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1. Compare and contrast the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution, especially in regard to the specific powers granted by each to the national government.

The articles of confederation were created on November 15th, 1777, and came into effect on March 1st, 1781, when Maryland ratified it. The original reasoning for the articles was to create a stronger government, powerful enough to defeat Britian. Under the articles, states were independent, and relied on congress as a last resort. This created individual little countries, in a land where all should be united. The articles did help with certain issues like territory, and the Native Americans. The nationalists became concerned with the lack of federal power, and chose to create a constitution.

The constitution was created on September 17th, 1787, and was ratified on June 21st, 1788. This doctrine solved or mostly solved most of the problems. It fixed the relationship between the government and states, and specified in greater details of the government. Originally all 13 colonies had to ratify something for it to be passed, and with the constitution there needs to be 2/3 of both houses of congress, plus 3/4 of the state legislatures. It created something more practical, it was no longer needed for everyone to completely agree, but for the majority to.

In conclusion, the articles were a good starting point for colonies, but more power was needed, and for those reasons the constitution was created. The constitution made life better for everyone. Everyone no longer had to ratify something for it to get passed. They were more particular on the laws of government making it fair among the three branches. No longer did sovereignty reside in the states, it resided in the supreme law of the land. The constitution summed everything up better, with more practicalness, and that's why it's still used and influences people today.

2. Write your definition of democracy. Then use this definition to evaluate the Constitution as it was penned in 1787. In what ways was it a democratic document and in what ways did it guard against democracy?

I believe democracy is a system of government, in which power is vested in the people. A country should have democracy because citizens are what makes up a society, and for a country to be successful the citizens should have a say in what goes on. Democracy has means to achieve security, stability, and prosperity for the entire world. Through democracy, a country is more united than a country that isn't.

The constitution was written democratically. Democratically it was written in mind of the people, there was a bill of rights to secure that. There was also certain rules made for the government, that would appeal to the citizens making the society a true democracy. The constitution shows that most situations, and people were in mind. Although they didn't quite get everything right, we are able to add amendments to change what they got wrong, or didn't bother to add at all.

The constitution was also written undemocratically by people that weren't elected officials, which goes against the democracy of voting for representatives to pass laws. The men that created it were great leaders, but they weren't formally elected. A few guys just decided that they wanted to change the way colonial America worked. They were all rich, which helped them, money got most of them to where they were. So they wrote it, but the citizens then weren't able to put in input as easily as we do today. Also, they fail to mention women at all, but at the time women weren't seen as very important, so that's understandable. But still today the president is elected by the electoral college, not by the people. People still vote, but that's what it ultimately comes down to.