

## Contextualization

At the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, the leaders of the new country faced the task of creating a new government for the United States. Fresh off their experience with monarchy, the framers of the Articles of Confederation created a government with very little central authority as they sought to establish a new American political system. The Articles instead placed a great deal of power in the hands of the individual states.

## Thesis

While the Articles of Confederation were effective in organizing Western lands, overall they provided an ineffective and dangerously weak federal government that threatened the existence of the new nation.

## Document Use

### **Step 1 - Point of Analysis relevant to the question.**

The Articles of Confederation were extremely ineffective in addressing the economic issues after the Revolutionary War.

The Articles of Confederation were ineffective in establishing a foreign policy that asserted the independence of the United States.

One area where the Articles of Confederation provided an effective system of government was in the organization of Western lands.

**Step 2 - Use a document as supporting evidence.**

The letter from the Rhode Island Assembly demonstrated the inability of the federal government under the Articles of Confederation to collect taxes from the states (Doc. A).

In his letter to George Washington, Joseph Jones warns of officers in the army that were upset about not receiving pay and how this was connected to Congress' inability to tax under the Articles of Confederation (Doc. C).

John Jay's instructions to the U.S. minister to Great Britain shows that...

### **Step 3 - Develop document analysis further using 1 of 4 sourcing possibilities (Doc. C Examples)**

**Audience** - Given that this was a letter to George Washington...

**POV** - As a delegate of the state of Virginia, Jones feared about the stability of the government and likely wanted Washington to use his influence.

**Purpose** - Jones likely is trying to persuade Washington to intervene to stop this potential military coup.

**Historical Situation** - Jones is referencing the Newburgh Conspiracy, a potential military coup of disgruntled officers from the Revolutionary War.

#### **Here's an example of a point of analysis, using a document to support that point, and then sourcing the document further.**

The Articles of Confederation were extremely ineffective in addressing the economic issues after the Revolutionary War. In his letter to George Washington, Joseph Jones warns of officers in the army that were upset about not receiving pay and how this was connected to Congress' inability to tax under the Articles of Confederation (Doc. C). Jones likely is trying to persuade Washington to intervene to stop this potential military coup. The letter from the Rhode Island Assembly also

demonstrated the inability of the federal government under the Articles of Confederation to collect taxes from the states (Doc. A).