THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

By Miscellaneous

To all to whom these Presents shall come, we the undersigned

Delegates of the States affixed to our Names send greeting.

Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the

states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts-bay Rhode Island and

Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey,

Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina,

South Carolina and Georgia.

I The Stile of this Confederacy shall be

"The United States of America".

II Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and

independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right,

which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated

to the United States, in Congress assembled.

III The said States hereby severally enter into a firm

league of friendship with each other, for their common defense,

the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general

welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all

force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them,

on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other

pretense whatever.

IV The better to secure and perpetuate mutual

friendship and intercourse among the people of the different

States in this Union, the free inhabitants of each of these

States, paupers, vagabonds, and fugitives from justice excepted,

shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of free

citizens in the several States; and the people of each State

shall free ingress and regress to and from any other State,

and shall enjoy therein all the privileges of trade and commerce,

subject to the same duties, impositions, and restrictions as

the inhabitants thereof respectively, provided that such

restrictions shall not extend so far as to prevent the removal

of property imported into any State, to any other State, of

which the owner is an inhabitant; provided also that no

imposition, duties or restriction shall be laid by any State,

on the property of the United States, or either of them.

If any person guilty of, or charged with, treason, felony,

or other high misdemeanor in any State, shall flee from

justice, and be found in any of the United States, he shall,

upon demand of the Governor or executive power of the State

from which he fled, be delivered up and removed to the

State having jurisdiction of his offense.

Full faith and credit shall be given in each of these States

to the records, acts, and judicial proceedings of the courts

and magistrates of every other State.

V For the most convenient management of the general

interests of the United States, delegates shall be annually

appointed in such manner as the legislatures of each State

shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in

November, in every year, with a powerreserved to each State

to recall its delegates, or any of them, at any time within

the year, and to send others in their stead for the

remainder of the year.

No State shall be represented in Congress by less than two,

nor more than seven members; and no person shall be capable

of being a delegate for more than three years in any term

of six years; nor shall any person, being a delegate, be

capable of holding any office under the United States,

for which he, or another for his benefit, receives any

salary, fees or emolument of any kind.

Each State shall maintain its own delegates in a meeting

of the States, and while they act as members of the

committee of the States.

In determining questions in the United States in Congress

assembled, each State shall have one vote.

Freedom of speech and debate in Congress shall not be

impeached or questioned in any court or place out

of Congress, and the members of Congress shall be protected

in their persons from arrests or imprisonments, during the

time of their going to and from, and attendence on Congress,

except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace.

VI No State, without the consent of the United States

in Congress assembled, shall send any embassy to, or receive

any embassy from, or enter into any conference, agreement,

alliance or treaty with any King, Prince or State; nor shall

any person holding any office of profit or trust under the

United States, or any of them, accept any present, emolument,

office or title of any kind whatever from any King, Prince or

foreign State; nor shall the United States in Congress

assembled, or any of them, grant any title of nobility.

No two or more States shall enter into any treaty,

confederation or alliance whatever between them, without

the consent of the United States in Congress assembled,

specifying accurately the purposes for which the same is

to be entered into, and how long it shall continue.

No State shall lay any imposts or duties, which may interfere

with any stipulations in treaties, entered into by the United

States in Congress assembled, with any King, Prince or State,

in pursuance of any treaties already proposed by Congress,

to the courts of France and Spain.

No vessel of war shall be kept up in time of peace by any State,

except such number only, as shall be deemed necessary by the

United States in Congress assembled, for the defense of such

State, or its trade; nor shall any body of forces be kept up

by any State in time of peace, except such number only, as in

the judgement of the United States in Congress assembled,

shall be deemed requisite to garrison the forts necessary for

the defense of such State; but every State shall always keep up

a well-regulated and disciplined militia, sufficiently armed

and accoutered, and shall provide and constantly have ready

for use, in public stores, a due number of filed pieces and tents,

and a proper quantity of arms, ammunition and camp equipage.

No State shall engage in any war without the consent of the

United States in Congress assembled, unless such State be

actually invaded by enemies, or shall have received certain

advice of a resolution being formed by some nation of Indians

to invade such State, and the danger is so imminent as not

to admit of a delay till the United States in Congress assembled

can be consulted; nor shall any State grant commissions to any

ships or vessels of war, nor letters of marque or reprisal,

except it be after a declaration of war by the United States

in Congress assembled, and then only against the Kingdom or

State and the subjects thereof, against which war has been

so declared, and under such regulations as shall be established

by the United States in Congress assembled, unless such State

be infested by pirates, in which case vessels of war may be

fitted out for that occasion, and kept so long as the danger

shall continue, or until the United States in Congress

assembled shall determine otherwise.

VII When land forces are raised by any State for the

common defense, all officers of or under the rank of colonel,

shall be appointed by the legislature of each State respectively,

by whom such forces shall be raised, or in such manner as such

State shall direct, and all vacancies shall be filled up by the

State which first made the appointment.

