

# LEQ: What are the three branches of the United States Federal Government?



This image of the United States Capitol is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



This image of the White House's Truman Balcony is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



This image of the west front of the United States Supreme Court was taken by Robert Housch facing east on July 2, 2009.

# LEQ: What are the three branches of the United States Federal Government?

## Legislative



This image of the United States Capitol is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

## Executive



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## Judicial



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# The Constitution Basics



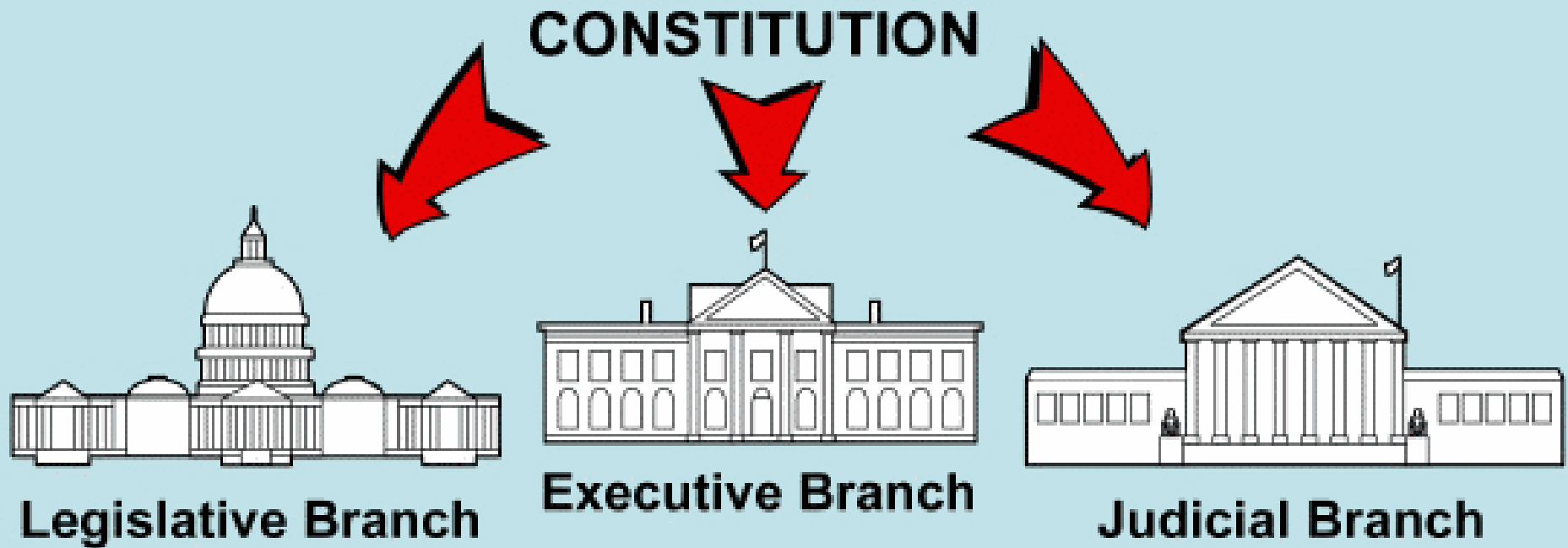
This image is titled: *Washington as Statesman at the Constitutional Convention*. This image was painted in 1856 by Junius Brutus Stearns (1810-1885). It is courtesy of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

# The Constitution Vocabulary



This image is from wordinfo.info.

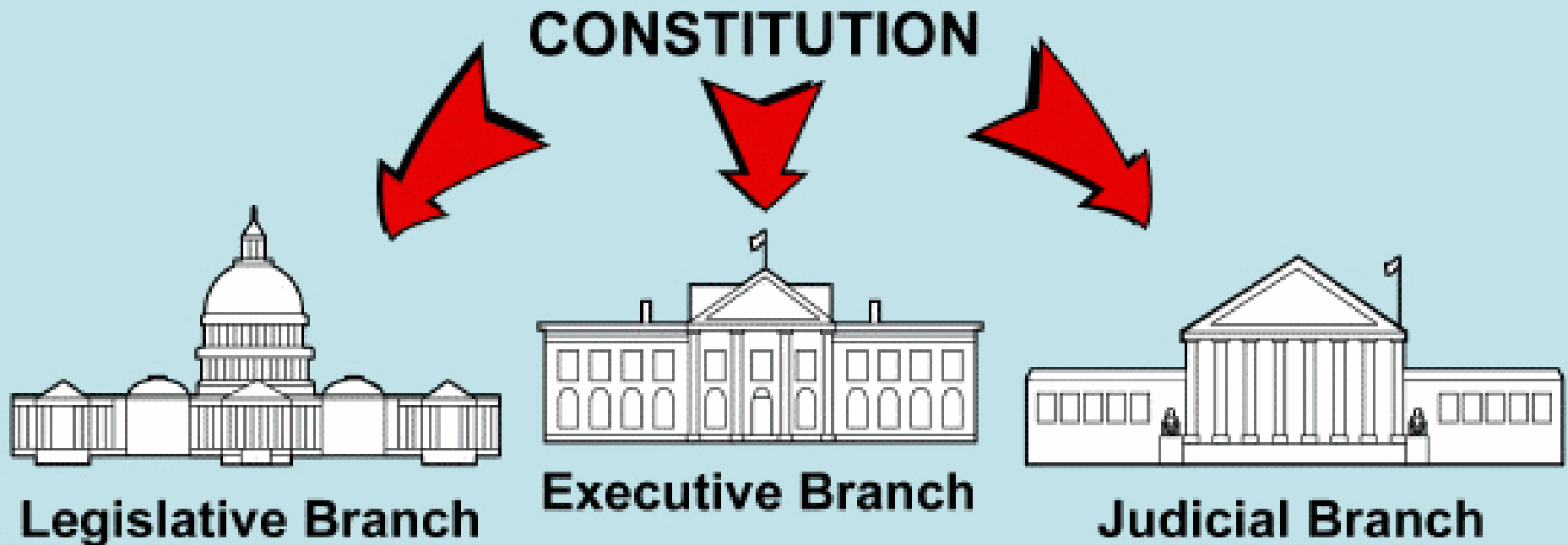
The division of power among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.



The Constitution of the United States divides power among the three branches of the federal government. The Legislative Branch is the Congress. The Executive Branch is headed by the President. The Judicial Branch is controlled by the Supreme Court. This image is courtesy of [alton.k12.mo.us](http://alton.k12.mo.us).

# Separation of Powers

The division of power among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.



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The “separation of powers” meant that no branch of the government was to become more powerful than the other branches.



This belief was to prevent individuals or groups from using the government for their own purposes. This image is courtesy of prezi.com.

A system of government in which power is distributed between national and state governments.

## **Federalism**

### **Powers Delegated to the National Government**

- declare war
  - create and maintain armed forces
  - establish foreign policy
  - regulate interstate and foreign trade
  - make copyright and patent laws
  - establish postal offices
  - coin money
- raise taxes
  - provide for the public welfare
  - criminal justice
  - borrow money
  - charter banks
  - build roads

### **Powers Reserved to States**

- establish local governments
- establish and maintain schools
- regulate trade within states
- conduct elections
- provide for public safety

This image shows that the national government has its specific powers. The state governments have their specific powers, but then there are powers that are shared between the national government and state governments. This image is courtesy of govloop.com.



# Federalism

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Under **federalism**, citizens elect both state and national officials.



This photograph shows inside precinct #1 of the Gettysburg, Pennsylvania Borough Chambers. This event was a primary election. Voters sign in at the table, and use the red, white, and blue booths in the back. This view was taken by Robert Housch from the northwest facing southeast at approximately 4:20 PM on Tuesday, April 22, 2008. This image is courtesy of [gettysburgdaily.com](http://gettysburgdaily.com).



Representatives of voters in each state who select the President and the Vice President.



This photograph shows the 20 Electoral College electors from Pennsylvania who were chosen in 2012. This image is courtesy of Pennsylvania State Senator Jay Costa.

