

Duplicate.

Original Definitive Treaty
3 Sept. 1783

In the Name of the most
Holy & undivided Trinity.

I having pleased the divine Pro-
vidence to dispose the Hearts of the most
Serene and most Potent Prince George the
third, by the Grace of God, King of Great
Britain, France & Ireland, Defender of
the Faith, Duke of Brunswick, and
Lunenburg, Arch Treasurer, and
Electoral of the Holy Roman Empire &c.
and of the United States of America
to forget all past Misunderstandings and
Differences that have unhappily interrup-
ted the good Correspondence and Friend-
ship which they mutually wish to restore, &
to establish such a beneficial and satisfac-
tory Intercourse between the two Countries
upon the Ground of reciprocal Advantage
and mutual Convenience as may pro-
duce and secure a perpetual Peace & Harmon

and having for this desirable End already
laid the Foundation of Peace & Reconcili-
ation by the Provisional Articles signed
at Paris on the 30th of Nov^r 1782. by
the Commissioners empowered on each
Part, which Articles were agreed to
be inserted in and to constitute the
Treaty of Peace proposed to be concluded
between the Crown of Great Britain and
the said United States, but which Treaty
was not to be concluded until Terms of
Peace should be agreed upon between Great
Britain & France, and His Britannic Ma-
jesty should be ready to conclude such Treaty
accordingly: and the Treaty between Great
Britain & France having since been con-
cluded, His Britannic Majesty of the
United States of America, in Order to carry
into full Effect the Provisional Articles
before mentioned, according to the Tenor
whereof, have constituted & appointed,
that is to say His Britannic Majesty
on

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on his Part, David Hartley Esq, Member
of the Parliament of Great Britain, and
the said United States on their Part,
John Adams Esq, late a Commissioner
of the United States of America at the
Court of Versailles, late Delegate in Congress
from the State of Massachusetts and Chief
Justice of the said State, and Minister Ple-
nipotentiary of the said United States to his
High Mightinesses the States General of
the United Netherlands; Benjamin
Franklin Esq^r late Delegate in Congress
from the State of Pennsylvania, President
of the Convention of the said State, and Minister
Plenipotentiary from the United States of
America at the Court of Versailles; John
Jay Esq^r late President of Congress, and
Chief Justice of the State of New York &
Minister Plenipotentiary from the said United
States at the Court of Madrid; to be the
Plenipotentiaries for the concluding and
signing the Present Definitive Treaty;
who after having reciprocally communicated
their

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Their respective full Powers have agreed upon and confirmed the following Articles.

Article 1st.

His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz. New Hampshire Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island & Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia, to be free sovereign & Independent States; that he treats with them as such, and for himself his Heirs & Successors, relinquishes all Claims to the Government Propriety & Territorial Rights of the same of every Part thereof.

Article 2^d.

And that all Disputes which might arise in future on the Subject of the Boundaries of the said United States,

may

may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and
 declared, that the following are and shall
 be their Boundaries, viz. From the
 North West Angle of Nova Scotia, viz.
 That Angle which is formed by a Line
 drawn due North from the source of
 Saint Croix River to the Highlands along
 the said Highlands which divide those
 Rivers that empty themselves into the
 River St. Lawrence, from those which
 fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the
 Northwestern most Head of Connecticut
 River: Thence down along the middle
 of that River to the forty fifth Degree
 of North Latitude; From thence by
 a Line due West on said Latitude
 until it strikes the River Iroquois or
 Cataraguy; Thence along the middle
 of said River into Lake Ontario; through
 the Middle of said Lake until it strikes
 the Communication by Water between
 that Lake & Lake Erie; Thence along
 the

the middle of said Communication into Lake
 Erie; through the middle of said Lake,
 until it arrives at the Water Communication
 between that Lake & Lake Huron; Thence
 along the middle of said Water Commu-
 nication into the Lake Huron, thence
 through the middle of said Lake to the
 Water Communication between that Lake
 and Lake Superior, thence through
 Lake Superior Northward of the Isles
 Royal & Philippeaux to the Long Lake;
 Thence through the Middle of said Long
 Lake, and the Water Communication
 between it & the Lake of the Woods, to the
 said Lake of the Woods; Thence through
 the said Lake to the most Northwestern
 Point thereof, and from thence on a
 due West Course to the River Mississippi,
 Thence by a Line to be drawn along
 the Middle of said ^{the} River Mississippi
 until it shall intersect the Northernmost
 Part

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Part of the thirty first Degree of North Latitude. South, by a Line to be drawn due East from the Determination of the Line last mentioned, in the Latitude of thirty one Degrees North of the Equator to the middle of the River Apalachicola or Catahouche; Thence along the middle thereof to its junction with the Flint River; Thence straight to the Head of St. Mary's River, and thence down along the middle of St. Mary's River to the Atlantic Ocean. East, by a Line to be drawn along the Middle of the River St. Croix, from its Mouth in the Bay of Fundy to its Source, and from its Source directly North to the aforesaid Highlands, which divide the Rivers that fall into the Atlantic Ocean, from those which fall into the River St. Lawrence; comprehending all Islands within twenty Leagues of any Part of the Shores of the United States, & lying between Lines to be drawn due East from

8.
from the Points where the aforesaid
Boundaries between Nova Scotia on the
one Part and East Florida on the other,
shall respectively touch the Bay of Fundy
and the Atlantic Ocean, excepting such
Islands as now are or heretofore have
been within the Limits of the said Pro-
vince of Nova Scotia.

