

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

(See Note 1)

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section. 2.

Clause 1: The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Clause 2: No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and be seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Clause 3: Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. 2) The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and in every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner, as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such Enumeration be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

Clause 4: When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

Clause 5: The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section. 3.

Clause 1: The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, (See Note 3) for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

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Clause 2: Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Le State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which sf such Vacancies. (See Note 4)

Clause 3: No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Yea the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

Clause 4: The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless equally divided.

Clause 5: The Senate shall choose their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the V or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

Clause 6: The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall t without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Clause 7: Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualific and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless b subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section. 4.

Clause 1: The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescri State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except Places of choosing Senators.

Clause 2: The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monda (See Note 5) unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section. 5.

Clause 1: Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a l each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be c compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provi

Clause 2: Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behavior, a Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Clause 3: Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question s Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Clause 4: Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for mor days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section. 6.

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Clause 1: The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law out of the Treasury of the United States. (See Note 6) They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

Clause 2: No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Term in Office.

Section. 7.

Clause 1: All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Clause 2: Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become Law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections, to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Members voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Clause 3: Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before he shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section. 8.

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and to provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 2: To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

Clause 4: To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

Clause 5: To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

Clause 6: To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

Clause 7: To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

Clause 8: To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

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exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

Clause 9: To constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;

Clause 10: To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

Clause 11: To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Sea;

Clause 12: To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than the Year in which the Appropriation shall be made;

Clause 13: To provide and maintain a Navy;

Clause 14: To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

Clause 15: To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

Clause 16: To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

Clause 17: To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which they shall be situated, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;--And

Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section. 9.

Clause 1: The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

Clause 2: The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

Clause 3: No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

Clause 4: No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration hereinafter directed to be taken. (See Note 7)

Clause 5: No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

Clause 6: No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

Clause 7: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

Clause 8: No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust shall be granted any Title of Nobility.

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them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind v any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Section. 10.

Clause 1: No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; c emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attain facta Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

Clause 2: No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, e may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laic on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subjec Revision and Control of the Congress.

Clause 3: No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of We Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unles invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article. II.

Section. 1.

Clause 1: The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his O Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

Clause 2: Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, e whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senat Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elect

Clause 3: The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at le be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and o of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the l directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and Hou Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest N shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be m who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediate Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said H like Manner choose the President. But in choosing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Represer each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of t a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Pe the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more v Votes, the Senate shall choose from them by Ballot the Vice President. (See Note 8)

Clause 4: The Congress may determine the Time of choosing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give t which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

Clause 5: No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shal attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

Clause 6: In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to dischar and Duties of the said Office, (See Note 9) the Same shall devolve on the Vice-President, and the Congress may l

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for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall b

Clause 7: The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be ir diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Clause 8: Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:--"I do sole affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, pre and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section. 2.

Clause 1: The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militi several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of t Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, a have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachm

Clause 2: He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided tw Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall app Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the Unit whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congre vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or of Departments.

Clause 3: The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senat Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section. 3.

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Cor such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Hc of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn t Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that th faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Section. 4.

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeach Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article. III.

Section. 1.

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the C from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Office Behavior, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished du Continuance in Office.

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Section. 2.

Clause 1: The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;--to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, of Ministers and Consuls;--to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;--to Controversies to which the United States are a Party;--to Controversies between two or more States;--between a State and Citizens of another State; (See Note 1) Citizens of different States, --between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

Clause 2: In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the Supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

Clause 3: The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section. 3.

Clause 1: Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses, who have sworn to an overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall affect the Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article. IV.

Section. 1.

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. The Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section. 2.

Clause 1: The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

Clause 2: A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be taken in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

Clause 3: No Person held to Service or Labor in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labor, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labor may be due. (See Note 11)

Section. 3.

Clause 1: New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, or

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Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section. 4.

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

Article. V.

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose [Amendments](#) to this Constitution; on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification shall be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

Article. VI.

