

Challenges to the New Government

One American's Story

Settlers moving west often met fierce resistance from Native Americans. In 1790 and 1791, for example, Chief Little Turtle of the Miami tribe of Ohio had won decisive victories against U.S. troops.

In 1794, the Miami again faced attack by American forces. Little Turtle warned his people about the troops led by General "Mad Anthony" Wayne.

PRIMARY SOURCE

“We have beaten the enemy twice under separate commanders. . . . The Americans are now led by a chief [Wayne] who never sleeps. . . . We have never been able to surprise him. . . . It would be prudent [wise] to listen to his offers of peace.”

—Little Turtle, quoted in *The Life and Times of Little Turtle*

While the council members weighed Little Turtle's warning, President Washington was making plans to secure, or to guard or protect, the western borders of the new nation.

Problems at Home

KEY QUESTION How did two crises reveal the power of the national government?

Washington had always supported the idea of a strong national government. During his presidency, the government revealed its strength when dealing with a number of threatening situations.

Competing Claims to Territory Washington knew the nation needed peace to prosper. But trouble brewed in the Trans-Appalachian West, the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. The source of



Chief Little Turtle was willing to negotiate with U.S. leaders, but his tribal council voted for war.