## Electoral College

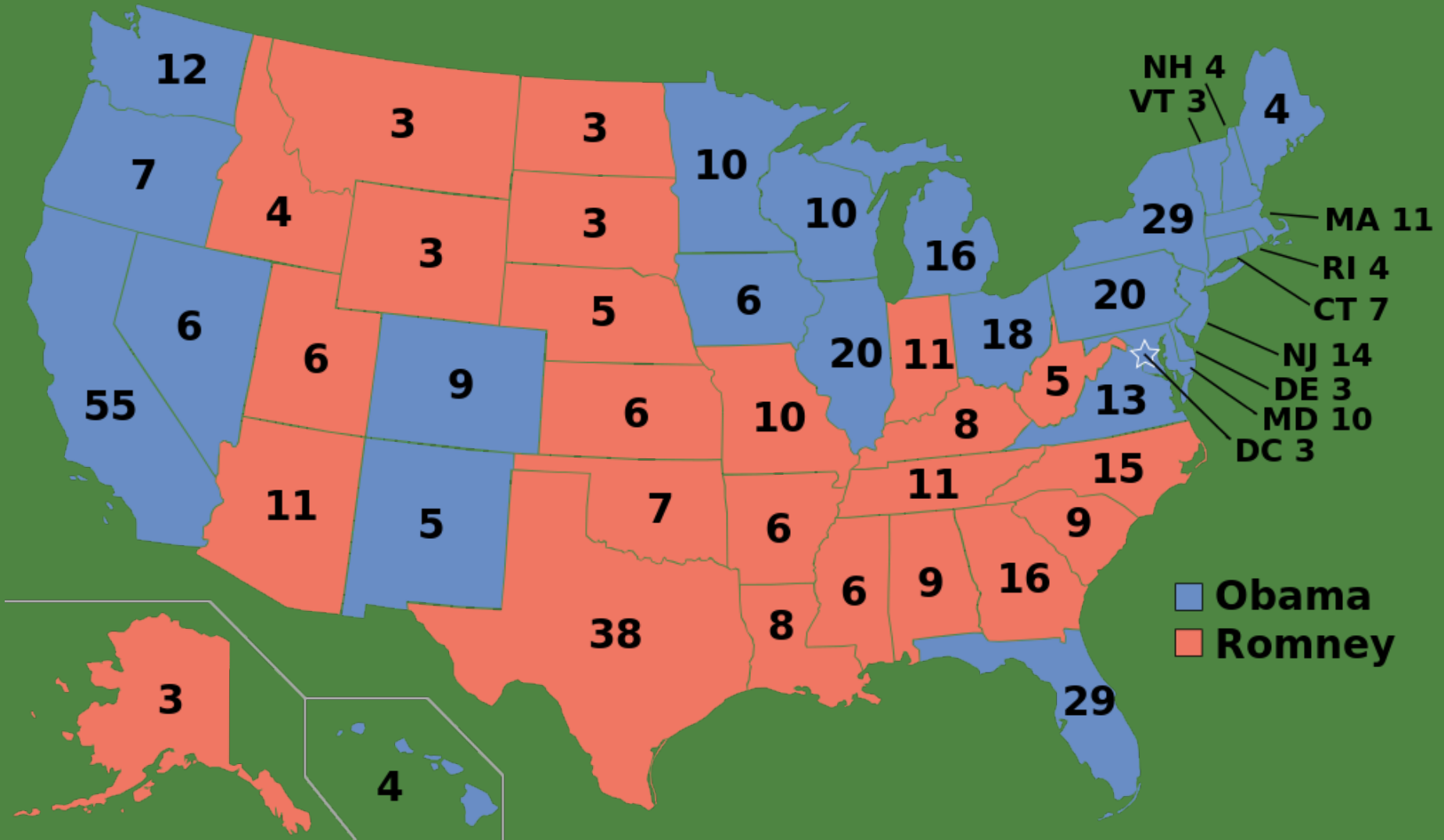
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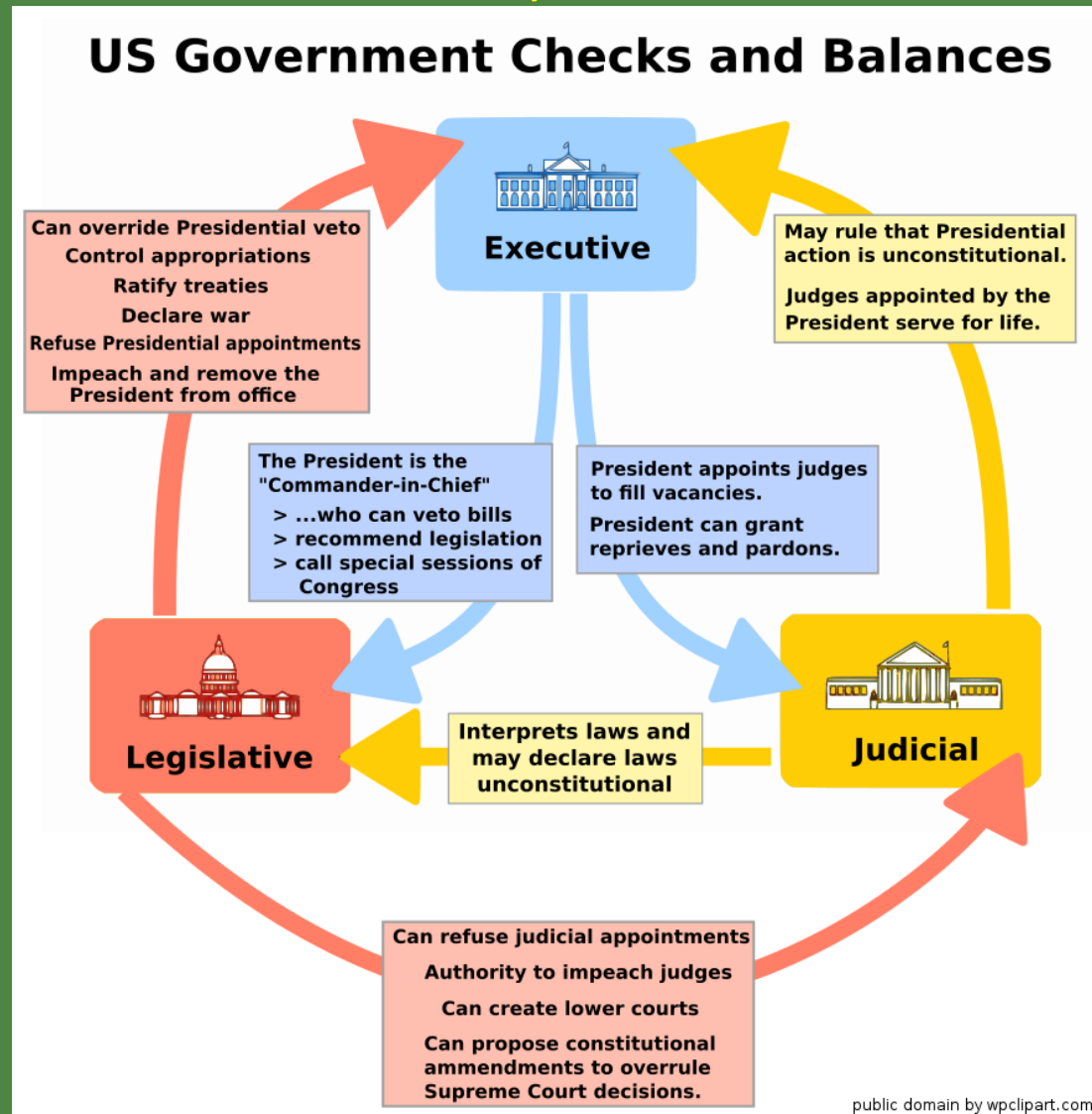


The **Electoral College** was a compromise between election of the President by a vote in Congress and the direct election of the President by the people.



The Founding Fathers feared “factions,” or the “tyranny of the majority.” In fact some of them welcomed a “check” on democracy. Electors, according to Alexander Hamilton, were supposed to be “men most capable of analyzing the qualities ...” of a candidate. They were supposed to be able to change their vote even if it was different from how their state voted. This image is courtesy [outsidethebeltway.com](http://outsidethebeltway.com).

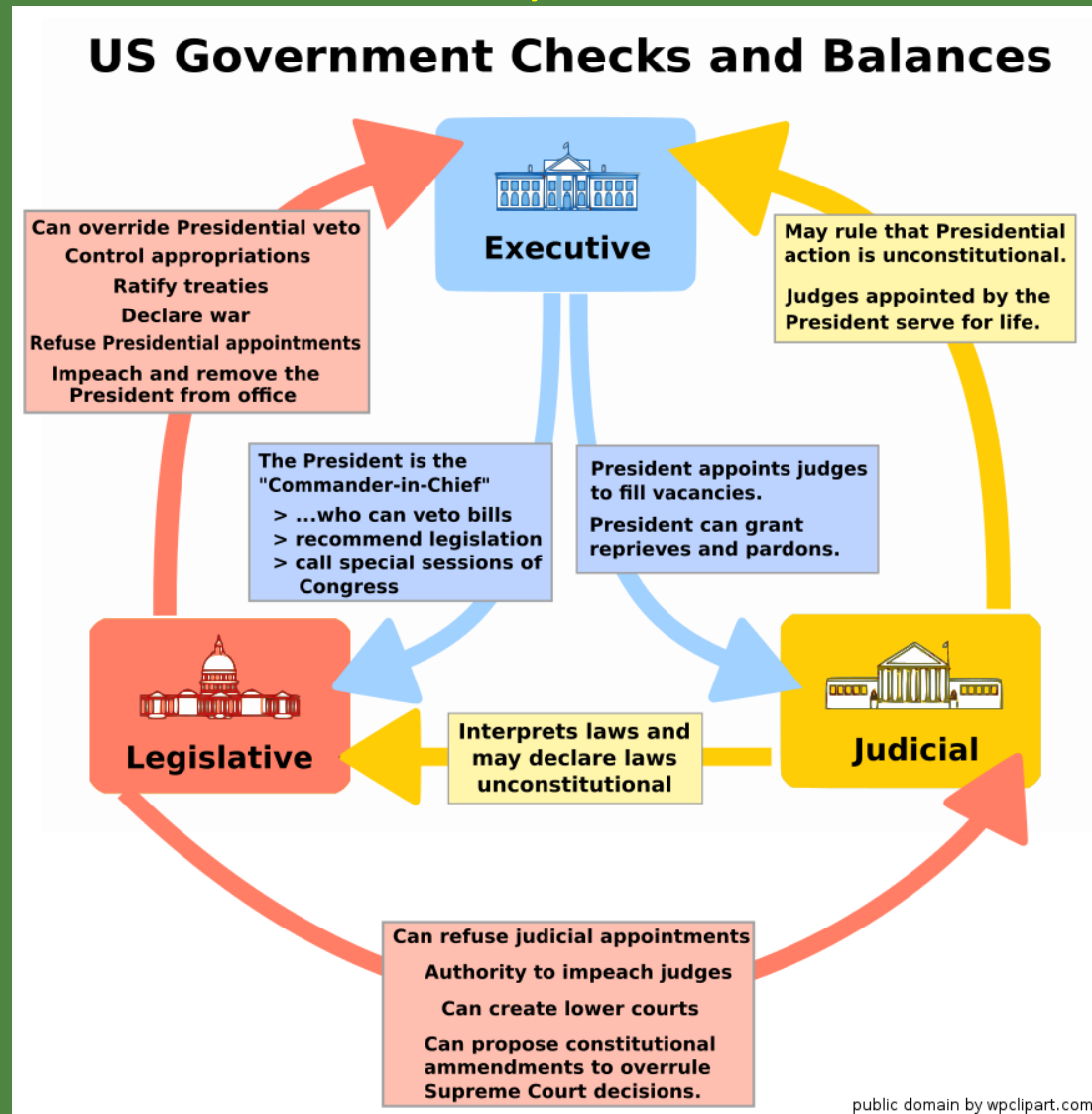
A system set up in the Constitution where each branch of the government has some authority over the other.



