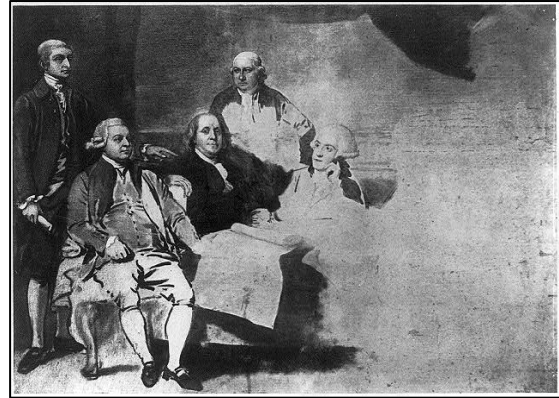


Treaty of Paris 1783

Negotiations to end the Revolutionary War began soon after the surrender of Cornwallis in October 1781. Four American commissioners were chosen to represent America in the negotiations: Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, John Adams, and Henry Laurens. The Americans were fortunate to be so ably represented. They were also fortunate that Great Britain was eager to see a quick end to the war. Spain and France were not involved in the negotiations, and if they had been, the Americans probably would have gained only their independence. Instead, they gained independence; established territorial boundaries, gaining all the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River from the Great Lakes to Florida; protected American fishing rights in Canada; and guaranteed navigation of the Mississippi River. In return, the Americans promised to recommend the restoration of Loyalist property confiscated during the war and to recommend the repayment of private debts owed by Americans to the English.

France was not represented in the peace talks until these decisions had already been reached. France was angry as well as surprised that the United States and Great Britain had agreed upon peace terms.

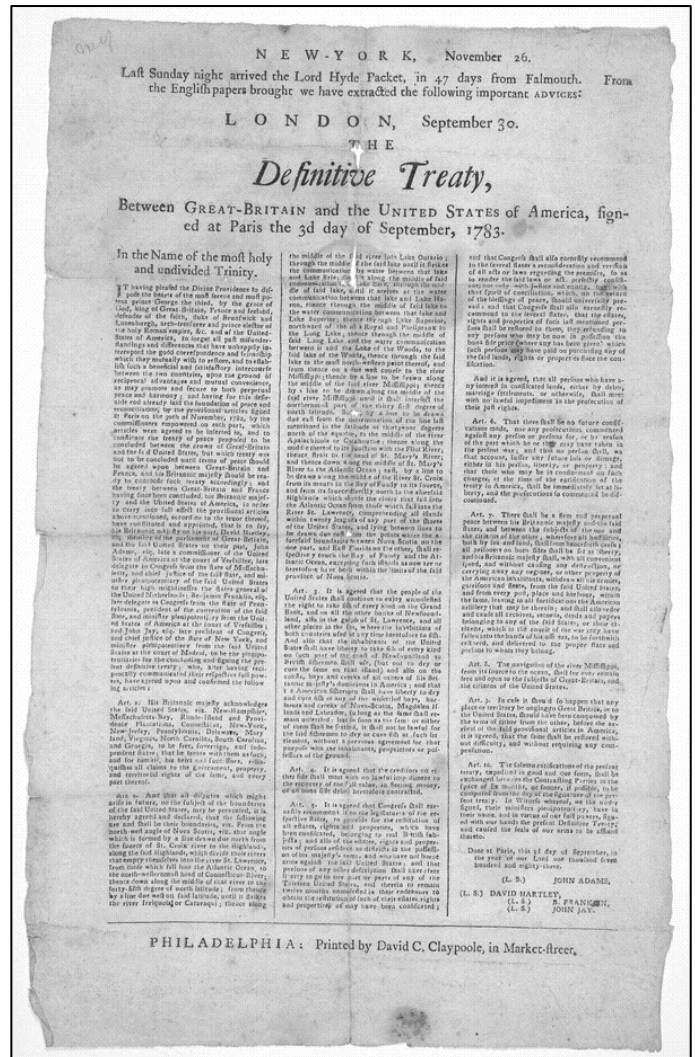
The Treaty of Paris, formally ending the war, was not signed until September 3, 1783. The Continental Congress, which was temporarily situated in Annapolis, Maryland, at the time, ratified the Treaty of Paris on January 14, 1784.



The American Peace Commissioners

No date recorded

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Broadside Published in Philadelphia, 1783

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