

**Title of the Podcast:** Shays's Rebellion

**Historic Period it Covered:**

The historical period covered by this podcast is from 1786 to 1787, which is the mid-1780s in the period of the Articles of Confederation. This is a part of period 3 (1754-1800) of the AP US History periods. The podcast includes content related to the discontent that happened due to the economic problems of Americans, and a weak central government that could not address those issues. The podcast also talks about how that eventually led to the Shays's Rebellion and changed the United States.

**Two Things You Learned Watching it:**

One thing I learned while watching the podcast was that Massachusetts was so divided during this period by eastern coastal merchants and the west rural farmers. The merchants on the eastern coast of Massachusetts were mostly involved in trade with Europe. They were also the ones who lent money to the state and federal governments. These people wanted to receive their money back in a high-valued currency. However, most of the rural farmers in the west could not meet the demands of those merchants. Furthermore, the merchants asked for coinage metals such as gold and silver because the European traders who were trying to trade with these new "Americans" wanted those metals as payment methods instead of the American currency, which lost credibility. At the same time, the rural farmers of western Massachusetts who fought in the Revolutionary War could not even receive their payments from the government because the government was also in debt, and there was no strong central government to enforce the payment. This contributed to the frustration of rural farmers of western Massachusetts, eventually leading to a major protest against the state government, which was the Shays's Rebellion.

Another thing I learned while watching the podcast was that Daniel Shays and his men initially organized a peaceful protest through the right legal process. When Daniel Shays resigned from the army and went home, he could not get paid what he deserved. However, Shays did not directly start the rebellion because of this. After a few months, his house and cattle were taken away by the court because he was in debt. As a result, Shays had much of his property taken by the court right after participating in the Revolutionary War as a patriot. Shays was an excellent man in the army. By the time he resigned, he was a captain who led many men during the war and gained a lot of respect. He was even honored by the French general Lafayette for his servitude during the Revolutionary War. Despite these actions of servitude, he was rewarded with debt after the war. When Shays and his men asked the state legislature to solve this problem, the legislature ignored them. The state legislature did not do anything. As a result, Shays and his men protested after the legal methods did not work. Shays and his comrades shut down the courts of Massachusetts using violent methods to make the courts unable to take away the property of people in debt. This rebellion was eventually shut down by the militiamen. Still, it

Name: Jake Choi

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surely depicted that the United States actually needed a stronger central government that could address urgent national issues.

**One Thing You Knew But Was Interesting:**

One thing I already knew about but was interesting was that Samuel Adams, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, strongly opposed the actions of Shays's Rebellion. Samuel Adams claimed that Shays was a threat to the nation and must be captured immediately. He also asserted that someone who rebelled or protested against the government must be punished by execution. He even tried to pass a law that prohibited the gathering of dozens of men blaming or criticizing the government. This was interesting because Samuel Adams was one of the revolutionaries who fiercely fought for individual liberty and rights against the tyranny of Great Britain.

**Information That Could Show Up in the AP® US History Exam:**

Information about the situation in Massachusetts during this time could show up in the AP US History Exam. It is because the miscommunication within Massachusetts between the east and the west is the key background that shows students why Shays's Rebellion occurred and why it was such an important event in American history.

Another piece of information that could show up in the AP US History Exam is the details of Shays's Rebellion. Since Shays's Rebellion was a turning point that significantly contributed to the decline of the Articles of Confederation and the establishment of the Constitutional Convention, the AP US History Exam might test students on its specific details. For example, it might ask a question about why Shays and his men shut down the courts of Massachusetts during the rebellion.