This image shows the power that each branch of the federal government has over the other two branches. This image is courtesy of wpclipart.com.

# Checks and Balances

A system set up in the Constitution where each branch of the government has some authority over the other.



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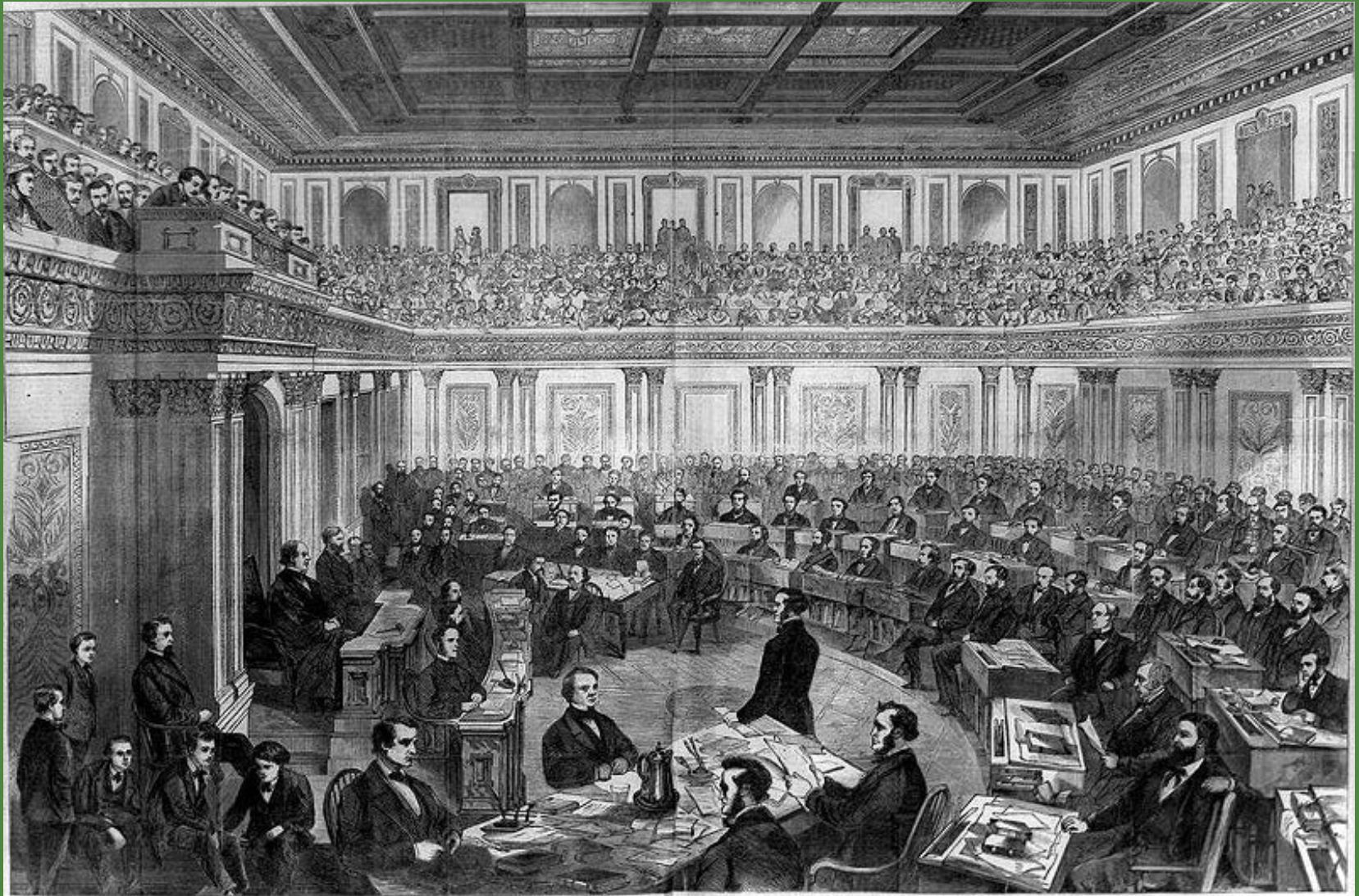
An example of “checks and balances” is that when Congress passes a bill, it does not go into effect until the President signs it into law.



This image shows the President Lyndon Baines Johnson signing the Civil Rights Bill of 1964 into law. The ceremony took place in the East Room of the White House. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



To bring formal charges against a federal or state public official with the purpose of removing the official from office.

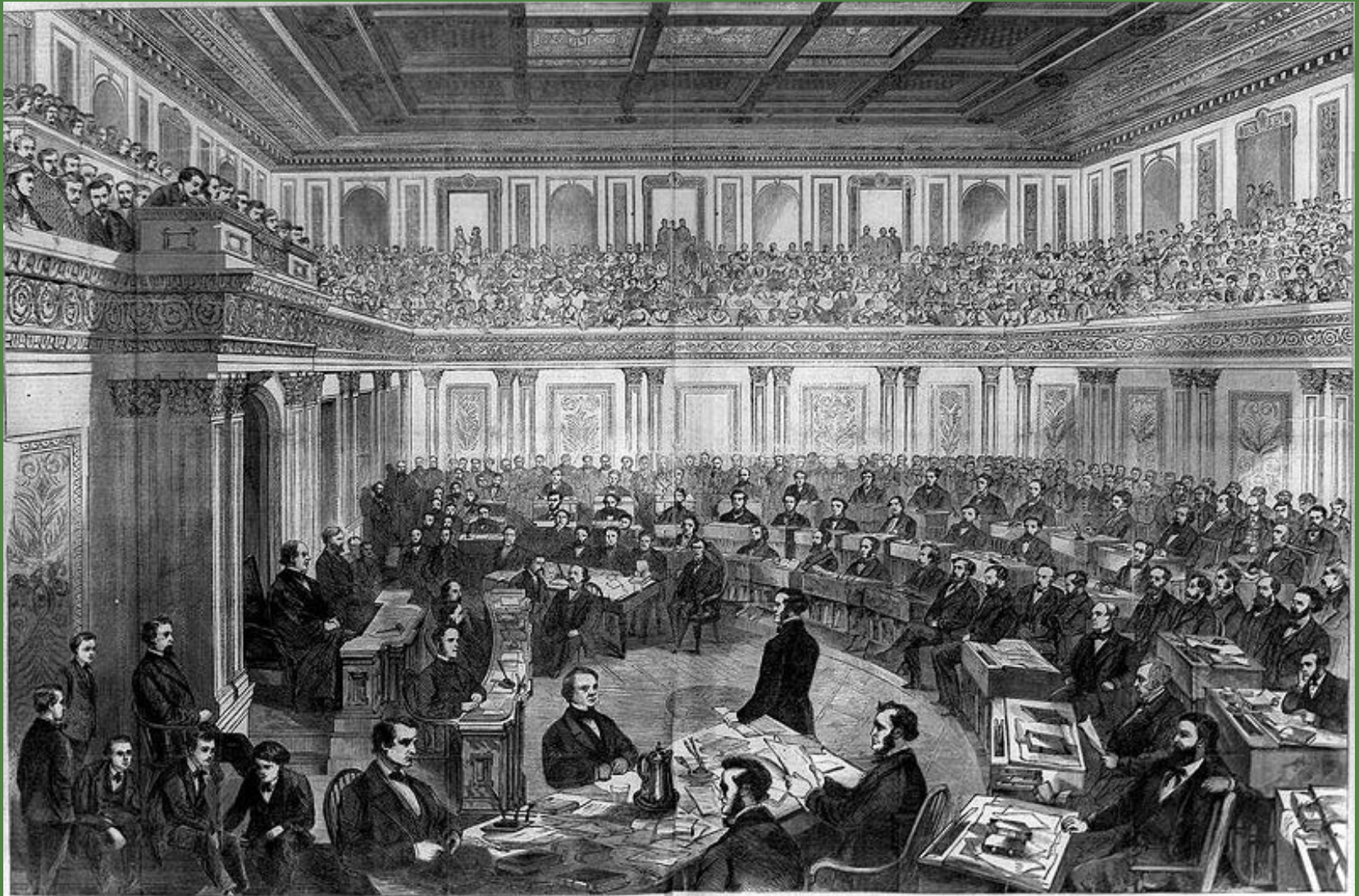


This drawing shows the 1868 impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson in the Senate Chamber in the United States Capitol. The Senate is acting as a Court of Impeachment. This image was created by Theodore R. Davis (1840-1894) for *Harper's Weekly* magazine's April 11, 1868 edition. It is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



