

Make A Connection!

The science fiction writer Kim Stanley Robinson once said,

“Money equals power,
Power makes the law,
And law makes the
government.”

*Thinking about the Articles of Confederation
and the Congress, is this statement true?*



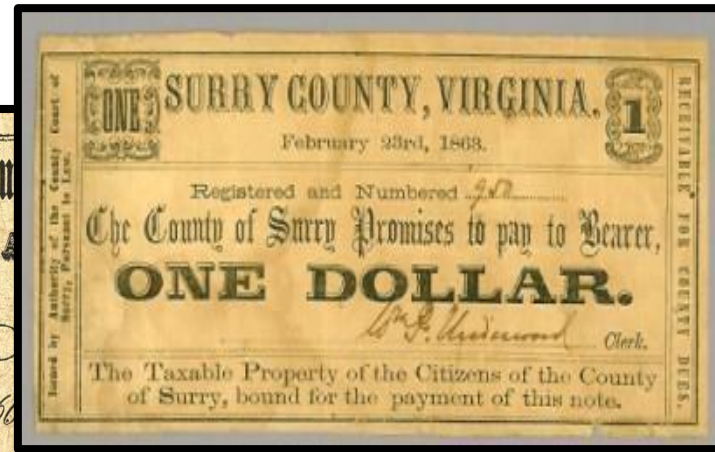
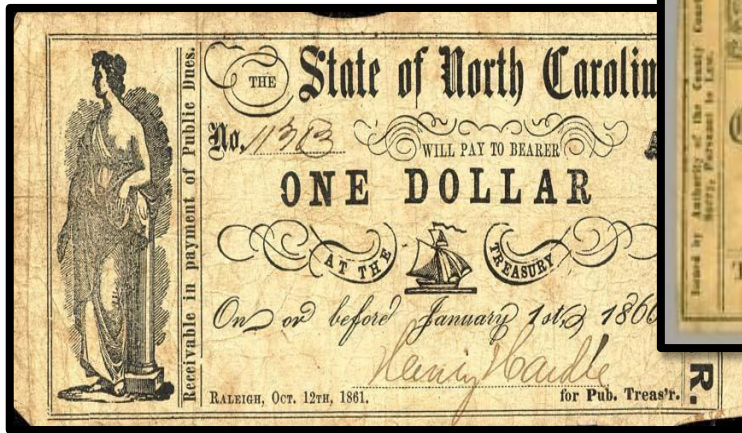
The United States Debt

- The thirteen colonies had borrowed A LOT of money during the Revolutionary War and they owed a **debt** - millions of dollars to individuals and foreign nations.
 - *Remember the debt England had after the French and Indian War?*
- Congress did not have the power to tax individuals or states, so it had no way of repaying these debts.
- Congress asked the states for



A Virginia Dollar?

- States began to print their own money which caused a lot of **CONFUSION!!**
- Trade between the states became difficult since one state dollar could be worth more or less than another state's dollar!



What could you buy with a North Carolina dollar or a Virginia dollar was different than what you could buy with a Maryland dollar!

Problems!

- Not only did each state have it's own power and set of rules, each state also decided how to **expand their borders** to *make themselves larger as a state*.
 - Each state had **TOTAL** freedom!!!!
- **This was a big problem for two reasons:**
 - 1. More than one state “laid claim” to the **same areas of land** (*that's a major conflict, don't ya think?*).
 - 2. The Indians owned the land that the Americans tried to claim!

STOP FIGHTING!

Stop Fighting!

- New Hampshire and New York both claimed the land called Vermont.
- Most states refused to accept the money from other states.
- **The Articles of Confederation did not create a way for states to settle arguments with one another!**





Question?

**And another
problem the new
American
government had to**

face

If Americans start moving outside of the original 13 states, won't they eventually need to create ***new states?***

YE S! Organizing the Northwest Territory

Even though the Congress was *WEAK*, it was able to convince the states to pass some important laws involving the **Northwest Territory** - land east of the Mississippi



WESTERN LAND CLAIMS, 1783



Northwest Territory

- Two years of fighting between the states (1783 – 1785) occurred.
- *Who had a REAL claim to certain lands in the Northwest Territory?*
 - Unfortunately, no one could agree!
- Congress came up with an idea that seemed FAIR:
- **Congress requested that each state remove their claims on the land and start all over again – from scratch.**
 - That way, everyone would have a FAIR chance at making their borders bigger.

