

# CONSTITUTION FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE AFRICAN SETTLEMENT AT \_\_\_\_\_

*(JUNE 26, 1820)*

## **Article 1**

All persons born within the limits of the territory held by the American Colonization Society in \_\_\_\_\_ or removing there to reside, shall be free, and entitled to all the rights and privileges of the free people of the United States.

## **Article 2**

The Colonization Society shall, from time to time, make such rules as they may think fit for the government of the Settlement, until they shall withdraw their agents, and leave the settlers to the government of themselves.

## **Article 3**

The Societies Agents shall compose a board, to determine all questions relative to the government of the Settlement, shall decide all disputes between individuals, and shall exercise all judicial powers, except such as they shall delegate to justices of the peace.

## **Article 4**

The Agents shall appoint all officers not appointed by the managers, necessary for the good order and government of the settlement.

## **Article 5**

There shall be no slavery in the settlement.

## **Article 6**

The common law, as in force and modified in the United States, and applicable to the situation of the people, shall be in force in the settlement.

## **Article 7**

Every settler coming to the age of twenty-one years, and those now of age, shall take oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution.

## **Article 8**

In case of necessity, where no rule has been made by the Board of Managers, the agents are authorized to make the necessary rules and regulations, of which they shall, by the first opportunity, inform the board, for their approbation; and they shall continue to be in force, until the board shall send out their decision upon them.

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# AMENDMENDED CONSTITUTION OF 1820

*(Adopted DECEMBER 23, 1820)*

## Article 1

All persons born within the limits of the territory held by the American Colonization Society in Africa or removing there to reside, shall be free, and entitled to all such rights and privileges as are enjoyed by the citizens of the United States.

## Article 2

The Colonization Society shall, from time to time, make such rules as they may think fit for the government of the Settlement, until they shall withdraw their agents, and leave the settlers to the government of themselves.

## Article 3

The Societies Agents shall compose a board, to determine all questions relative to the government of the Settlement, shall decide all disputes between individuals, and shall exercise all judicial powers, except such as they shall delegate to justices of the peace.

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Every settler coming to the age of twenty-one years, and those now of age, shall take oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution.

## Article 8

In case of necessity, where no rule has been made by the Board of Managers, the agents are authorized to make the necessary rules and regulations, of which they shall, by the first opportunity, inform the board, for their approbation; and they shall continue to be in force, until the board shall send out their decision upon them.

#### **Article 9**

This Constitution is not to interfere with the jurisdiction, rights and claims of the United States, over the captured Africans and others, under their care and control, so long as they shall reside within the limits of the settlement.

#### **Article 10**

No alteration shall be made in this constitution, except by an unanimous consent of all present at a regular meeting of the Board of Managers, or by a vote of two thirds of the members present at two successive meetings of the Board of Managers.