## Impeach

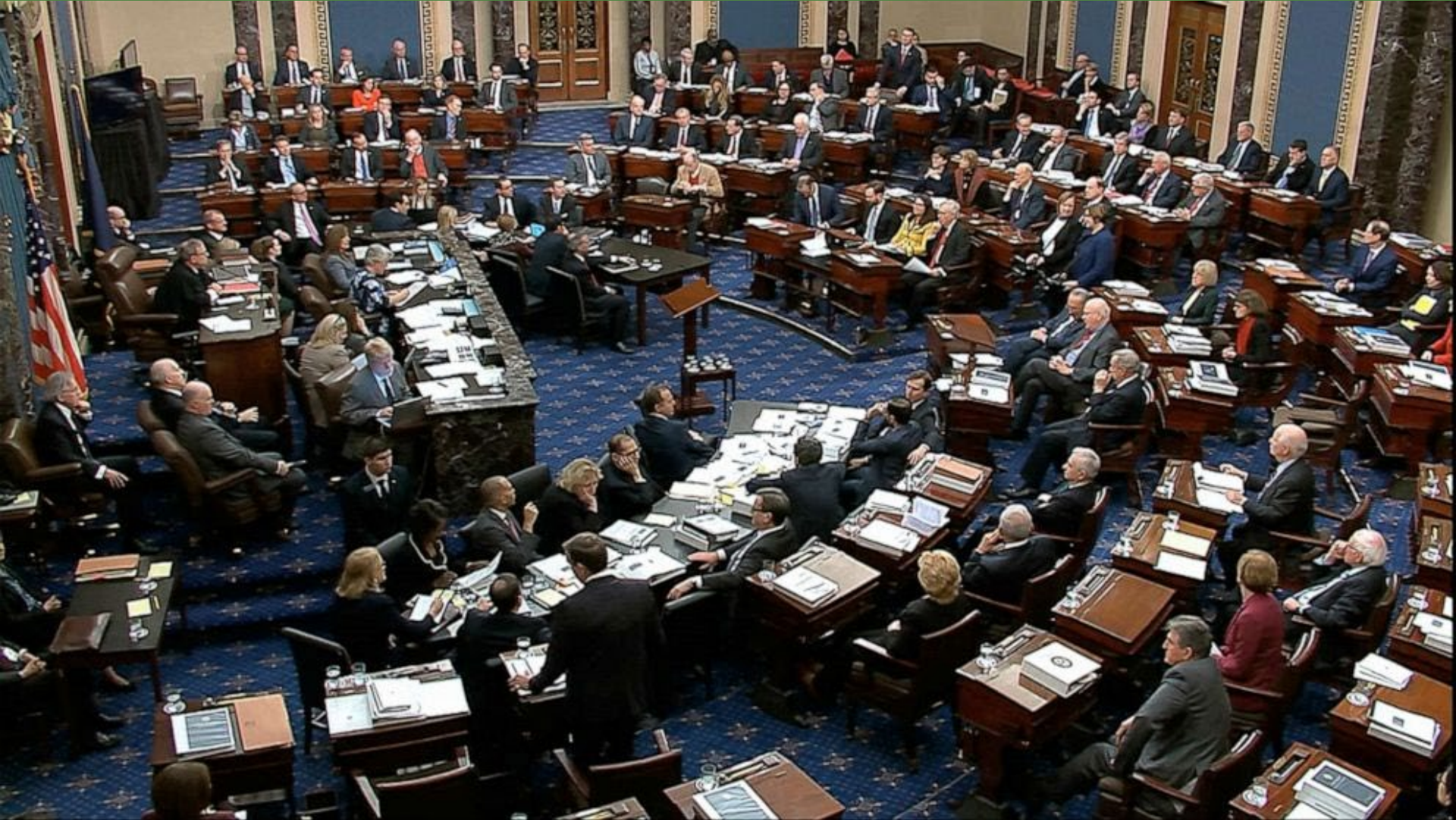
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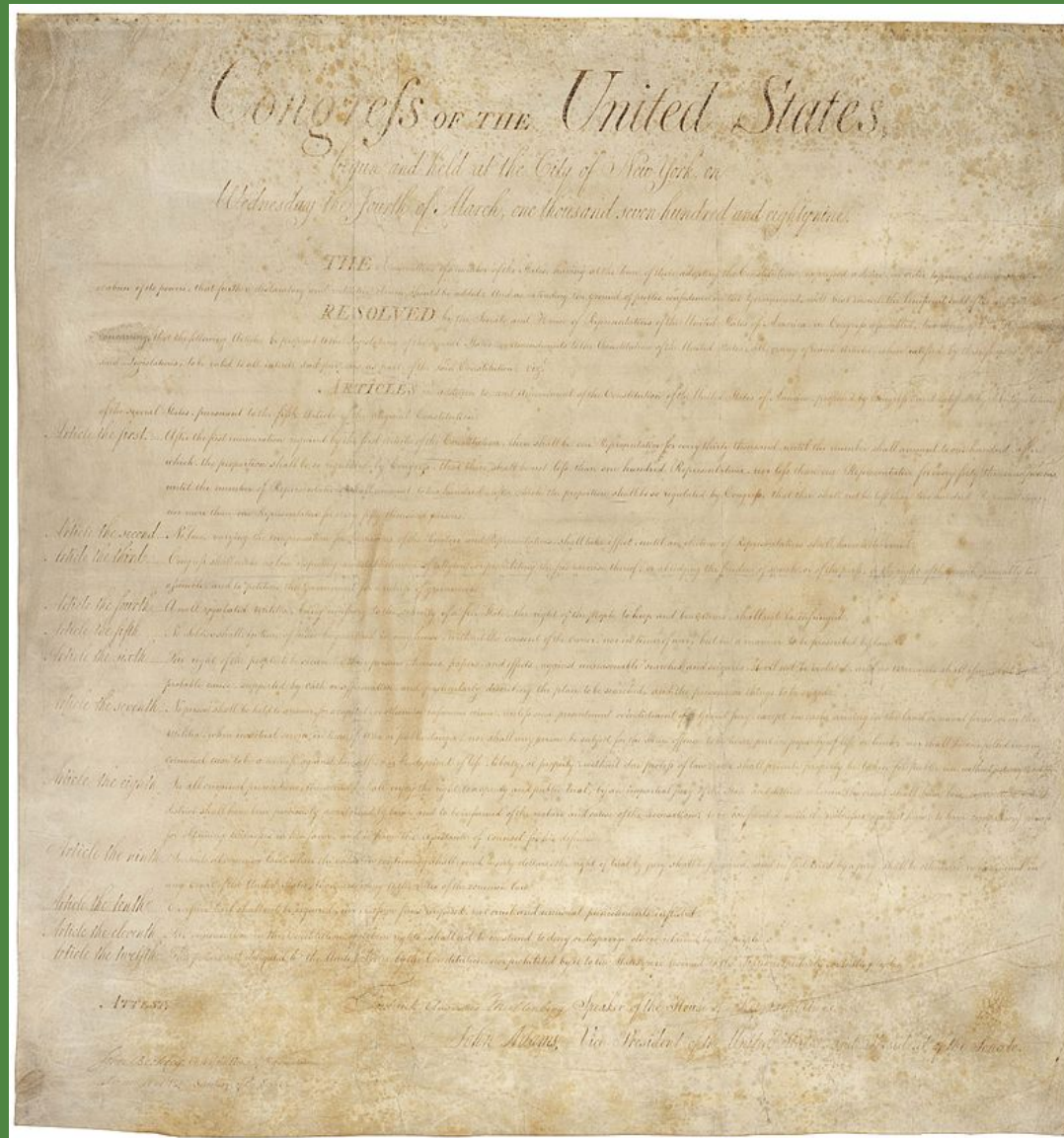
The last President to be **impeached** was President Donald John Trump in 2019.



This image shows President Trump's impeachment trial. It took place in the United States Senate. The Senators sit as the jurors. Chief Justice John Roberts was the judge. This image is courtesy of [abcnews.go.com](https://abcnews.go.com).



