Founding of America

I. Main Actors in the American Revolution
   a. Elite Anglo Citizens who had economic interest in the revolution
   b. Middle Class Whites who were indifferent
   c. Poor Whites who were used as soldiers for the elites
   d. Native Americans for whom the revolution was unfortunate because it meant more acquisition of land by colonists
   e. African Americans who fought for the revolution

II. Major Ideological Influences
   a. Classical Liberalism: values freedom of the individual and basic rights
   b. Patriotism-Virtue: patriotism for America, Britain as the evil force

III. Major Historical Events Preceding the Constitution
   a. 1776: Declaration of Independence laid out grounds for future government
   b. 1777: Articles of Confederation
      i. no central government, because they were afraid of what a powerful government or monarchy could be – as they saw in England
      ii. no executive head/president because they feared the King
   c. 1781: Colonists win the revolutionary war

IV. Major Divisions Within the 13 Colonies
   a. “Haves vs the have-nots”
      i. Elite are despised by the poor and working class who fought in the revolution and acquired no benefits
      ii. Shay’s Rebellion was a result of the tension between the classes
   b. Slavery divided the north and the south colonies
   c. Should the Government be a loose confederation or a strong state?

V. Why Framers Favored a Single USA government
   a. The government would have the power to expand westward with a bigger centralized military
   b. Increase of commerce and the ability to implement tariffs, currency, taxation, and subsidies