**GUIDED READING EXERCISE**

**Chapter 8—Building a Republic, 1775–1789**

* **What were the most significant events that led to the formulation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution?**

***Download and save this document so you can return to it to take notes and later use it for studying.*** *As you read the chapter, fill in the chart below to remind yourself which events led to the formulation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution. If you copy and paste from the text, make sure you place quotation marks around the copied material; if you are able to describe the events in your own words, however, you should do so.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Event** | **Impact on formulation/ratification of U.S. Constitution** |
| **The Articles of Confederation** |  |  |
| Confederation and Taxation |  |  |
| The Problem of Western Lands |  |  |
| Running the New Government |  |  |
| **The Sovereign States** |  |  |
| The State Constitutions |  |  |
| Who Are “the People”? |  |  |
| Equality and Slavery |  |  |
| **The Confederation’s Problems** |  |  |
| The War Debt and the Newburgh Conspiracy |  |  |
| The Treaty of Fort Stanwix |  |  |
| Land Ordinances and the Northwest Territory |  |  |
| The Requisition of 1785 and Shays’s Rebellion, 1786–1787 |  |  |
| **The United States Constitution**  |  |  |
| From Annapolis to Philadelphia |  |  |
| The Virginia and New Jersey Plans |  |  |
| Democracy versus Republicanism |  |  |
| **Ratification of the Constitution** |  |  |
| The Federalists |  |  |
| The Antifederalists |  |  |
| The Big Holdouts: Virginia and New York |  |  |

*After you have read the chapter, use your notes to compose an essay that answers the following question:*

* **What were the most significant events that led to the formulation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution?**

*Be sure to include an opening, introductory paragraph in which you state your thesis. Then use the body of your essay to provide evidence from the chapter to support that thesis. When thinking about how to organize this essay, you might want to consider which of the events you listed were most influential on the Second Continental Congress in 1787. What weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation needed to be rectified by a stronger document? End by writing a clear conclusion to your essay.*