

Source A: James Madison, journal notes describing what became the New Jersey Plan, *Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787* (excerpts with description of the historical context), June 15, 1787

NOTE: The Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787 was James Madison's daily record of the debates during the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. This excerpt was recorded on June 15, 1787, the day that the New Jersey Plan, or Paterson resolutions, was presented to the delegates. James Madison spelled William Paterson using two Ts (Patterson). This spelling has been preserved in the transcript presented here.

Madison's Notes

Friday June 15, 1787

Mr. PATTERSON, laid before the Convention the plan which he said several of the delegates wished to be substituted in place of that proposed by Mr. Randolph... *

The propositions from New Jersey moved by Mr. Patterson were in the words following.

1...the Articles of Confederation ought to be so revised, corrected and enlarged, as to render the federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government, and the preservation of the Union.

Historical Context

William Paterson was a delegate at the Constitutional Convention from New Jersey who would later sign the Constitution. New Jersey, despite having a large population today, had a relatively small population in 1787.

The states, with the exception of Rhode Island, sent a total of 55 delegates to Philadelphia to fix the Articles of Confederation, not to write a plan for a new system of government.

2...in addition to the powers vested in the United States in Congress, by the present existing articles of Confederation, they be authorized to pass acts for raising a revenue, by levying a duty or duties on all goods or merchandizes of foreign growth or manufacture, imported into any part of the United States: to pass Acts for the regulation of trade & commerce as well with foreign nations as with each other....

Under the Articles of Confederation, the federal government had no way to tax or regulate trade.

3..the U.S. in Congress be authorized to elect a federal Executive to consist of persons; that the Executives besides their general authority to execute the federal acts ought to appoint all federal officers not otherwise provided for, and to direct all military operations....

The electoral college, not Congress, elects the president. Today, the president does in fact appoint federal officers and does direct the military as commander in chief.

4... a federal Judiciary be established to consist of a supreme Tribunal the Judges of which to be appointed by the Executive, and to hold

The Articles of Confederation did not include a federal supreme tribunal or court.

**their offices during good
behavior....**

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See also a crowd-sourced annotated version of the document at ConText: <http://context.montpelier.org/document/178>.