

1 To all to whom these Presents shall come, we the undersigned Delegates of the States affixed to
2 our Names send greeting.

3 Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the states of New Hampshire,
4 Massachusetts-bay Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New
5 Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and
6 Georgia.

7 I. The Stile of this Confederacy shall be "The United States of America".

8 II. Each STATE retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power,
9 jurisdiction, and right, which is NOT by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United
10 States, in Congress assembled.

11 III. The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other,⁴ for
12 their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare,
13 binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them,
14 or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever.

15 IV. The better to secure and perpetuate mutual friendship and intercourse among the people of
16 the different States in this Union, the free inhabitants of each of these States, paupers,
17 vagabonds, and fugitives from justice excepted, shall be entitled to all privileges and
18 immunities of free citizens in the several States; and the people of each State shall have free
19 ingress and regress to and from any other State, and shall enjoy therein all the privileges of
20 trade and commerce, subject to the same duties, impositions, and restrictions as the
21 inhabitants thereof respectively, provided that such restrictions shall not extend so far as to
22 prevent the removal of property imported into any State, to any other State, of which the
23 owner is an inhabitant; provided also that no imposition, duties or restriction shall be laid by
24 any State, on the property of the United States, or either of them.

25 If any person guilty of, or charged with, treason, felony, or other high misdemeanor in any

1 State, shall flee from justice, and be found in any of the United States, he shall, **upon demand of**
2 **the Governor or executive power** of the State from which he fled, be delivered up and removed
3 to the State having jurisdiction of his offense.

4 Full faith and credit shall be given in each of these States to the records, acts, and judicial
5 proceedings of the courts and magistrates of every other State.

6 V. For the most convenient management of the general interests of the United States, delegates
7 shall be **annually appointed** in such manner as the legislatures of each State shall direct, to meet
8 in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year, **with a power reserved to each State**
9 **to recall its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their**
10 **stead for the remainder of the year.**

11 No State shall be represented in Congress by less than two, nor more than seven members; and
12 no person shall be capable of being a delegate for more than three years in any term of six
13 years; nor shall any person, being a delegate, be capable of holding any office under the United
14 States, for which he, or another for his benefit, receives any salary, fees or emolument of any
15 kind.

16 Each State shall maintain its own delegates in a meeting of the States, and while they act as
17 members of the committee of the States.

18 In determining questions in the United States **in Congress assembled**, each State shall have one
19 vote.

20 Freedom of speech and debate in Congress shall not be impeached or questioned in any court or
21 place out of Congress, and the members of Congress shall be protected in their persons from
22 arrests or imprisonments, during the time of their going to and from, and attendance on
23 Congress, except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace.

24 VI. No state, without the consent of the united states in congress assembled, shall send any
25 embassy to, or receive any embassy from, or enter into any conference, agreement, alliance

1 or treaty with any king, prince or state;
2 nor shall any person holding any office of profit or trust under the United States, or any of them,
3 accept any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatever from any king, prince or
4 foreign state; nor shall the united states in congress assembled, or any of them, grant any title of
5 nobility.

6 No two or more States shall enter into any treaty, confederation or alliance whatever between
7 them, without the consent of the United States, in Congress assembled specifying accurately the
8 purposes for which the same is to be entered into, and how long it shall continue.

9 No State shall lay any imposts or duties, which may interfere with any stipulations in treaties,
10 entered into by the United States in Congress assembled, with any King, or State, in pursuance
11 of any treaties already proposed by Congress, to the courts of France and Spain.

12 No vessel of war shall be kept up in time of peace by any State, except such number only, as
13 shall be deemed necessary by the United States in Congress assembled, for the defense of such
14 State, or its trade;

15 nor shall any body of forces be kept up by any State in time of peace, except such number only,
16 as in the judgement of the United States in Congress assembled, shall be deemed requisite to
17 garrison the forts necessary for the defense of such State;

18 but every State **shall always** keep up a well-regulated and disciplined militia, sufficiently armed
19 and accoutered, and **shall provide** and constantly **have ready for use, in public stores**, a due
20 number of **field pieces** and tents, and **a proper quantity of arms, ammunition** and camp
21 equipage.

