

**A. VIRGINIA CALLS MEETING TO CONSIDER
GRANTING CONGRESS POWER TO REGULATE
TRADE, 21 January–23 February 1786**

Resolution of the Virginia Legislature, 21 January¹

Resolved, That Edmund Randolph, James Madison, jun. Walter Jones, Saint George Tucker, and Meriwether Smith, Esquires, be appointed Commissioners, who, or any three of whom, shall meet such Commissioners as may be appointed by the other States in the Union at a time and place to be agreed on, to take into consideration the trade of the United States; to examine the relative situations and trade of the said States; to consider how far a uniform system in their commercial regulations may be necessary to their common interest and their permanent harmony; and to report to the several States such an act relative to this great object, as, when unanimously ratified by them, will enable the United States in Congress effectually to provide for the same.

That the said Commissioners shall immediately transmit to the several States copies of the preceding resolution, with a circular letter requesting their concurrence therein, and proposing a time and place for the meeting aforesaid.

*Edmund Randolph to the Executives of the States,
Richmond, 19 February²*

I do myself the honor of transmitting to Your Excellency the enclosed resolution. The commissioners thereby appointed have instructed me to open the communication, which it directs with the several states. It is impossible for me to decide how far the uniform system in commercial regulations, which is the subject of that resolution, may or may not be attainable. I can only venture to declare that the desire of such an arrangement arose from a regard to the federal interest.

The commissioners of Virginia have therefore only to request the concurrence of your state, and to propose the first Monday in September next as the time, and the city of Annapolis as the place for the meeting of the different deputies.