OVERVIEW

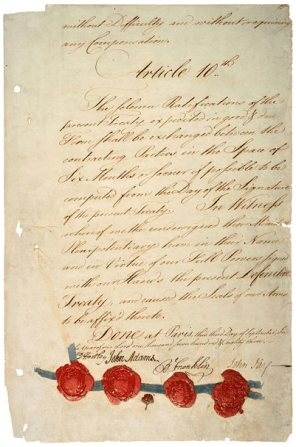
of 3 Sep 2008 Talk on

Negotiations of the
"The Peace Treaties Signed at Paris and Versailles on 3 September 1783"

In Celebration of the 225th Anniversary of the American War for Independence

On 3 September 1783 Great Britain formally acknowledged the independence of the United States with a definitive treaty signed in Paris.

The unfinished and often shown painting (to the left), is by the contemporary artist Benjamin West to commemorate the signing of the 1783 Treaty of Paris (to the right).



West's painting inaccurately depicts Henry Laurens as present. Also shown is William Temple Franklin, Franklin's grandson and secretary to the American delegation, but was not a signer. The painting shows the American signers: [from left to right] John Jay, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin The unfinished area was reserved for the British commissioners, Richard Oswald and David Hartley, who declined to pose. The signing took place at the British commissioner's lodgings at the Hôtel d'York, in the Quartier Latin of Paris.

On the same date, Britain signed a peace settlement with France – the main formal ally to the Americans – and Spain at the château de Versailles. Manchester signed for Britain and Vergennes signed for France.

- **Sequence of Key Events.**
- **Dominant Issues.**
  - **Personality issues among the Americans.**
  - **Changing British governments and politicians competed for power**:
    North's Tory administration fell 22 Mar 1782.
    Rockingham's Whig's began negotiations in Paris.
    Rockingham's sudden death (1 July 1782) elevated Shelburne to power.
    "North-Fox Coalition" [mix of Whig and Tory] takes over 2 Apr1783..
  - **American Independence**.
  - **American Boundaries: Mississippi, Newfoundland fisheries, Floridas, Canada.**
  - **Loyalists and Creditors**
  - **Entangled Alliance** – French and Spanish global perspective of the war: Jamaica, Minorca, Gibraltar, Central American coastal forest lands, West Indies, Newfoundland fisheries, Dunkirk, India colonies.
- **'Definitive Treaty' (3 Sep 1783) differed little from 'Preliminary Treaty' (30 Nov 1782)**.