

On September 3, 1783—about two years after the actual fighting ceased—America’s Revolution officially ends when Britain and the American Colonies sign the Treaty of Paris.

This image depicts a duplicate original of the document ending hostilities between the “mother country” and her colonies. It also officially recognizes America as an independent nation and allows for the newly formed country to continue its westward expansion.

This key document, in America’s history, is maintained by the U.S. National Archives where [curators provide this description](#):

The American War for Independence (1775-83) was actually a world conflict, involving not only the United States and Great Britain but also France, Spain, and the Netherlands. The peace process brought a vaguely formed, newly born United States into the arena of international diplomacy, playing against the largest, most sophisticated, and most established powers on earth.

The three American negotiators, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay, proved themselves to be masters of the game, outmaneuvering their counterparts and clinging fiercely to the points of national interest that guaranteed a future for the United States. Two crucial provisions of the treaty were British recognition of U.S. independence and the delineation of boundaries that would allow for American western expansion.

The treaty is named for the city in which it was negotiated and signed. The last page bears the signatures of David Hartley, who represented Great Britain, and the three American negotiators, who signed their names in alphabetical order.

Many treaty documents, however, can be considered as originals. In this case, for example, the United States and British representatives signed at least three originals, two of which are in the holdings of the National Archives. On one of the signed originals the signatures and wax seals are arranged horizontally; on the other they are arranged vertically. In addition, handwritten certified copies were made for the use of Congress.

Some online transcriptions of the treaty omit Delaware from the list of former colonies, but the original text does list Delaware.

Click on the image for a more detailed view.

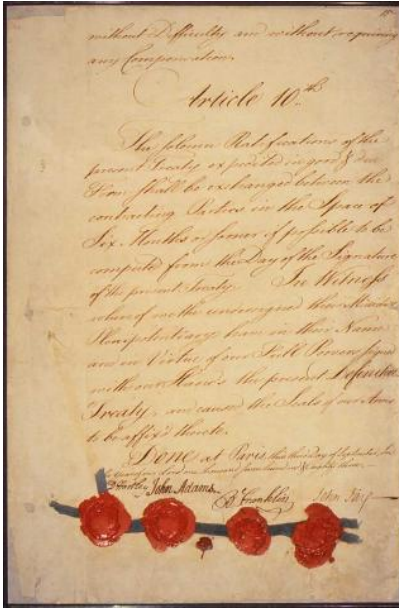
See, also:

Signature Page of the Treaty of Paris, 1783

Credits:

Image of the Treaty of Paris, 1783, online via the U.S. National Archives; International Treaties and Related Records, 1778-1974; General Records of the United States Government, Record Group 11.

Media Stream



Signature Page, Peace of Paris

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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