VIII All charges of war, and all other expenses that shall

be incurred for the common defense or general welfare, and

allowed by the United States in Congress assembled, shall be

defrayed out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by

the several States in proportion to the value of all land within

each State, granted or surveyed for any person, as such land

and the buildings and improvements thereon shall be estimated

according to such mode as the United States in Congress

assembled, shall from time to time direct and appoint.

The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and

levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures

of the several States within the time agreed upon by the

United States in Congress assembled.

IX The United States in Congress assembled, shall have

the sole and exclusive right and power of determining on peace

and war, except in the cases mentioned in the sixth article --

of sending and receiving ambassadors -- entering into treaties

and alliances, provided that no treaty of commerce shall be

made whereby the legislative power of the respective States

shall be restrained from imposing such imposts and duties on

foreigners, as their own people are subjected to, or from

prohibiting the exportation or importation of any species

of goods or commodities whatsoever -- of establishing rules

for deciding in all cases, what captures on land or water shall

be legal, and in what manner prizes taken by land or naval

forces in the service of the United States shall be divided

or appropriated -- of granting letters of marque and reprisal

in times of peace -- appointing courts for the trial of

piracies and felonies commited on the high seas and

establishing courts for receiving and determining finally

appeals in all cases of captures, provided that no member of

Congress shall be appointed a judge of any of the said courts.

The United States in Congress assembled shall also be the last

resort on appeal in all disputes and differences now subsisting

or that hereafter may arise between two or more States concerning

boundary, jurisdiction or any other causes whatever; which

authority shall always be exercised in the manner following.

Whenever the legislative or executive authority or lawful agent

of any State in controversy with another shall present a

petition to Congress stating the matter in question and praying

for a hearing, notice thereof shall be given by order of

Congress to the legislative or executive authority of the other

State in controversy, and a day assigned for the appearance of

the parties by their lawful agents, who shall then be directed

to appoint by joint consent, commissioners or judges to

constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in

question: but if they cannot agree, Congress shall name three

persons out of each of the United States, and from the list of

such persons each party shall alternately strike out one, the

petitioners beginning, until the number shall be reduced to

thirteen; and from that number not less than seven, nor more

than nine names as Congress shall direct, shall in the

presence of Congress be drawn out by lot, and the persons

whose names shall be so drawn or any five of them, shall be

commissioners or judges, to hear and finally determine the

controversy, so always as a major part of the judges who shall

hear the cause shall agree in the determination: and if either

party shall neglect to attend at the day appointed, without

showing reasons, which Congress shall judge sufficient, or

being present shall refuse to strike, the Congress shall

proceed to nominate three persons out of each State, and the

secretary of Congress shall strike in behalf of such party

absent or refusing; and the judgement and sentence of the

court to be appointed, in the manner before prescribed,

shall be final and conclusive; and if any of the parties

shall refuse to submit to the authority of such court, or

to appear or defend their claim or cause, the court shall

nevertheless proceed to pronounce sentence, or judgement,

which shall in like manner be final and decisive, the

judgement or sentence and other proceedings being in

either case transmitted to Congress, and lodged among

the acts of Congress for the security of the parties

concerned: provided that every commissioner, before he

sits in judgement, shall take an oath to be administered

by one of the judges of the supreme or superior court of

the State, where the cause shall be tried, 'well and truly

to hear and determine the matter in question, according to

the best of his judgement, without favor, affection or hope

of reward': provided also, that no State shall be deprived

of territory for the benefit of the United States.

All controversies concerning the private right of soil

claimed under different grants of two or more States, whose

jurisdictions as they may respect such lands, and the States

which passed such grants are adjusted, the said grants or

either of them being at the same time claimed to have

originated antecedent to such settlement of jurisdiction,

shall on the petition of either party to the Congress of

the United States, be finally determined as near as may be

in the same manner as is before presecribed for deciding

disputes respecting territorial jurisdiction between

different States.

The United States in Congress assembled shall also have

the sole and exclusive right and power of regulating the

alloy and value of coin struck by their own authority, or

by that of the respective States -- fixing the standards of

weights and measures throughout the United States -- regulating

the trade and managing all affairs with the Indians, not members

of any of the States, provided that the legislative right of

any State within its own limits be not infringed or violated --

establishing or regulating post offices from one State to another,

throughout all the United States, and exacting such postage on

the papers passing through the same as may be requisite to defray

the expenses of the said office -- appointing all officers of the

land forces, in the service of the United States, excepting

regimental officers -- appointing all the officers of the naval

forces, and commissioning all officers whatever in the service

of the United States -- making rules for the government and

regulation of the said land and naval forces, and directing

their operations.