22 No State shall engage in any war without the consent of the United States in Congress
23 assembled, unless such State be actually invaded by enemies, or shall have received certain
24 advice of a resolution being formed by some nation of Indians to invade such State, and the
25 danger is so imminent as not to admit of a delay till the United States in Congress assembled

1 can be consulted;
2 nor shall any State grant commissions to any ships or vessels of war, nor letters of marque or
3 reprisal, except it be after a declaration of war by the United States in Congress assembled, and
4 then only against the Kingdom or State and the subjects thereof, against which war has been so
5 declared, and under such regulations as shall be established by the United States in Congress
6 assembled, unless such State be infested by pirates, in which case vessels of war may be fitted
7 out for that occasion, and kept so long as the danger shall continue, or until the United States in
8 Congress assembled determine otherwise.

9 VII. When land forces are raised by any State **for the common defense**,⁵ all officers of or under
10 the rank of colonel, shall be appointed by the legislature of each State respectively, by whom
11 such forces shall be raised, or in such manner as such State shall direct, and all vacancies shall
12 be filled up by the State which first made the appointment.

13 VIII. All charges of war, and all other expenses that shall be incurred for the common defense
14 or general welfare, and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled,¹¹ shall be defrayed
15 out of a common **treasury**, which shall be **supplied** by the several States IN PROPORTION to the
16 value of ALL LAND within each State, granted or surveyed for any **person**, as such LAND and
17 the BUILDINGS and IMPROVEMENTS THEREON shall be estimated according to such mode as
18 the United States in Congress assembled, shall from time to time direct and appoint.

19 The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of
20 the legislatures of the several States within the time agreed upon by the United States in
21 Congress assembled.

22 IX. The United States in Congress assembled, shall have the sole and exclusive right and power: of
23 determining on peace and war, except in the cases mentioned in the sixth article of sending
24 and receiving ambassadors entering into treaties and alliances, provided that no treaty of
25 commerce shall be made whereby the legislative power of the respective States shall be

1 restrained from imposing such imposts and duties **on foreigners**, as **their own people are**
2 **subjected to**, or from prohibiting the exportation or importation of any species of goods or
3 commodities whatsoever of establishing rules for deciding in all cases, what captures on land or
4 water shall be legal, and in what manner prizes taken by land or naval forces in the service of
5 the United States shall be divided or appropriated of granting letters of marque and reprisal in
6 times of peace appointing courts for the trial of piracies and felonies committed on the high
7 seas and establishing courts for receiving and determining finally appeals in all cases of
8 captures, provided that no member of Congress shall be appointed a judge of any of the said
9 courts.

10 The United States in Congress assembled shall also be the last resort on appeal in all disputes
11 and differences now subsisting or that hereafter may arise between two or more States
12 concerning boundary, jurisdiction or any other causes whatever; which authority shall always
13 be exercised in the manner following.

14 Whenever the legislative or executive authority or lawful agent of any State in controversy
15 with another shall present a petition to Congress stating the matter in question and praying
16 for a hearing, notice thereof shall be given by order of Congress to the legislative or executive
17 authority of the other State in controversy, and a day assigned for the appearance of the parties
18 by their lawful agents, who shall then be directed to appoint by joint consent, commissioners or
19 judges to constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in question:

20 but if they cannot agree, Congress shall name three persons out of each of the United States,
21 and from the list of such persons each party shall alternately strike out one, the petitioners
22 beginning, until the number shall be reduced to thirteen; and from that number not less than
23 seven, nor more than nine names as Congress shall direct, shall in the presence of Congress be
24 drawn out by lot, and the persons whose names shall be so drawn or any five of them, shall be
25 commissioners or judges, to hear and finally determine the controversy, so always as a major

1 part of the judges who shall hear the cause shall agree in the determination:
2 and if either party shall neglect to attend at the day appointed, which Congress shall judge
3 sufficient, or being present shall refuse to strike, the Congress shall proceed to nominate three
4 persons out of each State, and the secretary of Congress shall strike in behalf of such party
5 absent or refusing and the judgement and sentence of the court to be appointed, in the manner
6 before prescribed, shall be final and conclusive; and if any of the parties shall refuse to submit to
7 the authority of such court, or to appear or defend their claim or cause, the court shall
8 nevertheless proceed to pronounce sentence, or judgement, which shall in like manner be final
9 and decisive, the judgement or sentence and other proceedings being in either case transmitted
10 to Congress, and lodged among the acts of Congress for the security of the parties concerned:
11 provided that every commissioner, before he sits in judgement, shall take an oath to be
12 administered by one of the judges of the supreme or superior court of the State, where the
13 cause shall be tried, 'well and truly to hear and determine the matter in question, according to
14 the best of his judgement, without favor, affection or hope of reward': provided also, that no
15 State shall be deprived of territory for the benefit of the United States.

