CHAPTER 9

The Confederation and the Constitution, 1776–1790

PART I: REVIEWING THE CHAPTER

A. Checklist of Learning Objectives

After mastering this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Explain the broad movement toward social and political equality that flourished after the Revolution and indicate why certain social and racial inequalities remained in place.

2. Describe the government of the Articles of Confederation and summarize its achievements and failures.

3. Explain the crucial role of Shays’s Rebellion in sparking the movement for a new Constitution.

4. Describe the basic ideas and goals of the Founding Fathers in the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention and how they incorporated their fundamental principles into the Constitution.

5. Understand the central concerns that motivated the antifederalists, and indicate their social, economic, and political differences with the federalists.

6. Describe the issues at stake in the political fight over ratification of the Constitution between federalists and antifederalists, and explain why the federalists won.

7. Explain how the new government, set up by the Constitution, represented a conservative reaction to the American Revolution, yet at the same time, institutionalized the Revolution’s central radical principles of popular government and individual liberty.