Chronology, 1782–1784

1782

23 June  The Jays arrive in Paris
23 June–22 Dec. Jay writes diary of the peacemaking
24–29 June Jay meets with Franklin, Vergennes, Grenville, Lafayette, and Aranda
July  Jay ill with influenza
1 July Rockingham dies. British ministry subsequently re-organized under Shelburne
3–26 Aug. Jay and Aranda discuss western boundaries of the United States
7 Aug. Jay meets with Oswald, states that independence should be recognized prior to the start of treaty negotiations, and expresses concerns about Oswald’s commission
10 Aug. Jay and Franklin confer with Vergennes about Oswald’s commission
15 Aug. Jay informs Oswald that Britain must grant independence unconditionally
16 Aug. Jay drafts a revised commission for Oswald
19 Aug. Jay and Franklin discuss with Vergennes the need for prior acknowledgment of American independence
20 Aug.–Oct. Jay takes charge of peace negotiations during Franklin’s illness
3–10 Sept. Jay confers with Oswald, demands alterations in his commission
5 Sept. Jay and Aranda discuss boundaries with Rayneval
Sends Benjamin Vaughan to Shelburne to counter it
10 Sept. Jay receives a copy of Barbé-Marbois’s letter opposing American claims to Newfoundland fisheries
27 Sept. Oswald receives an acceptable commission

1–8 Oct. Jay and Oswald exchange commissions, negotiate the first draft of the preliminary peace treaty, and send it to London

21 Oct. Shelburne rejects the first draft treaty; sends Strachey to Paris to participate in negotiations

27 Oct. Adams arrives to join peace negotiations

29 Oct.–4 Nov. Jay, Adams, and Franklin negotiate with Oswald and Strachey, agree on second draft of preliminary treaty

7 Nov. Jay enters several modifications on the second draft, which is sent to London the following day

17 Nov. Jay completes his report to the secretary for foreign affairs on negotiations with all parties while awaiting British response to the second draft of the preliminary treaty

25–30 Nov. Final draft of preliminary articles is completed and signed by Jay, Adams, Franklin, Laurens, and Oswald

1783

7–23 Jan. Jay visits Normandy

20 Jan. France, Spain, and Britain sign preliminary peace treaty; Anglo-American preliminary treaty goes into effect

3 Feb. American peace commissioners finalize form of passports for British ships

20 Feb. American commissioners sign declaration of cessation of hostilities

23 Feb. Shelburne resigns

12–25 Mar. Congress receives news of peace agreement; debates preliminary articles and the commissioners’ conduct

2 Apr. Fox-North coalition came to power, adopts hard-line commercial policy with regard to trade with the United States

15 Apr. Congress ratifies preliminary peace treaty

25 Apr. Hartley begins negotiations for a reciprocal trade agreement with Jay, Adams, and Franklin

2 July British Order in Council bars entry of most American goods into the British West Indies and reserves all trade with the islands to British subjects and British-built vessels manned by British crews
American commissioners respond to criticism of their conduct of negotiations in a dispatch to the secretary for foreign affairs

Jay begins to record conversations with Franklin

Jay, Adams, and Franklin report to the secretary for foreign affairs that their attempts to conclude a reciprocal trade agreement have failed

Great Britain ratifies Anglo-American preliminary treaty

Ann, the Jays' fourth child, is born in Paris

Jay, Adams, Franklin, and Hartley sign the definitive peace treaty in Paris

Jay visits England

Congress ratifies the definitive peace treaty

Great Britain ratifies the definitive peace treaty

Congress appoints Jay secretary for foreign affairs

Jay and Franklin exchange ratifications of the definitive peace treaty with Hartley

Thomas Barclay receives Jay's accounts for the Spanish mission

The Jays leave Paris

The Jays sail for America from Dover, England

The Jays reach New York

City of New York awards Jay freedom of the city and the gold "Freedom Box"

Jay elected delegate to the Continental Congress

Jay appointed a state agent to settle the New York–Massachusetts Boundary dispute

Jay takes his seat in Congress at Trenton

Jay participates in meetings of boundary commission

Jay takes oath of office as secretary for foreign affairs

Congress adjourns at Trenton to reconvene in New York City in January