16 All controversies concerning the private right of soil claimed under different grants of two or
17 more States, whose jurisdictions as they may respect such lands, and the States which passed
18 such grants are adjusted, the said grants or either of them being at the same time claimed to
19 have originated antecedent to such settlement of jurisdiction, shall on the petition of either
20 party to the Congress of the United States, be finally determined as near as may be in the same
21 manner as is before prescribed for deciding disputes respecting territorial jurisdiction
22 between different States.

23 The United States in Congress assembled shall also have the sole and exclusive right and power
24 of regulating the alloy and value of coin struck by their own authority, or by that of the
25 respective States fixing the standards of weights and measures throughout the United States

1 regulating the trade and managing all affairs with the Indians, not members of any of the
2 States, provided that the legislative right of any State within its own limits be not **infringed** or
3 **violated** establishing or regulating post offices from one State to another, throughout all the
4 United States, and exacting such postage on the papers passing through the same as **may be**
5 requisite to defray the expenses of the said office appointing all officers of the land forces in
6 the service of the United States, excepting regimental officers⁶⁻⁻ appointing all the officers of the
7 naval forces, and commissioning all officers whatever in the service of the United States
8 making rules for the government and regulation of the said land and naval forces, and
9 directing their operations.

10 The United States in Congress assembled shall have AUTHORITY to appoint a committee, to sit
11 in the recess of Congress, to be denominated 'A Committee of the States', and to consist of one
12 delegate from each State; and to appoint such other committees and civil officers as **may be**
13 necessary for managing the general affairs of the United States under their direction to
14 appoint one of their members to preside, provided that **no person** be allowed to serve in the
15 office of president **more than one year** in any term of **three years**; to borrow money, or emit
16 bills on the credit of the United States, transmitting every half-year to the respective States an
17 **account** of the sums of money **so borrowed or emitted** to build and equip a navy to agree upon
18 the number of land forces, and to make requisitions from each State for its quota, in proportion
19 to the number of **white inhabitants** in such State; which requisition shall be binding, and
20 thereupon the legislature of each State shall appoint the regimental officers, raise the men and
21 cloath, arm and equip them in a soldier-like manner, at the expense of the United States; and the
22 officers and men so cloathed, armed and equipped shall march to the place appointed, and
23 within the time agreed on by the United States in Congress assembled. But if the United States in
24 Congress assembled shall, on consideration of circumstances judge proper that any State should not
25 raise men, or should raise a smaller number of men than it's quota, and that any other state should

1 raise a greater number of men than the quota thereof, such extra number **shall** be raised, officered,
2 cloathed, armed and equipped in the same manner as the quota of each State, **unless the legislature of**
3 **such State shall judge that such extra number cannot be safely spared out of the same**, in which case
4 they shall raise, officer, cloath, arm and equip as many of such extra number **as they judge can be**
5 **safely spared**. And the officers and men so cloathed, armed, and equipped, shall march to the
6 place appointed, and within **the time agreed on by the United States in Congress assembled**.
7 **The United States in Congress assembled shall never engage in a war, nor grant letters of marque**
8 **or reprisal in time of peace, nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate**
9 **the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expenses necessary for the defense and welfare of**
10 **the United States, or any of them, nor emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the United**
11 **States, nor appropriate money, nor agree upon the number of vessels of war, to be built or**
12 **purchased, or the number of land or sea forces to be raised, nor appoint a commander in chief**
13 **of the army or navy, unless nine States assent to the same:**
14 **nor shall a question on any other point, except for adjourning from day to day be determined,**
15 **unless by the votes of the majority of the United States in Congress assembled.**
16 The Congress of the United States shall have power **to adjourn to any time within the year, and**
17 **to any place within the United States, so that no period of adjournment be for a longer duration**
18 **than the space of six months, and shall publish the journal of their proceedings monthly,**
19 **except such parts thereof relating to treaties, alliances or military operations, as in their**
20 **judgement require secrecy**; and the yeas and nays of the delegates of each State on any
21 question shall be entered on the journal, **when it is desired by any delegates of a State, or any**
22 **of them, at his or their request shall be furnished with a transcript of the said journal, except**
23 **such parts as are above excepted, to lay before the legislatures of the several States.**
24 X. **The Committee of the States, or any nine of them, shall be authorized to execute, in the**
25 **recess of Congress, such of the powers of Congress as the United States in Congress assembled,**