# An alteration, or a written change to a document.

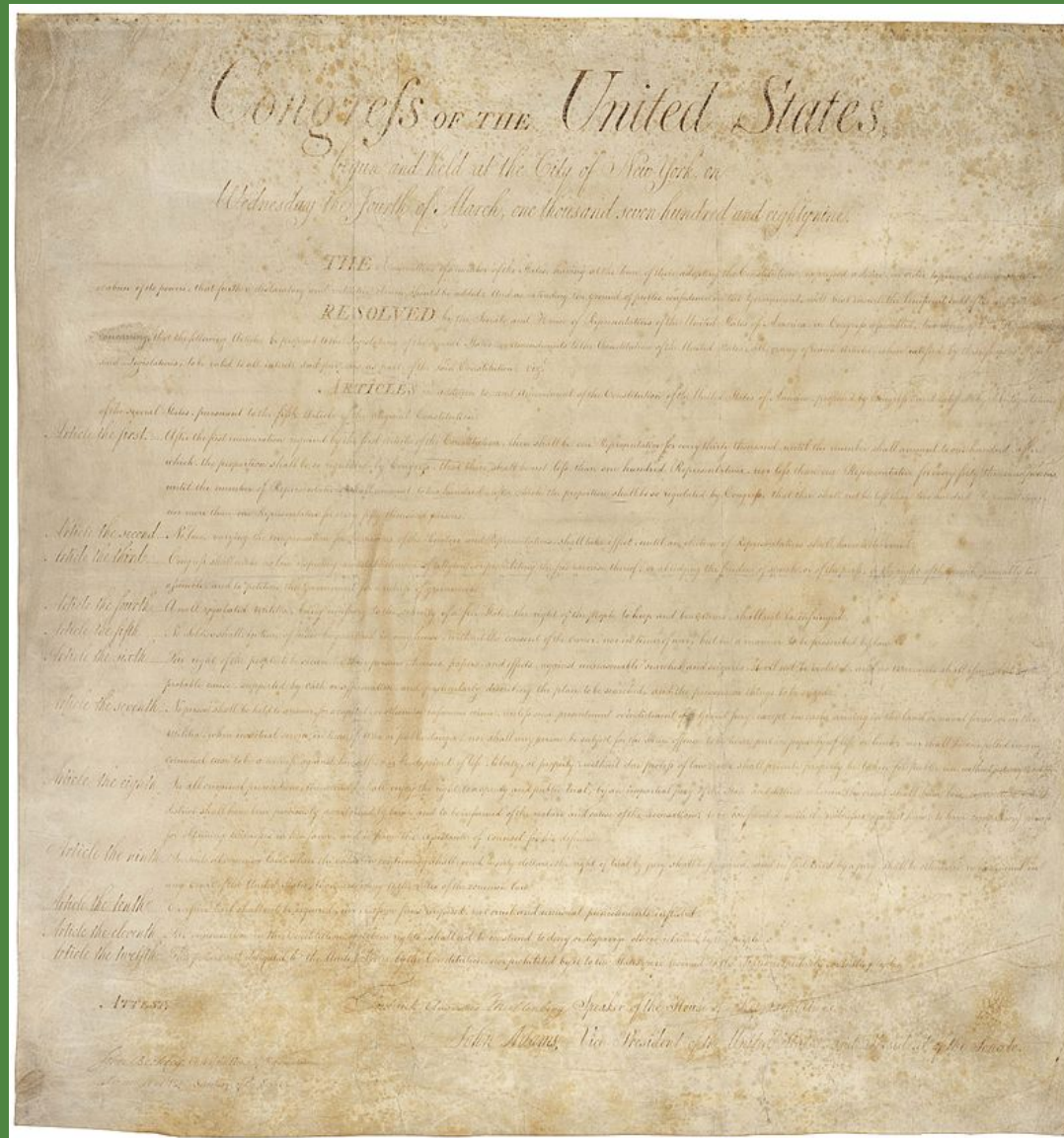


The first ten amendments to the Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



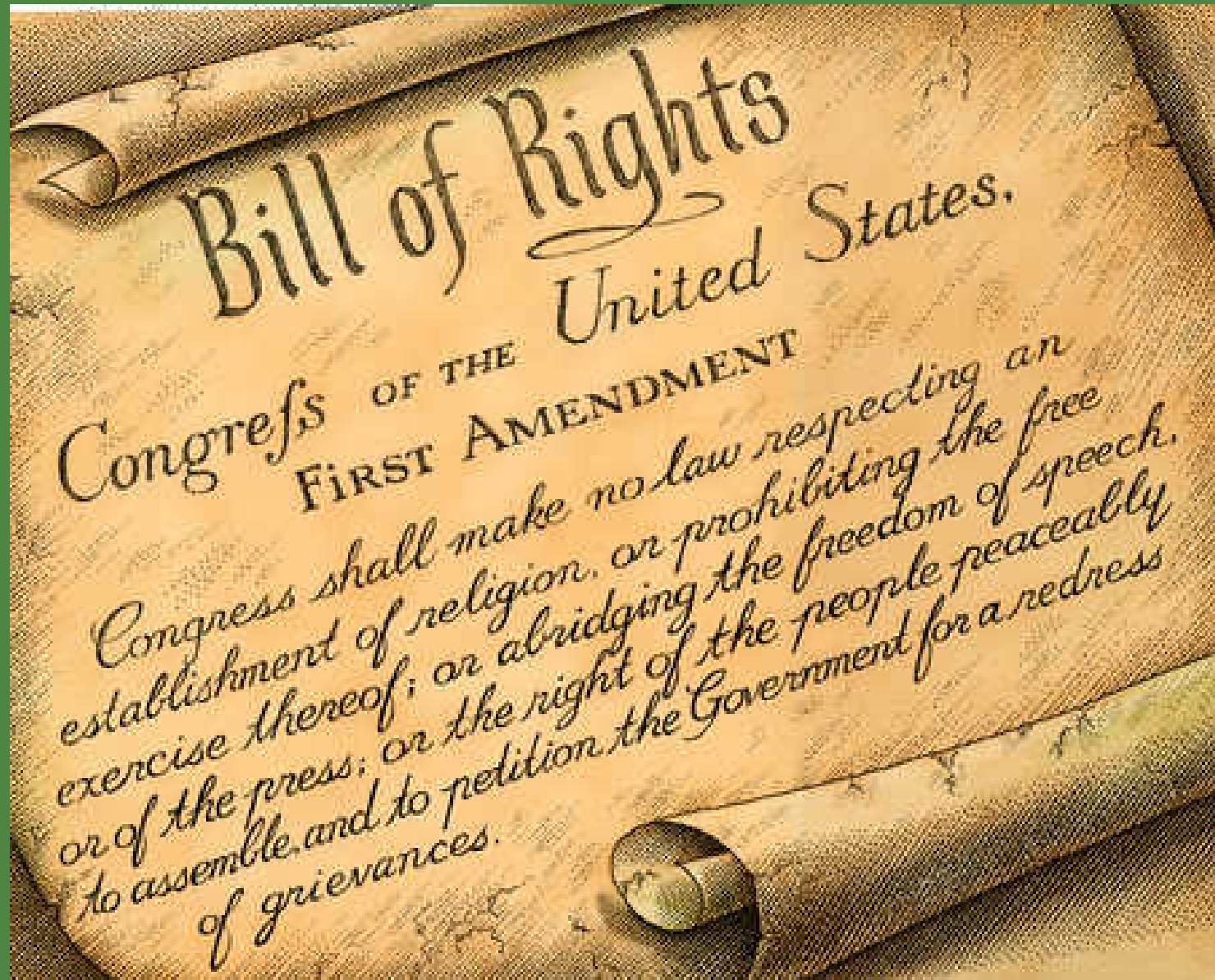
# Amendment

An alteration, or a written change to a document.



The first ten amendments to the Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The First **Amendment** to the Constitution includes Freedom of Religion, Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Speech, the Right to Assembly, and the Right to Petition the Government.

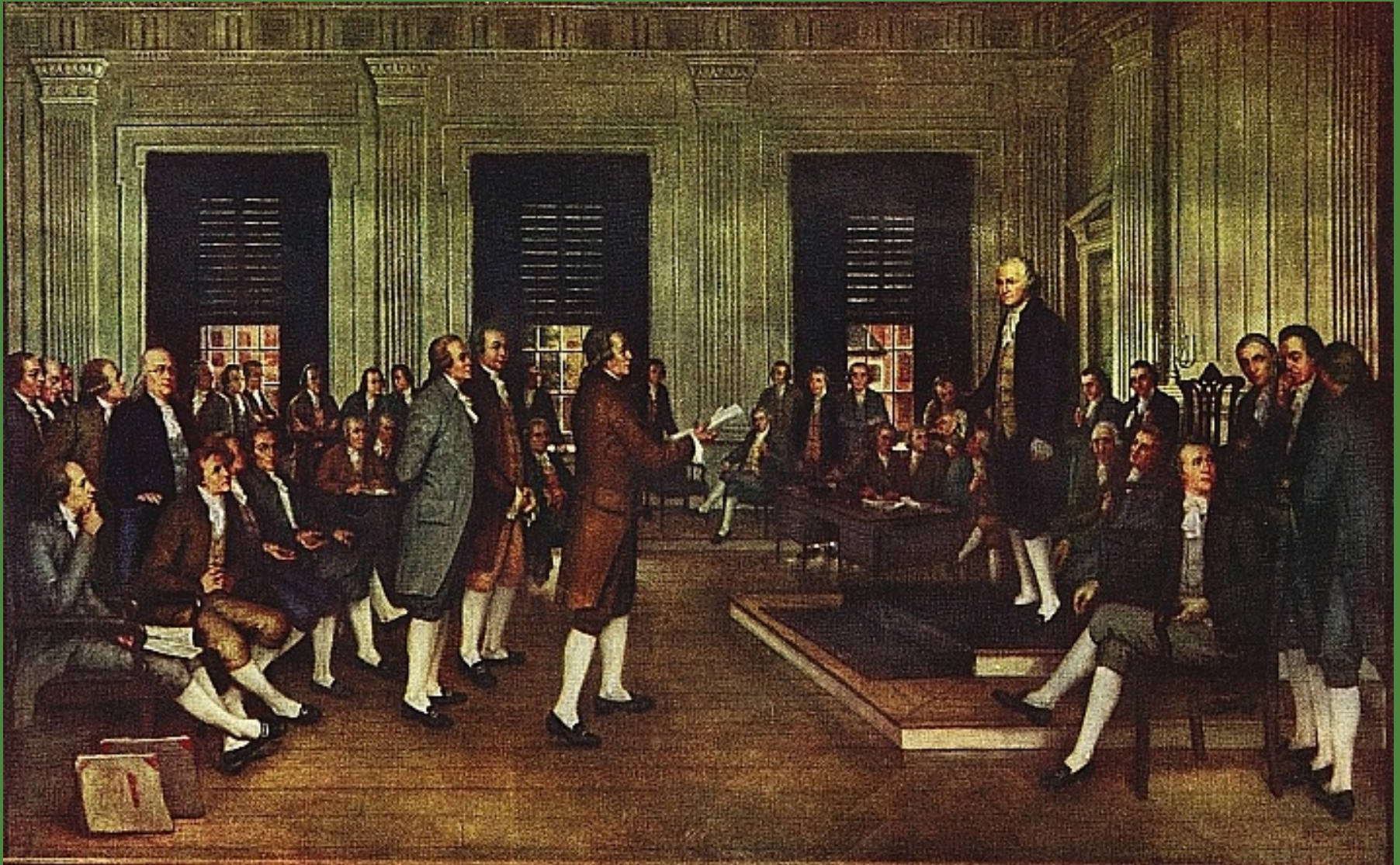


As one of the ten amendments that constitute the Bill of Rights, it was adopted on December 15, 1791. This image is courtesy of [freedomworks.org](https://freedomworks.org).



