

Three Major Rebellions in Early U.S. History

Rebellion	Date	Causes	Events	Significance
Nathaniel Bacon's Rebellion	1676	<p>Virginia frontiersmen seeking land clashed with Indians</p> <p>Frontiersmen demanded help from government</p> <p>Jamestown refused aid, fearing Indian War</p>	<p>Bacon and his men lived on frontier</p> <p>Bacon and his men stormed Jamestown</p> <p>Burned Jamestown</p> <p>Bacon died of fever</p> <p>Rebellion collapsed</p>	<p>Colonial rebellion against government authority</p> <p>Clash between east/west, rich/poor</p> <p>Tidewater's discrimination against frontiersmen</p> <p>Revision of indentured servant system, greater reliance on slave labor</p>
Daniel Shays' Rebellion	1786–1787	<p>Unfair taxes in Massachusetts</p> <p>Farms foreclosed</p> <p>Farmers imprisoned as debtors</p>	<p>Shays/1,200 men attacked courts in western Massachusetts</p> <p>State militia put down rebellion</p>	<p>Uprising was a general threat to property</p> <p>Threat that rebellion could spread to other states</p> <p>Articles of Confederation viewed as too weak to maintain law and order</p> <p>Bolstered call for revisions of Articles (Constitutional Convention, 1787)</p>
Whiskey Rebellion	1794–1795	<p>Farmers in western Pennsylvania refused to pay federal excise tax on whiskey</p> <p>Attacked tax collectors</p> <p>Farmers compared tax to Stamp Act of 1765</p>	<p>Washington called for 13,000 troops to suppress the rebels</p> <p>Rebels dispersed, ceased rebellion</p>	<p>Put the force of the government behind the Constitution</p> <p>Government could enforce the law</p> <p>Constitution protected law/order</p> <p>Hamilton's idea of an energetic national government prevailed</p>
Nat Turner's (slave) Rebellion	1831	<p>Slaves wanted freedom</p> <p>Nat Turner saw "vision" and attacked whites in Southampton County, Virginia</p>	<p>Turner, 70 slaves, and 55 whites killed</p> <p>Turner caught; he was executed, and hundreds of slaves were punished</p>	<p>Frightened South</p> <p>Tightened slave codes</p> <p>Restricted freedom for all blacks in South</p> <p>South began to aggressively defend slavery as a "positive good"</p>