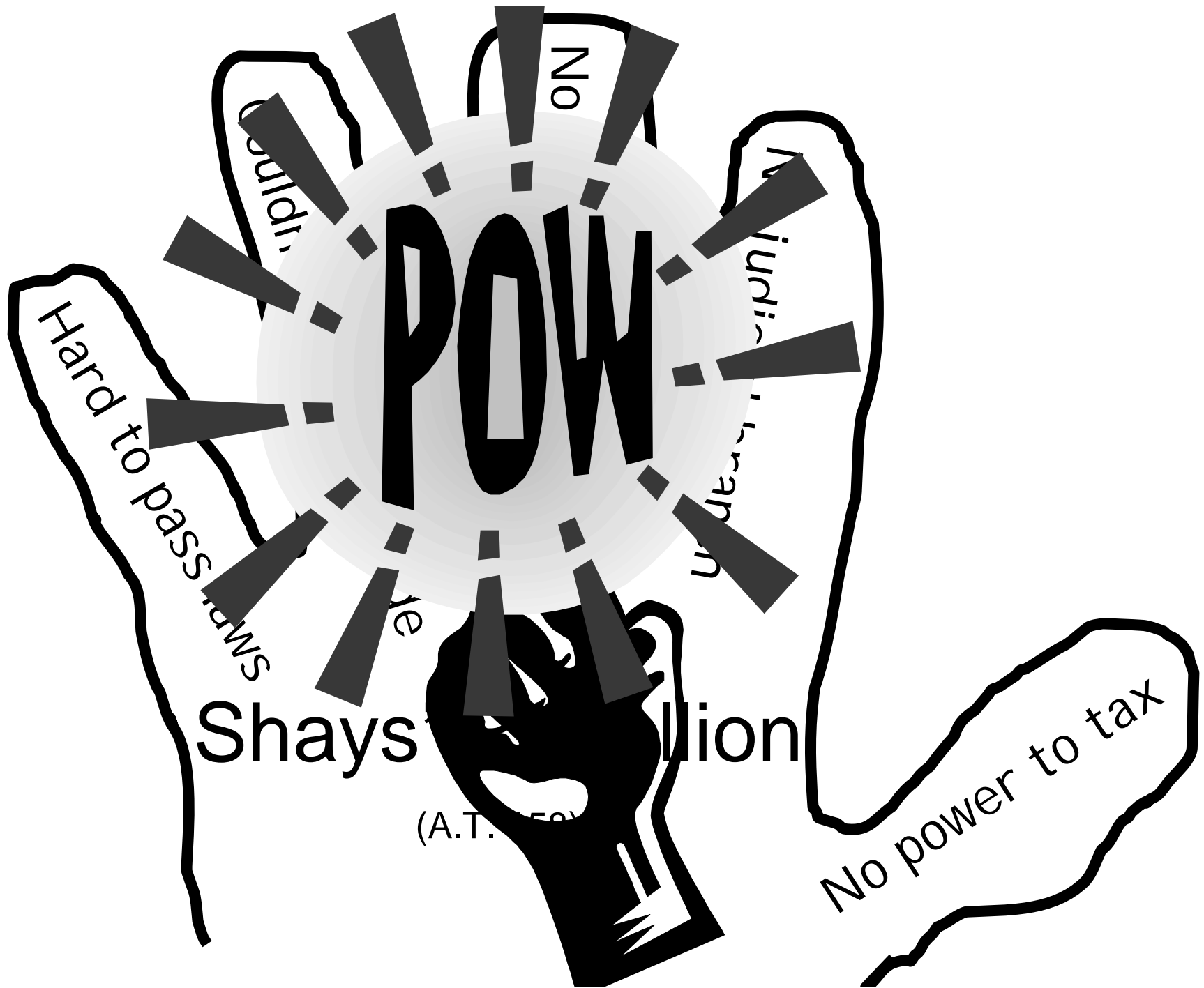
No power to tax

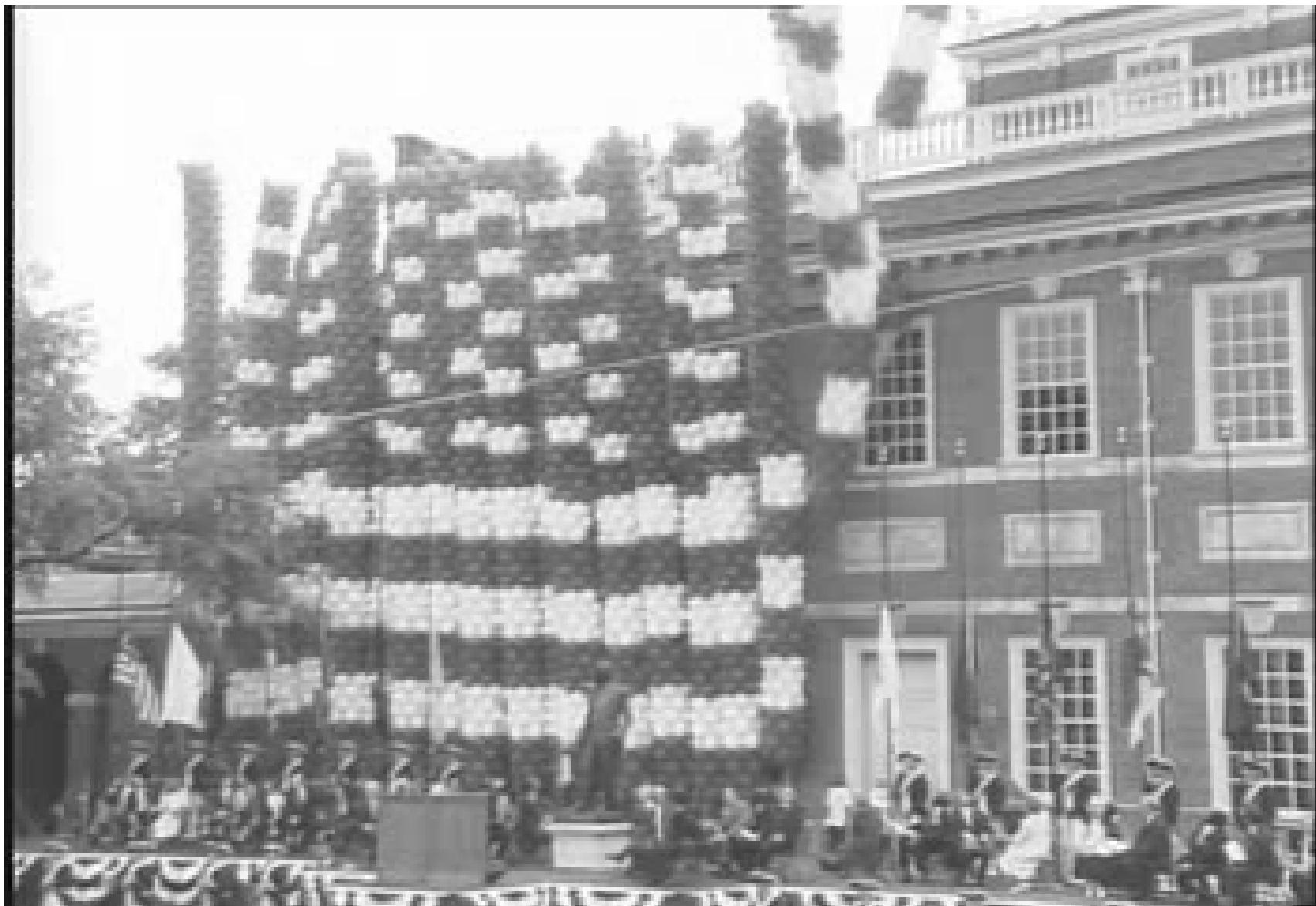
No judicial branch

No executive branch

Couldn't regulate trade

Hard to pass laws





Our Constitution: The Document that Gave Birth to a Nation. Rainbow Educational Media. 1988. unitedstreaming. 16 November 2006