# The Constitution

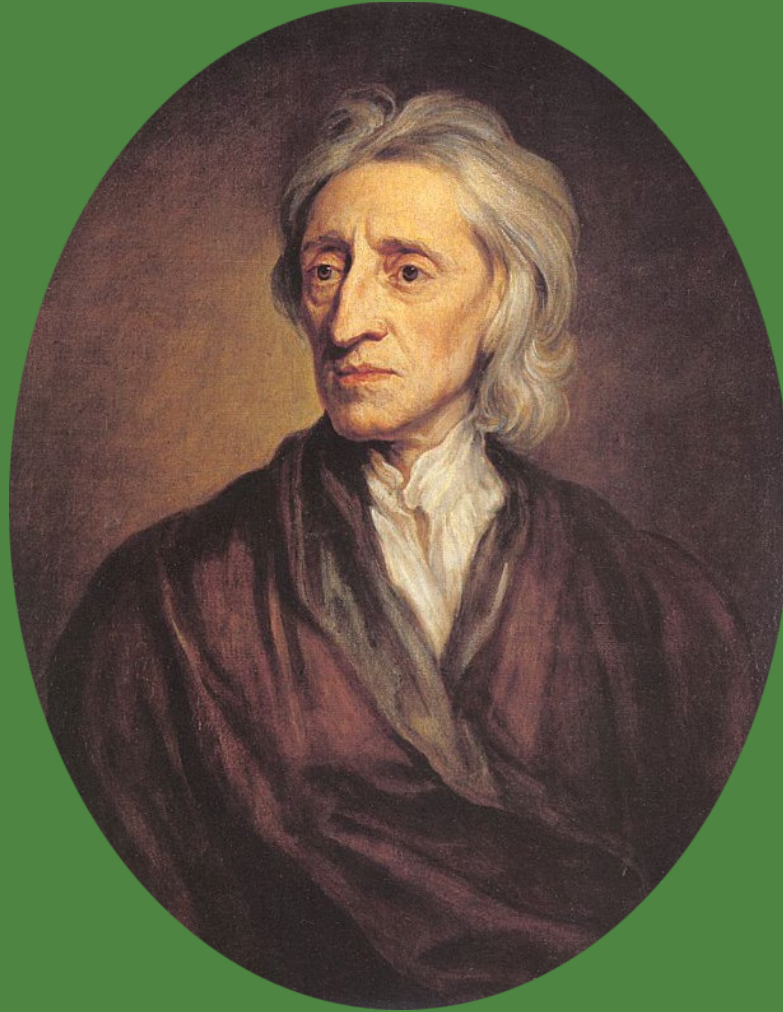
## People to Meet



This image of *The Adoption of the U.S. Constitution in Congress at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Sept. 17, 1787* was painted by John H. Froehlich. This image is courtesy of [teachingamericanhistory.org](http://teachingamericanhistory.org).



Enlightenment thinker whose political philosophy was that people had made a social contract with their government.

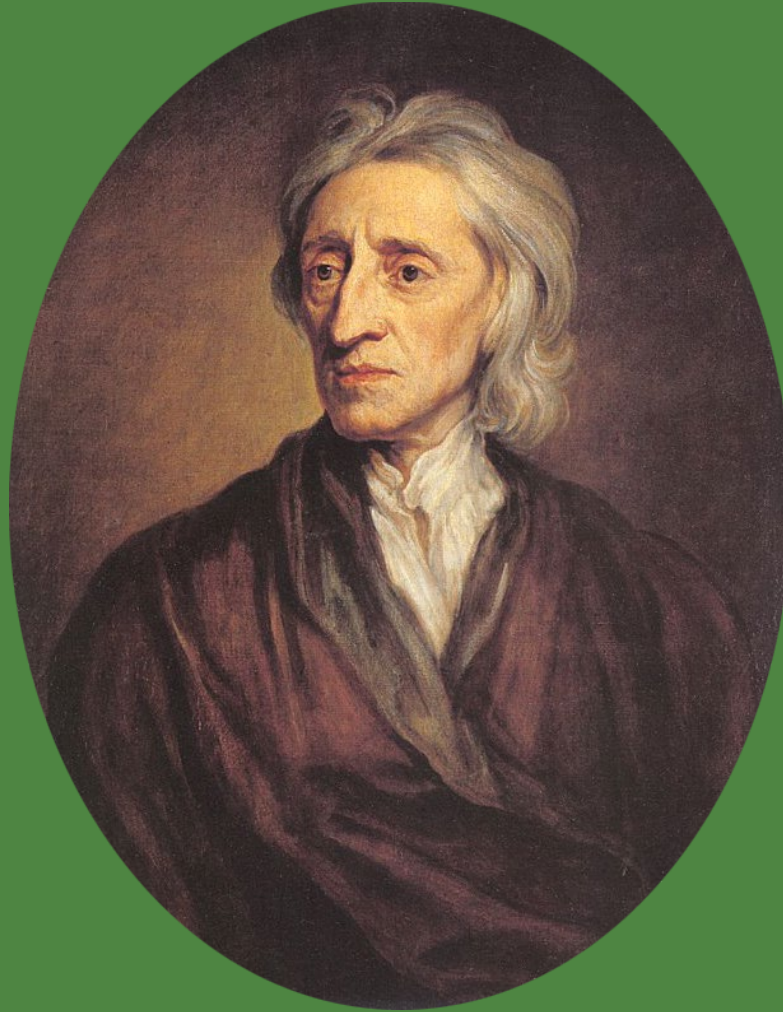


The social contract means that individuals have consented, to surrender some of their freedoms and submit to the authority of a government in exchange for protection of their remaining rights. This image of John Locke was painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723) in 1697. The painting is now in the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



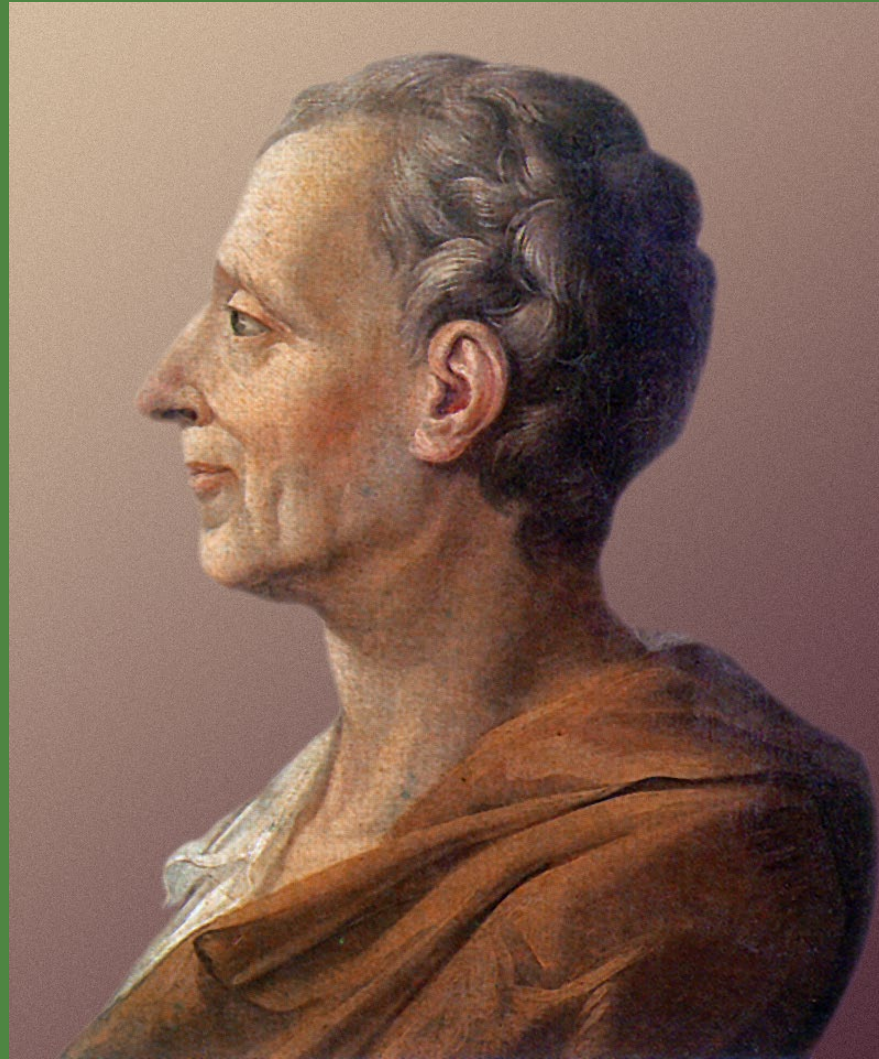
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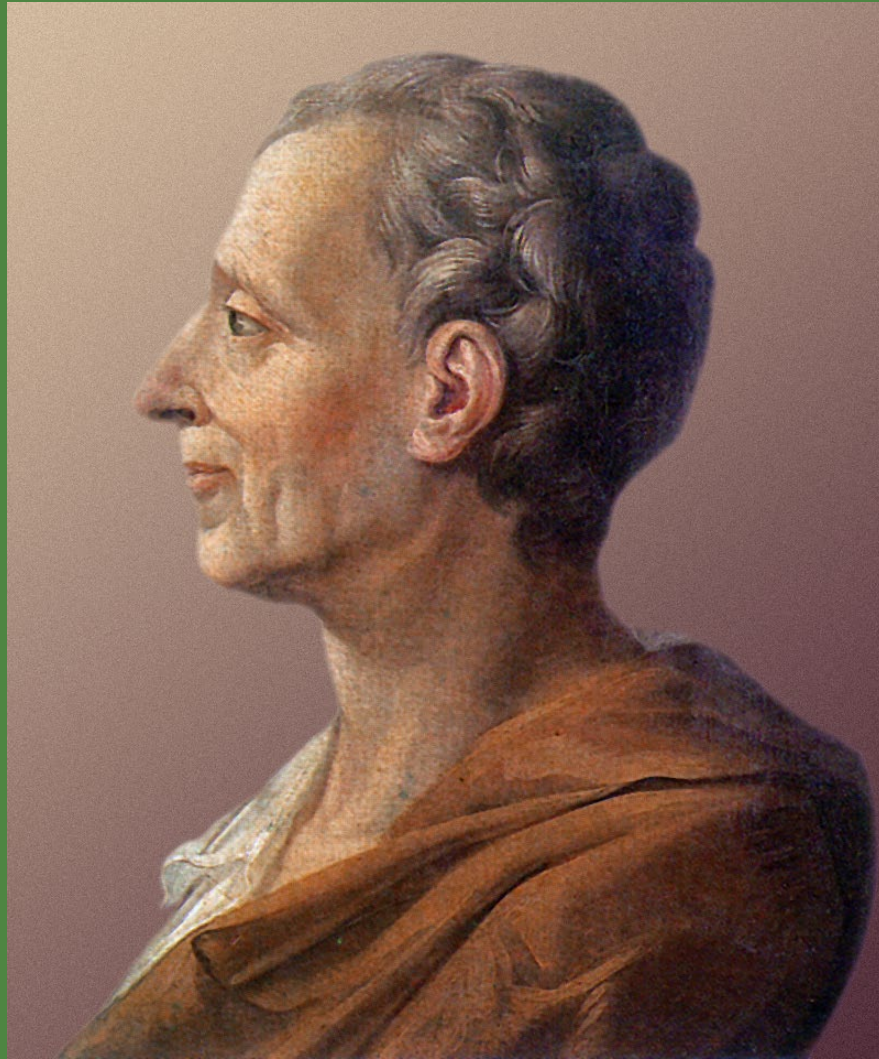
A French lawyer and philosopher whose ideas about “Separation of Powers” were adopted into the Constitution of the United States.



