

# The Articles of Confederation 1781-1787

- First government of the United States
- Formed under the philosophy that the national government should be weak and that control belonged to the individual states
- Successfully prosecuted the war and subsequent peace with Britain
  - Treaty of Paris, 1783

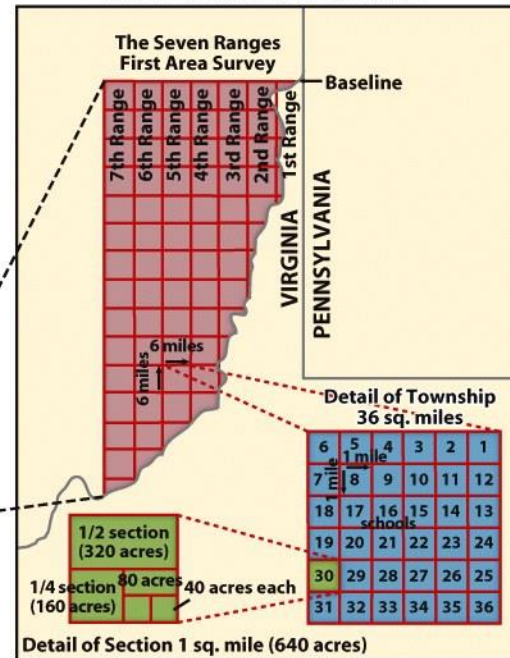
# The Northwest Ordinance, 1787

- Established orderly plan for organization of new territories and admission of new states
- First legislation to outlaw slavery on a national level
  - Northwest Territory

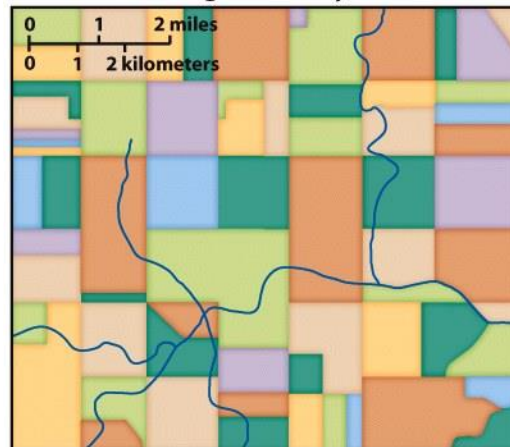
**Northwest Ordinance, 1787  
with final state boundaries**



**Land Ordinance, 1785,  
with final sectional division**



**Farms in a rectangular survey area:  
Muskingum County, Ohio**



**Farms in an old eastern survey area:  
Baltimore County, Md.**



# Problems with the A of C

- WEAK CENTRAL GOV'T
- ECONOMIC ISSUES – LOSS OF TRADE WITH BRITISH
- NO POWER TO TAX
  - Debt from War
- NO NATIONAL CURRENCY
- NO STANDING ARMY
- TO PASS LAW - 9 OF 13 STATES
  - Very difficult
- One Branch - Legislative
- EACH STATE GOT ONE VOTE



# Turning Point: Shays' Rebellion

- Western Mass. Farmers protest against foreclosures and government in Boston
- Seen by some leaders that the revolution had gotten out of control
- Led to Annapolis Convention, which led to Constitutional Convention
- Jefferson – “a little revolution is a good thing”