

## Questions Day 51- 57

*According to Thomas Paine what was republicanism and when would a republic give way to tyranny?* Thomas Paine, felt that republicanism was a moral code of behavior, as well as a system of government in which the supreme power of the country is vested in an electorate. Citing England's history, he believed that when citizens became selfish or corrupt the republic would give way to tyranny.

*The Articles of Confederation* is our first national constitution that created a weak central government and was replaced by the Constitution.

*Northwest Ordinance* established a process for admitting territories to the Union as states. It is important to note that the 13 states did not look at the territories as colonies or parts of an empire, but as future states with the same privileges, rights, and responsibilities. Slavery was also not permitted in the new territories according to the ordinance. How things might have been different if this provision had been applied to the new territories.

*Shays' Rebellion* was a rebellion of farmers against taxes and debts in Massachusetts that was put down. It showed the weakness of the Articles and many feared mob rule. (some Massachusetts farmers were losing their farms due to the inability to pay taxes during difficult economic times following the war)

*How was the Articles of Confederation too weak?* The Articles of Confederation was weak because it did not give Congress the authority to raise funds, regulate trade, or conduct foreign policy without the voluntary agreement of the states.

*Name one success of the Article of Confederation?*

One success of the Articles was the passage of the Northwest Ordinance.

*What are the reasons the writer of this letter (Richard Henry Lee) is against the adoption of the Constitution?*

Richard Henry Lee is against the adoption of the Constitution for many reasons. He recommends not rushing, but to carefully consider the document. He warns that if they keep making major changes the people will grow weary of it. The desire for stability will lead the people to accept any government that can offer stability. If you know anything about the French Revolution that should remind you of how Napoleon came to power. He does not feel that a confederation of republics or states offers this stability. He considers doing away with the state government and creating a national government, but thinks it is impractical with all the differences in the individual states. The Constitution is a compromise between the idea of confederation and a strong national government and in his option the only one that can secure stability, freedom and happiness for the people.