

Articles of Confederation

Agreed to by Congress November 15, 1777; ratified and in force, March 1, 1781.

Article I. The Style of this **Confederacy** shall be "The United States of America."

Article II. Each state retains its **sovereignty**, freedom, and independence, and every power ... and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly **delegated** to the United States, in Congress **assembled**.

Article IV. The better to secure and perpetuate [continue] mutual friendship and intercourse [communication] among the people of the different States in this Union ... the people of each State shall free ingress [enter] and regress [coming back] to and from any other State, and shall enjoy therein all the privileges of trade and **commerce**
...

Article V. ... No State shall be represented in Congress by less than two, nor more than seven members ... In determining questions in the United States in Congress assembled, each State shall have one vote ...

Article VI. No State, without the **consent** of the United States in Congress assembled, shall send any embassy [body of representatives] to, or receive any embassy from, or enter into any conference, agreement, alliance or treaty with any King, Prince or State...

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...

No State shall engage [enter] in any war without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, unless such State be actually invaded by enemies...

Article 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...

Article VIII. All charges of war, and all other expenses that shall be incurred [acquired] for the common defense or general welfare, and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled, shall be defrayed [provided] out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several States ...

The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid [set] and levied [collected] by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several States ...

Article IX. The United States in Congress assembled, shall have the sole and exclusive right and power of determining on peace and war ... — of sending and receiving ambassadors — entering into treaties and alliances ...

The United States in Congress assembled shall also be the last resort on appeal in all disputes and differences now subsisting [existing] or that hereafter may arise between two or more States ...

The United States in Congress assembled shall also have the sole and exclusive right and power of regulating [controlling] the alloy [metals] 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 ... — establishing or regulating post offices from one State to another, throughout all the United States...— appointing all officers of the land forces, in the service of the United States ...— appointing all the officers of the naval forces, and commissioning all officers whatever in the service of the United States ...

The United States in Congress assembled shall have authority — to borrow money, or emit bills on the credit of the United States and [ask states to contribute from their armies].

Article 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...

Article 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 [change] be agreed to in a Congress of the United States, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of every State.