Charles-Louis de Secondat, Baron de La Brede et de Montesquieu (1689-1755) was a philosopher of the enlightenment. This painting was created by an unknown artist in 1728. This image is courtesy of the Palace of Versailles and of Wikimedia Commons.

## Baron de Montesquieu

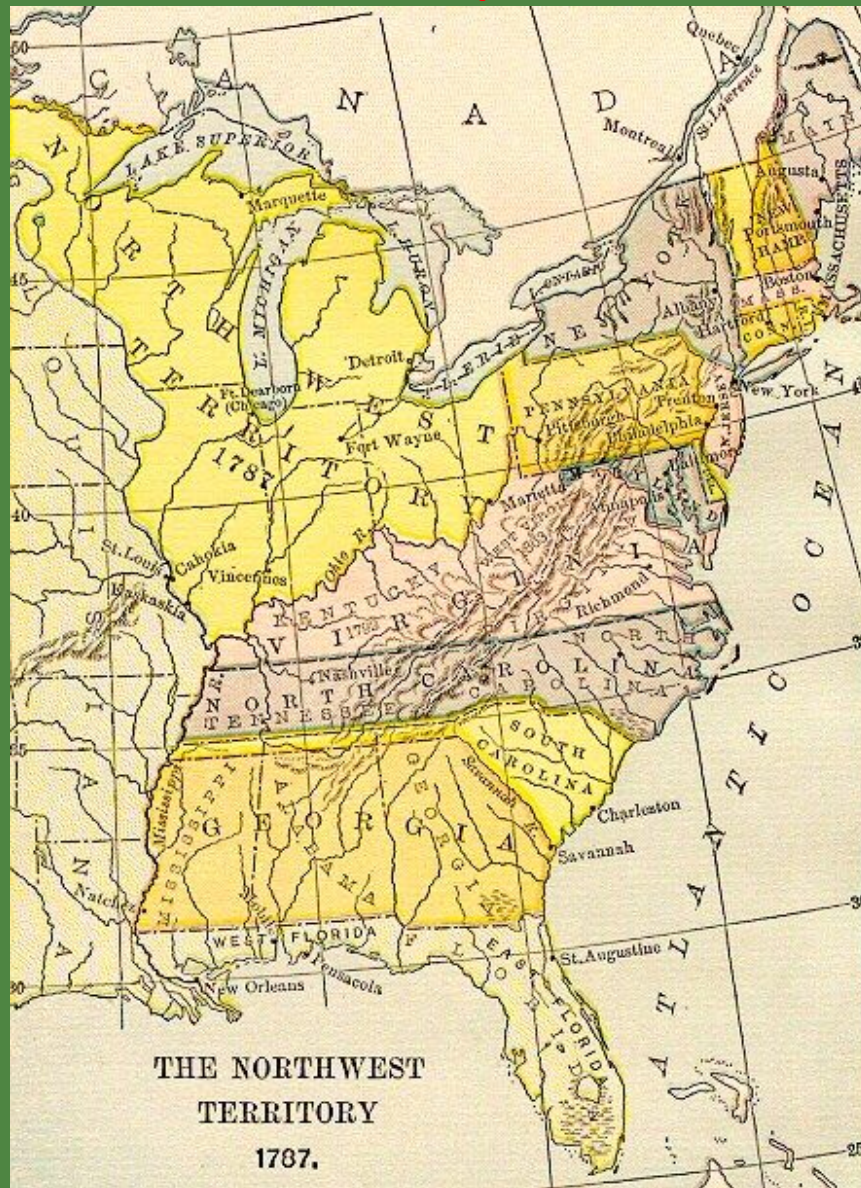
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# The Constitution Maps

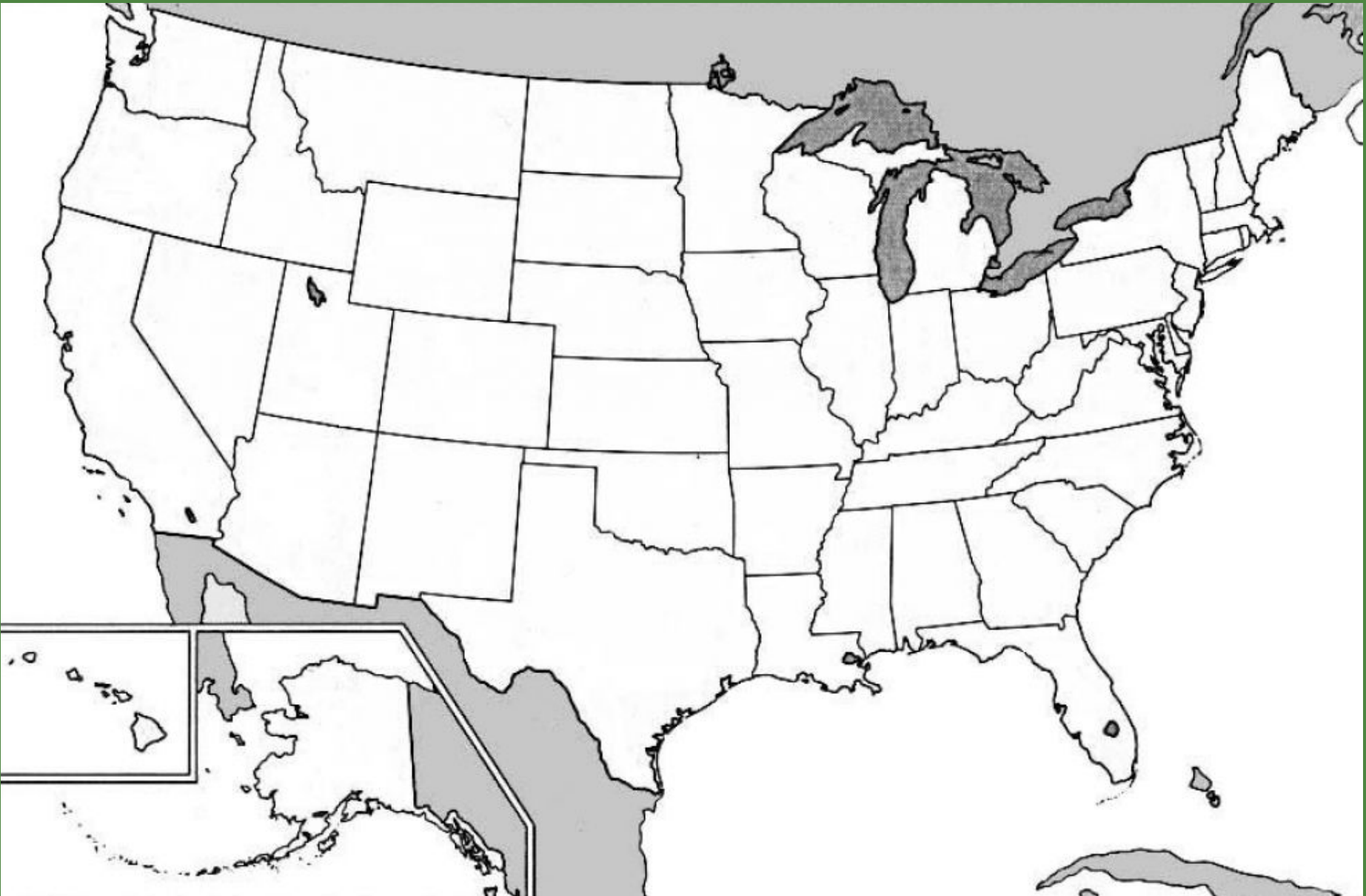


This image shows the United States and its territories in 1787. The image is courtesy of [earlyamerica.com](http://earlyamerica.com).



