THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776 The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America Wh
rs of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should d
nalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers fr
ew Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, i
sposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursui
s for their future security. --Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Governme
States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Go
ected to attend to them. He has refused to pass ot her Laws for the accommod ation of large districts of pe ople, unless those people w ould relinquish the right of Representation i
sitory of their Public Records, for the sole purp ose of fatiguing them into compliance with his meas ures. He has dissolved Re presentative Houses repea tedly, for oppo
Powers, incapab le of Annihilation , have returned to the People at lar ge for their exerci se; the State rem aining in t
cting the Laws of Naturalization of F oreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their mi gration hither, and raising the
es dependent on hi s Will alone, for the ten ure of their offices, an d the amount and pay ment of their salaries. He has erected a multi tude of New
ur legislatures. He has affected to rende r t he Military independe nt of and superior to th e Civil Power. He has c o mbined with others to s ubject us to
mong us: For protecting t hem, by a mock Tria l, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Tra de with all p
pretended offences: For abolishin g the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Pro vince, establishing therein a n Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so
, and altering fundamentally the F orms of our Governments: For suspending our own L egislatures, and declaring t hemselves invested with Po wer to legislate for us in all
r towns, and destroyed the li ves of our people. He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to compl
Head of a civilized nation. He h as constrained our fe llow Citizens taken C aptive on the high Se as to bear Arms agai nst their Country, to bec
ome the executioners of their fr iends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by th eir Hands. He has excit ed domestic insurrecti ons amongst us, and has
endeavoured to bring on the i nha bitants of our frontiers , th e merciless Indian Sa vag es, whose known rule of warfare, is an undisti ng uished destruction of all
ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by rep
eated injury. A Prince , whose character is thus m arked by every act which m ay define a Tyrant, is unfit t o be the ruler of a free Peop le. Nor have We been wanti ng in attention t
o our Brittish brethre n. We have warned them fr om time to time of attempt s by their legislature to ex tend an unwarrantable jur isdiction over us. We have reminded the
m of the circum stances of our e migration and se ttlement here. W e have appealed to their native ju stice and
magnanimity, and we have conjured t hem by the ties of ou r common kindred t o disavow these usu rpations, which wou ld inevitabl
y interrupt our con nections and correspo ndence. They too have been deaf to the voic e of justice and of con sanguinity. We must, t herefore, acq
the United States of America, in General Co ngress, Assembled, a pp ealing to the Suprem e J udge of the world for th e rectitude of our inte nti ons, do, in t
t States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally disso
ch Independent States may of righ t do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection o f Divine Providence, we mut ually pledge to each other o
THEW THORNTON Massachusett s-Bay SAMUEL ADAMS JO HN ADAMS ROBERT TREA T PAINE ELBRIDGE GERR Y Rhode Island STEPHEN H OPKINS WILLIAM ELLERY
ASE WILLIAM PACA THOMA S STONE CHARL ES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON Vir ginia GEORGE W YTHE RICHARD HENR
NCIS LEWIS LEWIS MORRIS P ennsylvania ROBERT MORRIS BENJAMIN RUSH BENJAMIN F RANKLIN JOHN MOR TON GEORGE CLYMER
WES JOHN PENN South Caroli na EDWARD RUTLEDG E THOMAS HEYWARD, JR. THOMAS LYNCH, JR. ARTHUR MIDDLET ON New Jersey RICHARD
ese Presents shall come, we th e u ndersigned Delegates of the States affixed to o ur Names, send greeting . W hereas the Delegates of t he United States of Amer
nce of America, agree to certain articles of Confederation and perpe tual Union between the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts-bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
ion and perpetual Uni on between the states of Ne w Hampshire, Massachuset ts-bay, Rhode Island and P rovidence Plantations, Con necticut, New-York, New-Je rsey, Pennsylv
te retains its soverei gnty, freedom, and indepe ndence, and every Power, Jurisdiction and right, wh ich is not by this confeder ation expressly delegated to the United S
tates, in Congre ss assembled. A rticle III. The said states hereby s everally enter int o a firm league o f friendshi
p with each other, for their common de fence, the security o f their Liberties, and their mutual and ge neral welfare, bindin g themselve
s to assist each oth er, against all force off ered to, or attacks ma de upon them, or any of them, on account o f religion, sovereignty , trade, or an
y other pretence w hat ever. Article IV. The b ett er to secure and perp etu ate mutual friendship an d intercourse among th e people of the differ en t states in th
is 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 have free in gress and regress to and fro m any other state, and shall enjoy therein all the privilege s of trade and commerce, su
bject to the same duties impositio ns and restrictions as the i nhabitants thereof respect ively, provided that such r estriction shall not extend so far as to prevent the rem
oval of property imported int o any state, to an y other state, of w hich the Owner is an inhabitant; pr ovided also that no im
igh misdemeanor in any state, shall flee from Justice , and be found in any of the united states, he shall, upon deman d of the Governor or exe
to the records, acts and judicia l proceedings of the co urts and magistrates of every other state. Artic le V. For the more con venient management of t
y in November, in every year, w ith a power reserved to e ach state, to recal its dele gat es, or any of them, at any time within the year, an d to send others in their
gate 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
ttee of the states. In d etermining questions in the united states in Congress assembled, each state shal l have one vote. Freedom o f speech and debate in Con gress shall not
time of their going to and from, and attendance on congress, except for t reason, felony, or breach of the peace. Article VI. No state, without the Consen t of the united
or shall any pers on holding any o ffice of profit or t rust under the un ited states, or an y of them, accept of any pr
bility. No two or m ore states shall enter into any treaty, conf ederation or alliance whatever between th em, without the cons ent of the u
duties, which may i nterfere with any stipu lations in treaties, ent ered into by the united states in congress as sembled, with any kin g, prince or s
number only, as s hal l be deemed necessa ry by the united states i n c ongress assembled, for the defence of such sta te, or its trade; nor s hal l any body o
f forces be kept up by any state, in time of peace, except such number only, as in the judgment of the united states, in congress assembled, shall be deemed requisite to garrison th
e forts necessary for the defence o f such state; but every state shall always keep up a well regulated and disciplined m ilitia, sufficiently armed and accoutered, and shall provi
de and constantly have ready for use, in public stores, a due number of field pieces an d tents, and a proper quant ity of arms, ammunition an d camp equipage. No state
shall engage in any war witho ut the consent of th e united states in c ongress assemble d, unless such sta te be actually invaded
by enemies, or shall have rece ived certain advice of a resolution being fo rmed by some nation of Indians to invade such state, and the dang
er is so imminent as not to adm it of a delay till the unit ed states in congress a ssembled can be cons ulted: nor shall any sta te grant commissions to
any ships or vessels of war, no r le tters of marque or rep ris al, except it be after a dec laration of war by the uni ted states in congres s a ssembled, 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 su ch state be infested by pirat es, in which case vessels o f war may be fitted out for t hat occasion, and kept so l ong as the danger shall con tinue, or until t
of colonel, shall be a ppointed by the legislature of each state respectivel y, by whom such forces s hal l be raised, or in such manner as such state shal l direct, and al
or general welfa re, and allowed b y the united state s in congress ass embled, shall be def rayed out of a common
s and improvemen ts thereon shall be e stimated according t o such mode as the u nited states in congr ess assembled, shall from time t
upon by the united states in congress as sembled. Article IX. Th e united states in cong ress assembled, shall have the sole and exc lusive right a
vided that no treat y o f commerce shall be m ade whereby the legi sla tive power of the res pec tive states shall be re str ained from imposing su ch imposts
shing 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 b
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. T
es concerning boundary, jurisdiction or any other cause whatever; which authority shall always be exercised in the manner following. Whenever the legislative or executive authorit
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

