

*Source 7: Letter to George Washington from Henry Knox, October 23, 1786 (Modified)*

*Henry Knox wrote this letter in response to the events of Shay's Rebellion.*

Our country is made up of thirteen different parts that sometimes don't get along. The national government doesn't have enough power to make the states work together for everyone's benefit. The states themselves also have problems because they can't keep peace and protect people's rights. Some people who haven't paid much in taxes are causing trouble because they feel poor compared to rich people. They want to fix their problems on their own.

Our government needs to be stronger or changed to protect our lives and property. We used to think our government was good enough because our people were good, but now we see that we have the same bad feelings as anyone else. We need a government that can handle our problems. The people in Massachusetts understand this and want to create a government that can protect them and handle any problems that come up.

We have realized how weak our country is. If we keep going like this, we won't be happy. Something needs to change or we will end up fighting each other without any hope of stopping.