

The Great Seal Controversy

The Great Seal Controversy was a constitutional crisis that, although it never led to a civil war, almost did. The crisis arose from the fact that the Great Seal of the United States had been used by the British government in the years following the American Revolution. The British government had used the Great Seal to issue orders and to conduct foreign relations, which the new United States government, as national government and holder of the Great Seal, had to accept, the people and the state.

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Primary Author: James Madison (drafted the original plan)

Origin: Proposed by Madison at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787. The drafting of the Constitution took place in 1787.

Dated: June 17, 1787 (the original was the 17th day of 1787, marking the beginning of the drafting of the Constitution.) Date of Publication: 1787.