**Articles of Confederation and U. S. Constitution Timeline**

**October 14th, 1774**

The First Continental Congress calls for boycott

In response to British tax policy, the colonies' representatives decide to take action and protest their mother country's Parliament. Congress agrees to reconvene later if things keep getting worse, which they do.

**July 3rd, 1775**

War starts

After a few battles (Bunker Hill, Concord) George Washington is appointed by Congress to lead the American forces, known as the Continental Army.

**July 4th, 1776**

Declaration of Independence signed

America formally breaks away from Britain.

The next task: come up with a new government to replace the old one.

**July 12th, 1776**

First draft of the Articles of Confederation presented to Second Continental Congress

**November 15th, 1777**

Second Continental Congress ratifies the Articles of Confederation

Creating a new government is a long and drawn out process.

The delegates debate the document for a year while the war goes on.

**July 9th, 1778**

First states to ratify the Articles

After a few months of delay due to printing errors delegates from eight states sign and ratify the document.

**February 6th, 1778**

France enters the War

The historically British-hating French ally with the new American nation, a major military turning point in the war. Wait, say American soldiers, we might win this thing…

**March 1st, 1781**

Final state ratifies the Articles of Confederation

**September 3rd, 1783**

Treaty of Paris ends Revolutionary War

The British acknowledge the new government and nation of the United States.

**September 14th, 1786**

Annapolis Convention

Led by John Dickinson, author of the Articles of Confederation, delegates from the states acknowledge "defects in the system of the Federal Government."

**1786 – 1787**

Shays' Rebellion

Economic turmoil in the United States leads to a series of violent uprisings against the government in Massachusetts and other states, led by Revolutionary War veteran Daniel Shays. The Rebellion is viewed as evidence that the Articles of Confederation need to be changed.

**February 21st, 1787**

Congress plans revision

State delegates organize a convention to take place in Philadelphia later that year. The purpose: fix the shoddy government.

**May 25th – September 17th, 1787**

Constitutional Convention

Instead of revising the Articles of Confederation, the delegates, led by Federalists James Madison and Alexander Hamilton at the convention, come up with the Constitution.

**1787 – 1788**

The *Federalist Papers*published

Hamilton, Madison, John Jay, and friends, writing under the pseudonym "Publius," publish pamphlets arguing for the ratification of the new Constitution.

**June 21st, 1788**

Constitution becomes law of the land

New Hampshire is the ninth state to ratify the new Constitution, which officially replaces the Articles of Confederation. The final four states out of the thirteen eventually follow.