France - Department of the Treasury 20 Mar 2015. The United States and France established diplomatic relations in 1778 following the United States' declaration of independence from Great Britain. France, by the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, recognized the United States and promised to observe the rights of its citizens. This recognition was reciprocal, France being one of the first nations to acknowledge the United States as an independent nation and promote trade between France and America. The second agreement provided for the exchange of consul and使节 representatives, the establishment of a postal service, and the mutual recognition of consular jurisdiction. The treaty also established a system of extraterritoriality, which allowed U.S. citizens to be tried in French courts for crimes committed in France, and French citizens to be tried in U.S. courts for crimes committed in the United States. These provisions were intended to facilitate trade and commerce between the two nations. The Treaty of Amity and Commerce was an important step in establishing the foundations of French-American relations, and it set the stage for future cooperation and collaboration between the two countries.