

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 began when the Continental Congress, which had just declared its independence from Great Britain, decided to create a new government. The Continental Congress was the first government of the United States, and it was the only government that had the authority to declare independence from Great Britain.

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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 Independence Hall.

Dating: June 17, 1787 (the date when the original draft was completed). The Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787.