

Don Diego de Gardoqui to Conde de Floridablanca, New York, 25 July 1788 (excerpts)

... By my several Official communications Your Excellency will see that ten States have ratified the new government, in spite of great opposition on the part of a large number of their inhabitants, but the cleverness of the leaders who now push its organization has prevailed. To this end a full Congress has met, and it is delayed only because the delegates to the Convention of this state are still meeting, and the results are still doubtful, but the result is expected daily. In the meantime it is known that Mr. Jay and his associates have done their best through oratory and intrigue, but without results up to the present time, because the Governor and the residents of the rural districts are bitterly opposed [to the new Constitution]. If they refuse to ratify it, it is possible that there will be the strange case of the division of the State, because this city is in favor of the new government, and since it controls the mouths of the Rivers the use of which the people of the interior claim, they may end in a case similar to our affair which would be odd.

What they promise from the new government borders on insanity, but the intelligent men think more moderately, and some fear that it will be only a temporary remedy which will delay the disease but not cure it.

Be that as it may, the matter proceeds slowly because in my opinion, as I reported to you, its organization will be delayed, and its effects will not be felt for many years, especially with respect to the Treasury which is in a very bad condition because it does not possess a cuarto, nor the credit to raise one....

I enclose an account of the manner of the inhabitants of this city celebrating the adoption of the new government, in spite of the feeling aroused in them by the opposition of two-thirds of their rival fellow-citizens of the State.

Remembering the orders of Your Excellency that in view of the circumstances I should stay on good terms with these people and with the private persons who may influence our affairs, it seemed well to me to arrange the entertainment given by His Majesty's Mail Packet [the *Pinzon*], which pleased them very much.

It is also noteworthy that although we have no Treaty with them they had placed His Majesty's Flag in a prominent place at the base of a placard bearing the words *Treaty with Spain*, just as there was one of France, but not having a treaty with England, her flag was not flown, a distinction which was much felt by the citizens of that nation.

Your Excellency will pardon me for reporting these trivialities, for although I know that they are such, they show how favorably we are looked on in this country, and the desire of these people to continue friendly.

I conclude Most Excellent Sir, by adding that the more I examine this locality and the divergence of interests between these Atlantic States and those states on the banks of our Rivers, I am even more confirmed in the belief that they cannot continue united with those that have their outlet on their waters, and although it may require a long time I can promote the policy that is fitting to the King's interests....

P. Kaminski, Gaspare J. Saladino, Richard Leffler, Charles H. Schoenleber and Margaret A. Hogan. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009.
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