1 by the consent of the nine States, shall from time to time think expedient to vest them with;
2 provided that no power be delegated to the said Committee, for the exercise of which, by the
3 Articles of Confederation, the voice of nine States in the Congress of the United States assembled
4 be requisite.

5 XI. Canada acceding to this confederation, and adjoining in the measures of the United States,
6 shall be admitted into, and entitled to all the advantages of this Union; but no other colony shall
7 be admitted into the same, unless such admission be agreed to by nine States.

8 XII. All bills of credit emitted, monies borrowed, and debts contracted by, or under the
9 authority of Congress, before the assembling of the United States, in pursuance of the present
10 confederation, shall be deemed and considered as a charge against the United States, for
11 payment and satisfaction whereof the said United States, and the public faith are hereby
12 solemnly pledged.

13 XIII. Every State shall abide by the determination of the United States in Congress assembled,
14 on all questions which by this confederation are submitted to them. And the Articles of this
15 Confederation shall be inviolably observed by every State, and the Union shall be perpetual;
16 nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them; unless such alteration be
17 agreed to in a Congress of the United States, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of
18 every State.

19 And Whereas it hath pleased the Great Governor of the World to incline the hearts of the
20 legislatures we respectively represent in Congress, to approve of, and to authorize us to ratify
21 the said Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union. Know Ye that we the undersigned
22 delegates, by virtue of the power and authority to us given for that purpose, do by these
23 presents, in the name and in behalf of our respective-constituents, fully and entirely ratify and
24 confirm each and every of the said Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union, and all and
25 singular the matters and things therein contained: And we do further solemnly plight and

1 engage the faith of our respective constituents, that they shall abide by the determinations of the
2 United States in Congress assembled, on all questions, which by the said Confederation are
3 submitted to them. And that the Articles thereof shall be inviolably observed by the States we
4 respectively represent, and that the Union shall be perpetual.

5 In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands in Congress. Done at Philadelphia in the
6 State of Pennsylvania the ninth day of July in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven
7 Hundred and Seventy-Eight, and in the Third Year of the independence of America

8 Agreed to by Congress 15 November 1777 In force after ratification by Maryland, 1 March 1781.

9 Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, Oliver Wolcott, Titus Hosmer, Andrew Adams

10 Delaware: Thomas McKean, John Dickinson, Nicholas Van Dyke;

11 Georgia: John Walton, Edward Telfair, Edward Langworthy;

12 Maryland: John Hanson, Daniel Carroll;

13 Massachusetts Bay: John Hancock, Samuel Adams, Elbridge Gerry, Francis Dana, James

14 Lovell, Samuel Holten;

15 New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, John Wentworth Jr.;

16 New Jersey: John Witherspoon, Nathaniel Scudder;

17 New York: James Duane, Francis Lewis, William Duer, Gouverneur Morris;

18 North Carolina: John Penn, Cornelius Harnett, John Williams;

19 Pennsylvania: Robert Morris, Daniel Roberdeau, Jonathan Bayard Smith, William Clingan,

20 Joseph Reed;

21 Rhode Island and Providence Plantations: William Ellery, Henry Marchant, John Collins;

22 South Carolina: Henry Laurens, William Henry Drayton, John Mathews, Richard Hutson,

23 Thomas Heyward Jr.;

24 Virginia: Richard Henry Lee, John Banister, Thomas Adams, John Harvie, Francis Lightfoot L

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