

FINANCE

Contract signed at Versailles July 16, 1782.

*Ratified by the Congress of the United States (Continental Congress)
January 22, 1783*

Ratified by France December 21, 1783

Ratifications exchanged at Paris about January 1, 1784

Entered into force January 1, 1784

Expired upon execution of contract

8 Stat. 614; Treaty Series 83¼¹

CONTRACT BETWEEN THE KING AND THE THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA

[TRANSLATION]

The King having been pleased to attend to the requests made to him in the name and on behalf of the united provinces of North America for assistance in the war and invasion under which they had for several years groaned; and His Majesty, after entering into a Treaty of Amity and Commerce² with the said confederated provinces on the 6th of February, 1778, having had the goodness to support them, not only with his forces by land and sea, but also with advances of money, as abundant as they were effectual in the critical situation to which their affairs were reduced; it has been judged proper and necessary to state exactly the amount of those advances, the conditions on which the King made them, the periods at which the Congress of the United States have engaged to repay them to His Majesty's royal treasury, and, in fine, to state this matter in such a way as for the future to prevent all difficulties capable of interrupting the good harmony which His Majesty is resolved to maintain and preserve between him and the said United States. For executing so laudable a purpose, and with a view to strengthen the bands of amity and commerce which subsist between His Majesty and the said United States, we, Charles Gravier de Vergennes, etc., Counselor of the King in all his Councils, Commander of his Orders, Minister and Secretary of State, and of his Commands and Finances, vested with full powers of His Majesty to us given for this purpose—

¹ For a detailed study of this contract, see 2 Miller 48.

² TS 83, *ante*, p. 763.