

Treaty of Peace and Friendship Between the United States of America and the Emperor of Morocco
(1777 / 1786)

This is a historical English translation of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Morocco, signed in 1777 and ratified in 1786. This treaty represents the first diplomatic agreement ever signed by the United States with a foreign nation.

Article I There shall be a firm and perpetual peace and friendship between the United States of America and the Emperor of Morocco, his heirs and successors, and the citizens of the said States.

Article II If any citizen of the United States, or any persons under their protection, shall have any dispute with each other, the Consul shall decide between the parties, and whenever the Consul shall require any aid or assistance from the Government to enforce his decisions, it shall be immediately granted.

Article III If any citizen of the United States shall kill or wound a Moor, or in like manner, if a Moor shall kill or wound a citizen of the United States, the law of the country shall take place, and equal justice shall be rendered.

Article IV If any citizen of the United States shall die in Morocco, the Consul shall have his effects, and no one shall molest or disturb him; and the goods shall be inventoried, and then delivered to the lawful heirs.

Article V Merchants of both nations shall have full liberty of commerce and navigation, and shall enjoy all the rights, privileges, and exemptions in trade and navigation which the most favored nations enjoy.

Article VI No citizen of the United States shall be enslaved or detained in captivity, and no Moor shall be enslaved or detained in captivity by the citizens of the United States.

Article VII In case of war between the two nations, prisoners shall not be made slaves, but shall be exchanged or ransomed.

Article VIII The vessels of the United States shall not be detained or molested by any Barbary power while under Moroccan protection.

Article IX This treaty shall be ratified and confirmed, and the ratifications shall be exchanged within a proper time frame.

This treaty established formal diplomatic relations between Morocco and the United States, guaranteeing maritime protection, commercial access, and mutual peace.

Morocco was the first nation to recognize the independence of the United States of America.