Clause 1: All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid and binding on the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

Clause 2: This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Clause 3: The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Article. VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twentieth Day of September of the same Year in which We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

GO WASHINGTON--Presidt. and deputy from Virginia

[Signed also by the deputies of twelve States.]

Delaware

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Geo: Read
Gunning Bedford jun
John Dickinson
Richard Bassett
Jaco: Broom

Maryland

James MCHenry
Dan of ST ThoS. Jenifer
DanL Carroll.

Virginia

John Blair--
James Madison Jr.

North Carolina

WM Blount
RichD. Dobbs Spaight.
Hu Williamson

South Carolina

J. Rutledge
Charles 1ACotesworth Pinckney
Charles Pinckney
Pierce Butler.

Georgia

William Few
Abr Baldwin

New Hampshire

John Langdon
Nicholas Gilman

Massachusetts

Nathaniel Gorham
Rufus King

Connecticut
WM. SamL. Johnson
Roger Sherman

New York

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Alexander Hamilton

New Jersey

Wil: Livingston
David Brearley.
WM. Paterson.
Jona: Dayton

Pennsylvania

B Franklin
Thomas Mifflin
RobT Morris
Geo. Clymer
ThoS. FitzSimons
Jared Ingersoll
James Wilson.
Gouv Morris

Attest William Jackson Secretary

NOTES

Note 1: This text of the Constitution follows the engrossed copy signed by Gen. Washington and the deputies from The small superior figures preceding the paragraphs designate Clauses, and were not in the original and have no footnotes.

The Constitution was adopted by a convention of the States on September 17, 1787, and was subsequently ratified by the States, on the following dates: Delaware, December 7, 1787; Pennsylvania, December 12, 1787; New Jersey, December 18, 1787; Georgia, January 2, 1788; Connecticut, January 9, 1788; Massachusetts, February 6, 1788; Maryland, April 26, 1788; South Carolina, May 23, 1788; New Hampshire, June 21, 1788.

Ratification was completed on June 21, 1788.

The Constitution was subsequently ratified by Virginia, June 25, 1788; New York, July 26, 1788; North Carolina, November 21, 1789; Rhode Island, May 29, 1790; and Vermont, January 10, 1791.

In May 1785, a committee of Congress made a report recommending an alteration in the Articles of Confederation was taken on it, and it was left to the State Legislatures to proceed in the matter. In January 1786, the Legislature passed a resolution providing for the appointment of five commissioners, who, or any three of them, should meet in such place as might be appointed in the other States of the Union, at a time and place to be agreed upon, to take into consideration the trade of the United States; to consider how far a uniform system in their commercial regulations necessary to their common interest and their permanent harmony; and to report to the several States such an act, great object, as, when ratified by them, will enable the United States in Congress effectually to provide for the same. The commissioners, after some correspondence, fixed the first Monday in September as the time, and the city of Annapolis as the place for the meeting, but only four other States were represented, viz: Delaware, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The commissioners appointed by Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Rhode Island failed to attend. In consequence of so partial a representation, the commissioners present agreed upon a report, (drawn by Mr. Harcourt,) expressing their unanimous conviction that it might essentially tend to advance the interests of the Union if they were respectively delegated would concur, and use their endeavors to procure the concurrence of the several States in the appointment of commissioners to meet at Philadelphia on the Second Monday of May following, to take into consideration the trade of the United States; to consider how far a uniform system in their commercial regulations necessary to their common interest and their permanent harmony; and to report to the several States such an act, great object, as, when ratified by them, will enable the United States in Congress effectually to provide for the same.

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the situation of the United States; to devise such further provisions as should appear to them necessary to render the Federal Government adequate to the exigencies of the Union; and to report such an act for that purpose to States in Congress assembled as, when agreed to by them and afterwards confirmed by the Legislatures of every State, effectually provide for the same.

