Quotes About the Articles of Confederation

...Your newspapers are filled with accounts of distress and miseries that these states are plunged into since their separation from Great Britain. You may believe me when I tell you that there is no truth in these accounts. I find all property in lands and houses augmented vastly in value; that of houses in towns at least fourfold. The crops have been plentiful, and yet the produce sells high, to the great profit of the farmer. At the same time, all imported goods sell at low rates, some cheaper than the first cost. Working people have plenty of employ and high pay for their labor.

Benjamin Franklin to an English friend, October 27, 1785

...Our affairs seem to lead to some crisis, some revolution — something that I cannot foresee or conjecture. I am uneasy and apprehensive; more so than during the war. Then we had a fixed object, and though the means and time of obtaining it were often problematical, yet I did firmly believe we should ultimately succeed because I was convinced that justice was with us. The case is now altered; we are going and doing wrong, and therefore I look forward to evils and calamities, but without being able to guess at the instrument, nature, or measure of them.

John Jay to George Washington, June 27, 1786

...Your sentiments that our affairs are drawing rapidly to a crisis, accord with my own. What the event will be is also beyond the reach of my foresight. We have errors to correct.

George Washington to John Jay, August 1, 1786

From 1781-1789 the AOC provided the U.S w/ an effective government?
"Thomas Paine was sadly mistaken when, in the moment of exultation over the peace, he declared that the trying time was ended. The most trying time of all was just beginning. It is not too much to say that the period of five years following the peace of 1783 was the most critical moment in all the history of the American people. The dangers from which we were saved in 1788 were even greater than the dangers from which we were saved in 1865."


As you read and analyze the document(s) with your group 1) determine whether each document supports or refutes John Fiske's assertion that the years from 1781-1789 constituted the most critical period in American history; 2) determine whether the document points out a weakness or a strength of the government under the Articles of Confederation