en in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the Powe
eclare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain n
om the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute n
ndeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more di
ng invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guard
nt. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these
vernors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly negl
n the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depo
sing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative
he mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstru
conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. He has made judg
Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance. He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of o
a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended legislation: For quartering large bodies of armed troops a
arts of the world: For imposing taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for
as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws
cases whatsoever. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt ou
eat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy of the

uiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. We, therefore, the Representatives of
he Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independen
lved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things whi
ur Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor. JOHN HANCOCK, President Attested, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary New Hampshire JOSIAH BARTLETT WILLIAM WHIPPLE MAT
Connecticut ROGER SHERMAN SAMUEL HUNTINGTON WILLIAM WILLIAMS OLIVER WOLCOTT Georgia BUTTON GWINNETT LYMAN HALL GEO. WALTON Maryland SAMUEL CH
Y LEE THOMAS JEFFERSON BENJAMIN HARRISON THOMAS NELSON, JR. FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE CARTER BRAXTON. New York WILLIAM FLOYD PHILIP LIVINGSTON FRA
JAMES SMITH GEORGE TAYLOR JAMES WILSON GEORGE ROSS Delaware CAESAR RODNEY GEORGE READ THOMAS M'KEAN North Carolina WILLIAM HOOPER JOSEPH HE
STOCKTON JOHN WITHERSPOON FRANCIS HOPKINS JOHN HART ABRAHAM CLARK THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION AND PERPETUAL UNION — 1777 To all to whom th
ica, in Congress assembled, did, on the 15th day of November, in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy seven, and in the Second Year of the Independe
, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia in the words following, viz. "Articles of Confederat
ania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina and Georgia". Article I. The Stile of this confederacy shall be "The United States of America." Article II. Each sta

