

Name: _____ Hr: _____ Date: _____

Problems Faced By the New Nation Under Articles of Confederation

Directions: As you read through Ch. 5, Section 2, make note of all domestic and international problems the United States faced under the Articles of Confederation. Make sure to focus on trade, inflation, the economy, and civilian uprisings such as Shays' Rebellion, and how these issues caused many to desire change.

<u>Domestic Problems</u>	<u>International Problems</u>

Name: _____ Hr: _____

Close Reading

Directions: Make 3-4 “mental moves” as you read and answer the questions found on your answer document

Shays’s Rebellion

Each state handled its economic problems differently. Massachusetts refused to print worthless paper money. It tried to pay its war debts by collecting taxes on land.

Heavy Debts for Farmers

Massachusetts’s tax policy hit farmers hard. As landowners, they had to pay the new taxes. However, farmers had trouble paying their debts. The courts began forcing them to sell their property. Some farmers had to serve terms in debtors’ prison; others had to sell their labor.

Many government leaders in the state did not care about the problems of poor farmers, however. In some cases, farmers actually owed these leaders money.

Farmers Rebel

In August 1786, farmers in three western counties began a revolt. Bands of angry citizens closed down courts in western Massachusetts. Their reasoning was simple—with the courts shut down, no one’s property could be taken. In September a poor farmer and Revolutionary War veteran, **Daniel Shays**, led hundreds of men in a forced shutdown of the Supreme Court in Springfield, Massachusetts. The state government ordered the farmers to stop the revolt under threat of capture and death. These threats only made Shays and his followers more determined. **The uprising of farmers to protest high taxes and heavy debt became known as Shays’s Rebellion.**

Shays’s Defeat

Shays’s forces were defeated by state troops in January 1787. By February many of the rebels were in prison. During their trials, 14 leaders were sentenced to death. However, the state soon freed most of the rebels, including Shays. State officials knew that many citizens of the state agreed with the rebels and their cause.