Congress, on the 21st of February, 1787, adopted a resolution in favor of a convention, and the Legislatures of the States which had not already done so (with the exception of Rhode Island) promptly appointed delegates. On the 25th of September, 1787, the States having convened, George Washington, of Virginia, was unanimously elected President, and the consideration of the proposed constitution was commenced. On the 17th of September, 1787, the Constitution as engrossed and agreed upon by all the members present, except Mr. Gerry of Massachusetts, and Messrs. Mason and Randolph, of Virginia, president of the convention transmitted it to Congress, with a resolution stating how the proposed Federal Government was to be put in operation, and an explanatory letter. Congress, on the 28th of September, 1787, directed the President to transmit the Constitution with the resolutions and letter concerning the same, to "be transmitted to the several Legislatures in order to be submitted to the consideration of the Legislatures of the several States, and to the convention of delegates chosen in each State by the people thereof, in conformity to the resolves of the convention."

On the 4th of March, 1789, the day which had been fixed for commencing the operations of Government under the Constitution, it had been ratified by the conventions chosen in each State to consider it, as follows: Delaware, December 7, 1787; Pennsylvania, December 12, 1787; New Jersey, December 18, 1787; Georgia, January 2, 1788; Connecticut, January 9, 1788; Massachusetts, February 6, 1788; Maryland, April 28, 1788; South Carolina, May 23, 1788; New Hampshire, September 17, 1788; Virginia, June 25, 1788; and New York, July 26, 1788.

The President informed Congress, on the 28th of January, 1790, that North Carolina had ratified the Constitution May 20, 1789; and he informed Congress on the 1st of June, 1790, that Rhode Island had ratified the Constitution May 29, 1790; Vermont, in convention, ratified the Constitution January 10, 1791, and was, by an act of Congress approved February 18, 1791, "received and admitted into this Union as a new and entire member of the United States."

Note 2: The part of this Clause relating to the mode of apportionment of representatives among the several States is affected by Section 2 of amendment XIV, and as to taxes on incomes without apportionment by amendment XVI.

Note 3: This Clause has been affected by Clause 1 of amendment XVII.

Note 4: This Clause has been affected by Clause 2 of amendment XVIII.

Note 5: This Clause has been affected by amendment XX.

Note 6: This Clause has been affected by amendment XXVII.

Note 7: This Clause has been affected by amendment XVI.

Note 8: This Clause has been superseded by amendment XII.

Note 9: This Clause has been affected by amendment XXV.

Note 10: This Clause has been affected by amendment XI.

Note 11: This Clause has been affected by amendment XIII.

Note 12: The first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States (and two others, one of which failed of ratification and the other which later became the 27th amendment) were proposed to the legislatures of the several States by Congress on September 25, 1789. The first ten amendments were ratified by the following States, and the notification of ratification by the Governors thereof were successively communicated by the President to Congress: New Jersey, November 18, 1789; Maryland, December 19, 1789; North Carolina, December 22, 1789; South Carolina, January 19, 1790; New Hampshire, January 21, 1790; Massachusetts, February 6, 1790; Vermont, March 4, 1790; New York, September 17, 1788; and Virginia, December 12, 1791.

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January 25, 1790; Delaware, January 28, 1790; New York, February 24, 1790; Pennsylvania, March 10, 1790; Rhode Island, May 9, 1790; Vermont, November 3, 1791; and Virginia, December 15, 1791.

Ratification was completed on December 15, 1791.

The amendments were subsequently ratified by the legislatures of Massachusetts, March 2, 1791; Georgia, March 21, 1791; Connecticut, April 19, 1791.

Note 13: Only the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th articles of amendment had numbers assigned to them at the time of ratification.

Note 14: This sentence has been superseded by section 3 of amendment XX.

Note 15: See amendment XIX and section 1 of amendment XXVI.

Note 16: Repealed by section 1 of amendment XXI.

Presented By



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Note: The word fair is not mentioned in the US Constitution