Article 3^d

It is agreed that the People of the
United States shall continue to enjoy un-
molested the Right to take Fish of
every kind on the Grand Bank and on
all the other Banks of New foundland,
also in the Gulph of St Lawrence, and
at all other Places in the Sea where
the Inhabitants of both Countries
used at any time heretofore to fish.
And also that the Inhabitants of the
United States shall have Liberty
to take Fish of every kind on such
Part

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Part of the Coast of New foundland as British
Fishermen shall use, (but not to dry or
cure the same on that Island) And also
on the Coasts Bays & Creeks of all other
His Britannic Majesty's Dominions
in America, and that the American
Fishermen shall have Liberty to dry
and cure Fish in any of the unsettled
Bays Harbours and Creeks of Nova Scotia,
Magdalen Islands, and Labrador; so
long as the same shall remain unsettled
but so soon as the same or either of them
shall be settled, it shall not be lawful
for the said Fishermen to dry or cure
Fish at such Settlement, without a
previous Agreement for that purpose
with the Inhabitants, Proprietors or Possessors
of the Ground.

Article 4th

It is agreed that Creditors on either
Side shall meet with no lawful Im-
pediment to the Recovery of the full
Value

Value in Sterling Money of all bona
fide Debts heretofore contracted.

Article 5th

It is agreed that the Congress shall
earnestly recommend it to the Legislatures
of the respective States to provide for the
Restitution of all Estates, Rights and
Properties which have been confiscated
belonging to real British Subjects;
and also of the Estates Rights and Prop-
ties of Persons resident in Districts in
the Possession of his Majesty's Arms, and
who have not borne Arms against the
said United States. And that Persons
of any other Description shall have
free Liberty to go to any Part or Parts
of any of the thirteen United States and
therein to remain twelve Months
unmolested in their Endeavours to
obtain the Restitution of such of their
Estates Rights & Properties as may
have

have been confiscated. And that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several States, a Reconsideration and Revision of all Acts or Laws regarding the Premises, so as to render the said Laws or Acts perfectly consistent, not only with Justice and Equity, but with that Spirit of Conciliation, which on the Return of the Blessings of Peace should universally prevail. And that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several States, that the Estates, Rights and Properties of such last mentioned Persons shall be restored to them, they refunding to any Persons who maybe now in Possession the Bonâ Fide Price (where any has been given) which such Persons may have paid on purchasing any of the said Lands, Rights or Properties, since the Confiscation.

And it is agreed that all Persons who have any Interest in confiscated Lands

Lands, either by Debts, Marriage Settlements,
or otherwise, shall meet with no lawful
Impediment in the Prosecution of their
just Rights.

Article 6th

That there shall be no future Con-
fiscations made nor any Prosecutions
commenced against any Person or
Persons for or by Reason of the Part,
which he or they may have taken
in the present War, and that no Person
shall on that Account suffer any future
Loss or Damage, either in his Person
Liberty or Property; and that those
who may be in Confinement on such
Charges at the Time of the Ratification
of the Treaty in America shall be
immediately set at Liberty, and the
Prosecutions so commenced be
discontinued.

Article

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Article 7th

There shall be a firm and perpetual Peace between his Britannic Majesty and the said States and between the Subjects of the one, and the Citizens of the other, wherefore all Hostilities both by Sea and Land shall from henceforth ~~cease~~ cease: All Prisoners on both Sides shall be set at Liberty, and his Britannic Majesty shall with all convenient speed, and without causing any Destruction, or carrying away any Negroes or other Property of the American Inhabitants, withdraw all his Armies, Garrisons & Fleets from the said United States, and from every Port, Place and Harbour within the same; leaving in all Fortifications the American Artillery that may be therein: And shall also Order & cause all Archives, Records, Deeds & Papers

Papers belonging to any of the said States, or their Citizens, which in the Course of the War may have fallen into the Hands of his Officers, to be forthwith restored and delivered to the proper States and Persons to whom they belong.

Article 8th

The Navigation of the River Mississippi, from its source to the Ocean shall forever remain free and open to the Subjects of Great Britain and the Citizens of the United States.

Article 9th

In case it should so happen that any Place or Territory belonging to Great Britain or to the United States should have been conquered by the Arms of either from the other before the Arrival of the said Provisional Articles in America it is agreed that the same shall be restored without

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without Difficulty and without requiring
any Compensation.

Article 10th

The solemn Ratifications of the
present Treaty expedited in good & due
Form shall be exchanged between the
contracting Parties in the Space of
Six Months or sooner if possible to be
computed from the Day of the Signature
of the present Treaty. In Witness
whereof we the undersigned their Ministers
Plenipotentiary have in their Name
and in Virtue of our Full Powers signed
with our Hands the present Definitive
Treaty, and caused the Seals of our Arms
to be affix'd thereto.

DONE at Paris, this third Day of September, in
the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & Eighty three.

Stanley John Adams.

B. Franklin

John Jay

