

In 1808, when the record of the Constitutional Convention was being recorded by John Quincy Adams, he found the Pinckney Draught missing from all records. He wrote to Pinckney, who sent Adams what he thought was a duplicate of the original. It was so similar to the actual ratified constitution that several people, including James Madison, considered it bogus and concluded that Pinckney was dubiously trying to refocus the credit. Hence it would be years before Pinckney received proper credit for his contribution to the Constitution. Since then many researchers have concluded that the Virginia Plan included many ideas found in Pinckney's plan. (SCETV)

The Pinckney Plan

(Also referred to as the “Pinckney Draught” or “Pinckney Draft”)

29 May 1787 | Philadelphia, PA

1. A Confederation between the free and independent States of New Hampshire, etc., is hereby solemnly made uniting them together under one general superintending Government for their common Benefit and for their Defense and Security against all Designs and Leagues that may be injurious to their Interests and against all Forc[e] [or "Foes"] and Attacks offered to or made upon them or any of them.

2. The Stile

3. Mutual Intercourse - Community of Privileges - Surrender of Criminals - Faith to Proceedings etc.

4. Two Branches of the Legislature - Senate and House of Delegates - together the United States in Congress assembled.

House of Delegates to consist of one Member for every thousand Inhabitants 3/5 of Blacks included.

Senate to be elected from four Districts - to serve by Rotation of four years - to be elected by the House of Delegates either from among themselves or the People at large.

5. The Senate and House of Delegates shall by joint Ballot annually choose the President of the United States from among themselves or the People at large. In the President the executive authority of the United States shall be vested. His Powers and Duties - He shall have a Right to advise with the Heads of the different Departments as his Council.

6. Council of Revision, consisting of the President, Secretary for foreign Affairs, Secretary of War, Heads of the Departments of Treasury and Admiralty or any two of them together with the President.

7. The Members of Senate and House of Delegates shall each have one Vote, and shall be paid out of the common Treasury.

8. The Time of the Election of the Members of the House of Delegates and of the Meeting of United States in Congress assembled.

9. No State to make Treaties - lay interfering Duties - keep a naval or land Force Militia excepted to be disciplined etc. according to the Regulations of the United States.

10. Each State retains its Rights not expressly delegated - But no Bill of the Legislature of any State shall become a law till it shall have been laid before Senate and House of Delegates in Congress assembled and received their Approbation.

11. The exclusive Power of Senate and House of Delegates in Congress Assembled.

12. The Senate and House of Delegates in Congress assembled shall have exclusive Power of regulating trade and levying Imposts - Each State may lay Embargoes in Times of Scarcity.

13. The Senate and House of Delegates in Congress assembled shall have exclusive Power of establishing Post-Offices.

14. Senate and House of Delegates in Congress assembled shall be the last Resort on Appeal in Disputes between two or more States; which Authority shall be exercised in the following Manner etc.

15. Senate and House of Delegates in Congress assembled shall institute offices and appoint officers for the Departments of foreign Affairs, War, Treasury and Admiralty.

They shall have the exclusive Power of declaring what shall be Treason and Misprision of Treason against United States - and of instituting a federal judicial Court, to which an Appeal shall be allowed from the judicial Courts of the several States in all Causes wherein Questions shall arise on the Construction of Treaties made by United States - or on the Laws of Nations - or on the Regulations of United States concerning Trade and Revenue - or wherein United States shall be a Party - The Court shall consist of Judges to be appointed during good Behavior - Senate and House of Delegates in Congress assembled shall have the exclusive Right of instituting in each State a Court of Admiralty and appointing the Judges etc of the same for all maritime Causes which may arise therein respectively.

16. Senate and House of Delegates in Congress Assembled shall have the exclusive Right of coining Money - regulating its Alloy and Value - fixing the Standard of Weights and Measures throughout the United States.

17. Points in which the Assent of more than a bare Majority shall be necessary.

18. Impeachments shall be by the House of Delegates before the Senate and the Judges of the Federal judicial Court.

19. Senate and House of Delegates in Congress assembled shall regulate the Militia through the United States.

20. Means of enforcing and compelling the Payment of the Quota of each State.
21. Manner and Conditions of admitting new States.
22. Power of dividing, annexing, and consolidating States, on the Consent and Petition of such States.
23. The assent of the Legislature of States shall be sufficient to invest future additional Powers in the United States in Congress assembled and shall bind the whole Confederacy.
24. The Articles of Confederation shall be inviolably observed, and the Union shall be perpetual: unless altered as before directed.
25. The said States of New Hampshire, etc., guarantee mutually each other and their Rights against all other Powers and against all Rebellion, etc.