The United States in Congress assembled shall have authority

to appoint a committee, to sit in the recess of Congress,

to be denominated 'A Committee of the States', and to consist

of one delegate from each State; and to appoint such other

committees and civil officers as may be necessary for managing

the general affairs of the United States under their direction

-- to appoint one of their members to preside, provided that no

person be allowed to serve in the office of president more than

one year in any term of three years; to ascertain the necessary

sums of money to be raised for the service of the United States,

and to appropriate and apply the same for defraying the public

expenses -- to borrow money, or emit bills on the credit of the

United States, transmitting every half-year to the respective

States an account of the sums of money so borrowed or emitted

-- to build and equip a navy -- to agree upon the number of

land forces, and to make requisitions from each State for its

quota, in proportion to the number of white inhabitants in such

State; which requisition shall be binding, and thereupon the

legislature of each State shall appoint the regimental officers,

raise the men and cloath, arm and equip them in a solid-like

manner, at the expense of the United States; and the officers

and men so cloathed, armed and equipped shall march to the place

appointed, and within the time agreed on by the United States

in Congress assembled. But if the United States in Congress

assembled shall, on consideration of circumstances judge proper

that any State should not raise men, or should raise a smaller

number of men than the quota thereof, such extra number shall be

raised, officered, cloathed, armed and equipped in the same manner

as the quota of each State, unless the legislature of such State

shall judge that such extra number cannot be safely spread out in

the same, in which case they shall raise, officer, cloath, arm

and equip as many of such extra number as they judeg can be safely

spared. And the officers and men so cloathed, armed, and equipped,

shall march to the place appointed, and within the time agreed

on by the United States in Congress assembled.

The United States in Congress assembled shall never engage in a

war, nor grant letters of marque or reprisal in time of peace, nor

enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate

the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expenses necessary

for the defense and welfare of the United States, or any of them,

nor emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the United

States, nor appropriate money, nor agree upon the number of

vessels of war, to be built or purchased, or the number of land

or sea forces to be raised, nor appoint a commander in chief of

the army or navy, unless nine States assent to the same: nor

shall a question on any other point, except for adjourning from

day to day be determined, unless by the votes of the majority

of the United States in Congress assembled.

The Congress of the United States shall have power to adjourn

to any time within the year, and to any place within the United

States, so that no period of adjournment be for a longer

duration than the space of six months, and shall publish the

journal of their proceedings monthly, except such parts thereof

relating to treaties, alliances or military operations, as in

their judgement require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the

delegates of each State on any question shall be entered on the

journal, when it is desired by any delegates of a State, or any

of them, at his or their request shall be furnished with a

transcript of the said journal, except such parts as are above

excepted, to lay before the legislatures of the several States.

X The Committee of the States, or any nine of them,

shall be authorized to execute, in the recess of Congress, such

of the powers of Congress as the United States in Congress

assembled, by the consent of the nine States, shall from time

to time think expedient to vest them with; provided that no

power be delegated to the said Committee, for the exercise of

which, by the Articles of Confederation, the voice of nine States

in the Congress of the United States assembled be requisite.

XI Canada acceding to this confederation, and adjoining

in the measures of the United States, shall be admitted into,

and entitled to all the advantages of this Union; but no other

colony shall be admitted into the same, unless such admission be

agreed to by nine States.

XII All bills of credit emitted, monies borrowed, and

debts contracted by, or under the authority of Congress, before

the assembling of the United States, in pursuance of the present

confederation, shall be deemed and considered as a charge against

the United States, for payment and satisfaction whereof the said

United States, and the public faith are hereby solemnly pleged.

XIII Every State shall abide by the determination of the

United States in Congress assembled, on all questions which by

this confederation are submitted to them. And the Articles of

this Confederation shall be inviolably observed by every State,

and the Union shall be perpetual; nor shall any alteration at

any time hereafter be made in any of them; unless such

alteration be agreed to in a Congress of the United States,

and be afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of every State.

And Whereas it hath pleased the Great Governor of the World to

incline the hearts of the legislatures we respectively represent

in Congress, to approve of, and to authorize us to ratify the

said Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union. Know Ye that

we the undersigned delegates, by virtue of the power and

authority to us given for that purpose, do by these presents,

in the name and in behalf of our respective constituents, fully

and entirely ratify and confirm each and every of the said

Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union, and all and

singular the matters and things therein contained: And we do

further solemnly plight and engage the faith of our respective

constituents, that they shall abide by the determinations of

the United States in Congress assembled, on all questions, which

by the said Confederation are submitted to them. And that the

Articles thereof shall be inviolably observed by the States we

respectively represent, and that the Union shall be perpetual.

In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands in Congress.

Done at Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania the ninth day

of July in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and

Seventy-Eight, and in the Third Year of the independence of America.

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Agreed to by Congress 15 November 1777

In force after ratification by Maryland, 1 March 1781

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Prepared by Gerald Murphy (The Cleveland Free-Net - aa300)

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