Timeline for Negotiating the Peace Treaties of 1783

1781

- Jun. US Congress appoints Peace Commission: John Adams, John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Laurens, Thoman Jefferson.
- Nov. News of 19 Oct. Yorktown Surrender reaches London and Paris.

1782

- 27 Feb. British H. of Commons votes against "further .. Offensive warfare" in North America.
- 20 Mar. Br. PM North Resigns.
- ⇨ 22 Mar. New Br.Ministry formed under Rockingham.
  Fox appointed Foreign Secretary;
  Shelburne appointed Secretary of the Colonies.
- ⇨ April. Oswald sent by Shelbrune to Paris. Start of 'Informal' negotiations.
  Grenville sent by Fox to Paris.
- 18 May. News of British naval victory at Saintes (12 Apr) received in Europe.
- ⇨ June. Jay departs Madrid and goes to Paris.
  Finding Franklin ill, Jay assumes dominant position.
- 1 Jul. Rockingham died. Shelburne assumes position as 'First Minister'; and Fox resigns.
- 25 Jul. Oswald formally commissioned to treat with Representatives of "Colonies and Plantations."
  Fitzherbert directed to deal with French, and later Spanish. Shelbrune oversees both.
- Sep. Jay learns of Rayneval's 'secret vist' to London, and suspects French duplicity.
  Jay sends Vaughan with proposals to Shelburne.
- Late Sep. London learns of Br. relief of Gibraltar.
- ⇨ 27 Sep. Americans in Paris received Shelbrune's 21 Sep agreement to treat with the "Thirteen United States Colonies."
  "Independence" will be acknowledged in the first article of the forthcoming treaty..
- 5 Oct. Jay submits draft 'plan' for a treaty to Oswald.
- 25 Oct. Adams arrived at Pars from Holland.
- 28 Oct. Strachey arrived at Paris to "stiffen Oswald's backbone."
- 29 Oct. Talks between British and Americans begin.
- ⇨ 30 Oct. Formal talks between British and Americans begin.
  Fitzherbert joins the talks.
- ➡ 30 Nov. Preliminary Articles of Peace signed by:
  Richard Oswald (for Great Britain) with American commissioners:
  John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Laurens, and John Jay.

1783

- 20 Jan. Declarations for Suspension of Arms and Cessation of Hostilities
  20 Jan. France and Spain sign preliminary articles with Britain.
- 2 Apr. British PM, Shelburne, forced to resign.
  New 'Colition Ministry' formed under James Fox and Lord North.
- ⇨ April. Negotiations for a Definitive Treaty began in Paris with the arrival of David Hartley, appointed main British Minister to conduct negotiations.
- ➡ 3 Sep. Peace Treaty between Britain and the United States signed in Paris.
  Peace Treaty between Britain and France and Spain signed at Versailles in the afternoon.
  Jun 1784. Dutch and British Treaty signed.

1784

14 Jan. US Congress ratified treaty.
19 Apr. Gr. Britain ratified treaty.
12 May. Ratified copies exchanged in Paris.