position, 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 h
cutive power, of the state from which he fled, be delivered up and removed to the state having jurisdiction of his offence. Full faith and credit shall be given in each of these states
he general interests of the united states, delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the legislature of each state shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monda
stead, for the remainder of the Year. No state shall be represented in Congress by less than two, nor by more than seven Members; and no person shall be capable of being a dele
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 commi
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 and imprisonments, during the
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; n
esent, 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 no
nited 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
tate, in pursuance of any treaties already proposed by congress, to the courts of France and Spain. No vessels of war shall be kept up in time of peace by any state, except such

he united states in congress assembled, shall determine otherwise. Article VII. When land-forces are raised by any state for the common defence, all officers of or under the rank
l vacancies shall be filled up by the State which first made the appointment. Article VIII. All charges of war, and all other expences that shall be incurred for the common defence
treasury, which shall be supplied by the several states in proportion to the value of all land within each state, granted to or surveyed for any Person, as such land and the building
o 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
nd 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, pro
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 establi
e divided or appropriated — of granting letters of marque and reprisal in times of peace — appointing courts for the trial of piracies and felonies committed on the high seas and e
he 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 stat
y 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
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, congres

s 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 pres
ent 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 judgment 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 s
uch court, or to appear or defend their claim or cause, the court shall nevertheless proceed to pronounce sentence, or judgment, which shall in like manner be final and decisive, the judgment 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 judgment, 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 judgment, without favour, affection or hope of reward:" provided also, that no state shall be deprived of terr
itory 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 juri
sdiction, 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 prescribed 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 standard 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 po
st offices from one state to another, throughout all the united states, and exacting such postage on the papers passing thro' the same as may be requisite to defray the expences 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 al
l 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 ea

ch 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 number 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 rais
ed for the service of the united states, and to appropriate and apply the same for defraying the public expences 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 re
quisitions 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 cloth, arm and equip them in a soldier like manner, at the expence 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 than its quota, and that any other state should raise a greater 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 such state, unless the legislature of such state shall judge that such extra number cannot be safely spared out of the same, in which case they shall raise officer, cloath, arm and equip as many of such extra number as they judge can be safely s
pared. 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 and 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 expences necessary for the defence 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 chi
ef 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 a 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 n
o 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 judgment 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 delegate; and the 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. 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 co

ngress as the united states in congress assembled, by the consent of 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 is requisite. Article XI. Canada acceding to th
is confederation, and joining 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. Article XII. All bills of credit emitted, monies borrowed and debts contracted by, or under the authority of congress, before the assem
bling 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 pledged. Article XIII. Every state shall abide by the determinations of the united states in congress assembled, on all questions whic
h 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 Wh
ereas 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 cong
ress 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 o
f our Lord one Thousand seven Hundred and Seventy-eight, and in the third year of the independence of America. On the part of & behalf of the State of New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett John Wentworth Jr.; August 8th, 1778 On the part and behalf of the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations: William Ellery Henry Marchant John Collins On the part and behalf of t
he State of New York: James Duane Francis Lewis Williamm Duer Governeur Morris On the part and behalf of the State of Pennsylvania: Robert Morris Daniel Roberdeau John Bayard Smith William Clingan Joseph Reed; 22d July, 1778 On the part and behalf of the State of Maryland: John Hanson; March 1, 1781 Daniel Carroll On the part and behalf of the State of North Caro
lina: John Penn; July 21st, 1778 Cornelius Harnett John Williams On the part and behalf of the State of Georgia: John Walton; 24th July, 1778 Edward Telfair Edward Langworthy On the part of & behalf of the State of Massachusetts Bay: John Hancock Samuel Adams Elbridge Gerry Francis Dana James Lovell Samuel Holten On the part and behalf of the State of Connecticut
: Roger Sherman Samuel Huntington Oliver Wolcott Titus Hosmer Andrew Adams On the Part and in Behalf of the State of New Jersey, November 26th, 1778: John Witherspoon Nathaniel Scudder On the part and behalf of the State of Delaware: Thomas McKean; Febr 22d, 1779 John Dickinson; May 5th, 1779 Nicholas Van Dyke On the part and behalf of the State of Virginia:
Richard Henry Lee John Banister Thomas Adams John Harvie Francis Lightfoot Lee On the part and behalf of the State of South Carolina: Henry Laurens William Henry Drayton John Mathews Richard Hutson Thomas Heyward, Jr. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1787 We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, est
ablish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. Article 1 Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall cons