



Excerpt of Circular Letter to the States by George Washington, June 8, 1783

Source: George Washington to the States, June 8–21, 1783, *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/99-01-02-11404>.

There are four things, which I humbly conceive are essential to the well being, I may even venture to say the existence, of the United States as an independent Power.

1st An indissoluble Union of the States under one federal Head.

2^{ndly} A sacred regard to public Justice

3^{rdly} The adoption of a proper Peace Establishment—and

4^{thly} The prevalence of that pacific and friendly disposition among the people of the United States, which will induce them to forget their local prejudices and policies, to make those mutual concessions which are requisite to the general prosperity, and, in some instances, to sacrifice their individual advantages to the interest of the community.

These are the pillars on which the glorious fabric of our Independency and National Character must be supported—Liberty is the basis—and whoever would dare to sap the foundation or overturn the Structure under whatever pretexts he may attempt it, will merit the bitterest execration and the severest punishments which can be inflicted by his injured Country.