# Land Belonging to the United States During the Constitutional Convention

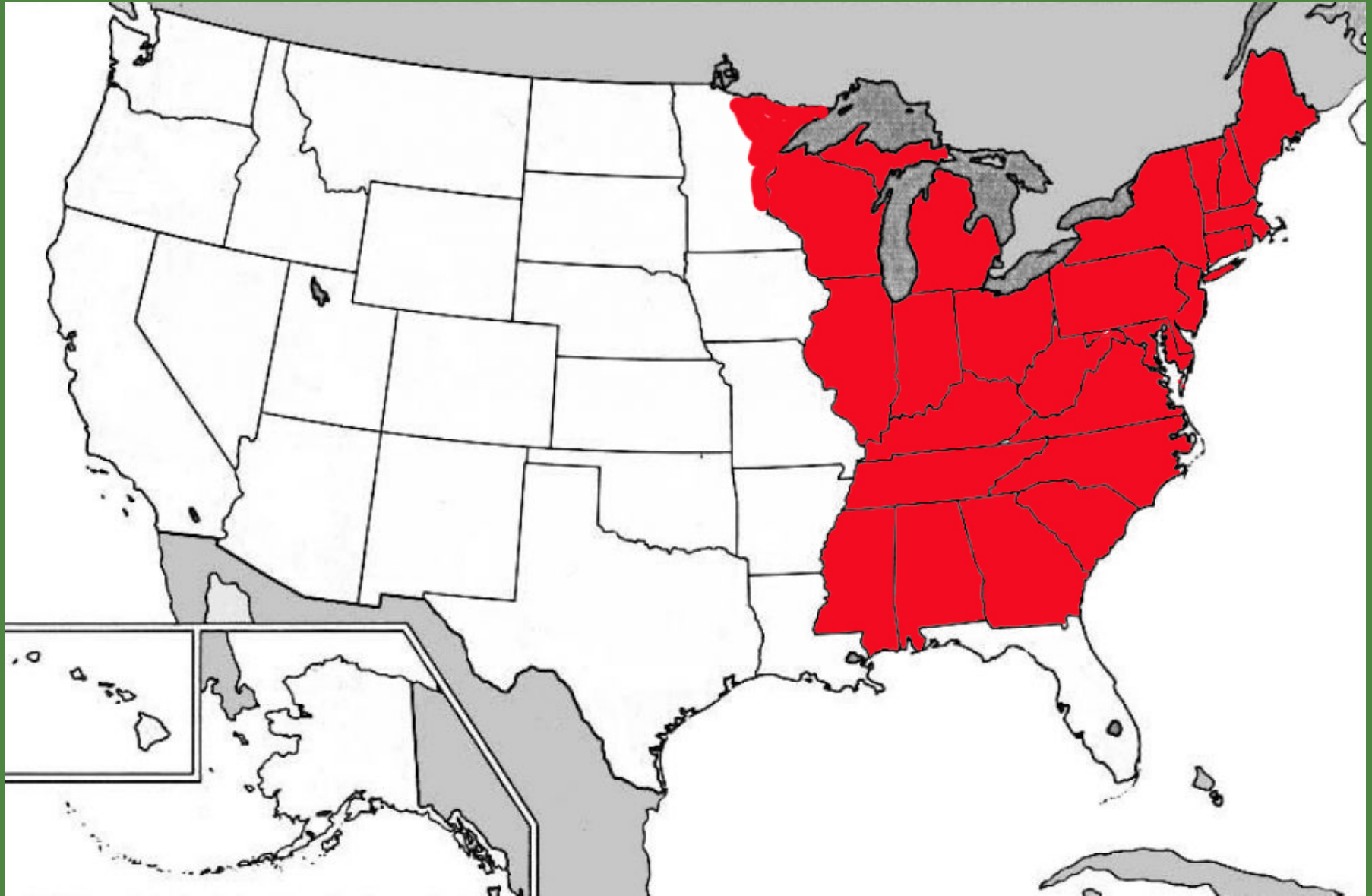
Find the Land Belonging to the United States during the Constitutional Convention on this map.



This map shows the present boundaries of the states. The image is courtesy of imageck.com.

# Land Belonging to the United States During the Constitutional Convention

Find the Land Belonging to the United States during the Constitutional Convention on this map.



The land belonging to the United States during the Confederation Era is now highlighted in red. This image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

## 13 Original States

Find the 13 original states on this map of the current United States.



This map shows the present boundaries of the states. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.



## 13 Original States

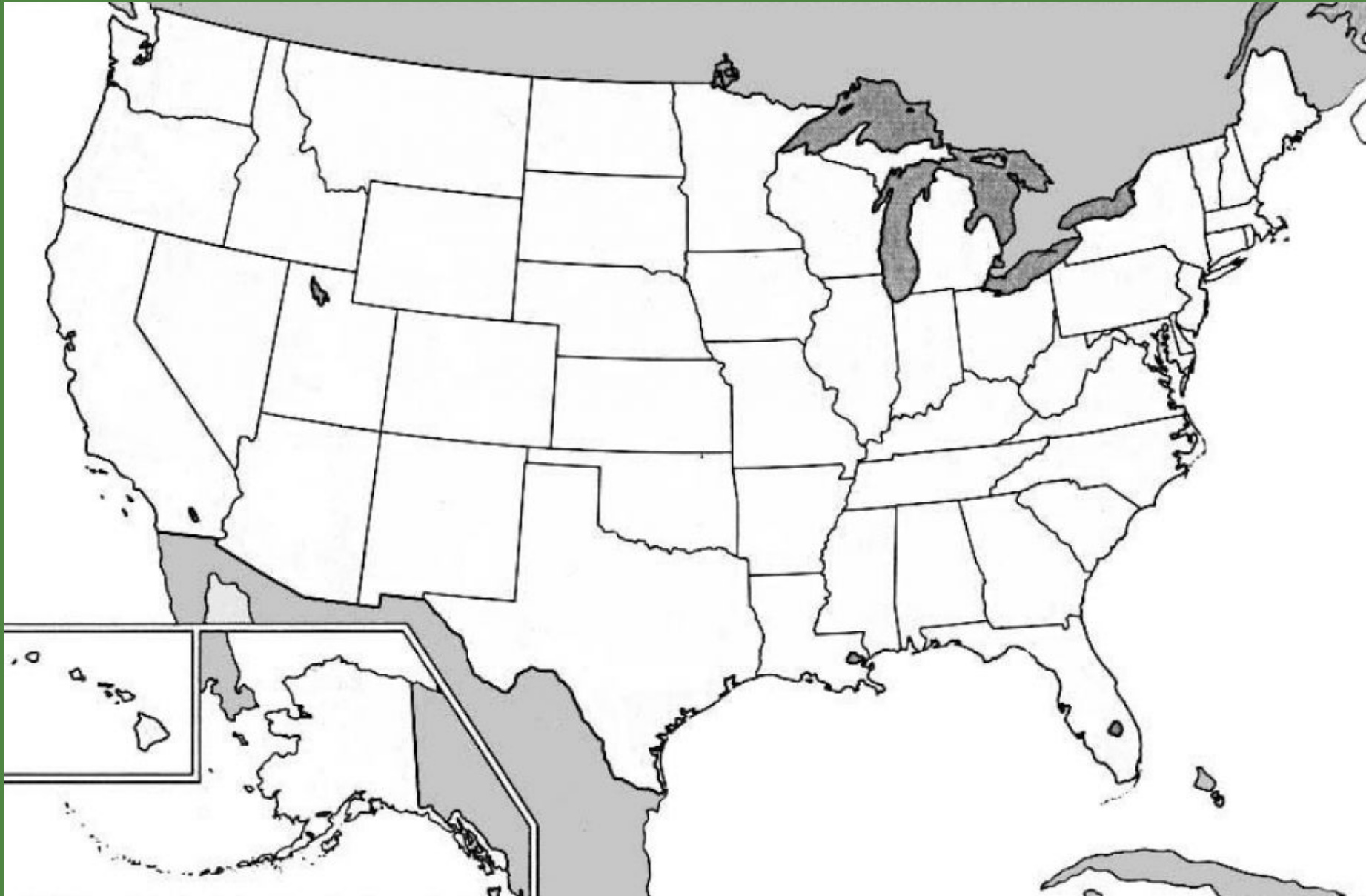
Find the 13 original states on this map of the current United States.



The 13 original states are now highlighted in red. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

# Philadelphia

Find Philadelphia on this map of the current United States.



This map shows the present boundaries of the states. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

# Philadelphia

Find Philadelphia on this map of the current United States.



Philadelphia is now marked by a red dot and the word "Philadelphia." The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.



# Virginia

Find Virginia on this map of the current United States.



This map shows the present boundaries of the states. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

# Virginia

Find Virginia on this map of the current United States.



Virginia is now colored red. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

# Rhode Island

Find Rhode Island on this map of the current United States.



This map shows the present boundaries of the states. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.



# Rhode Island

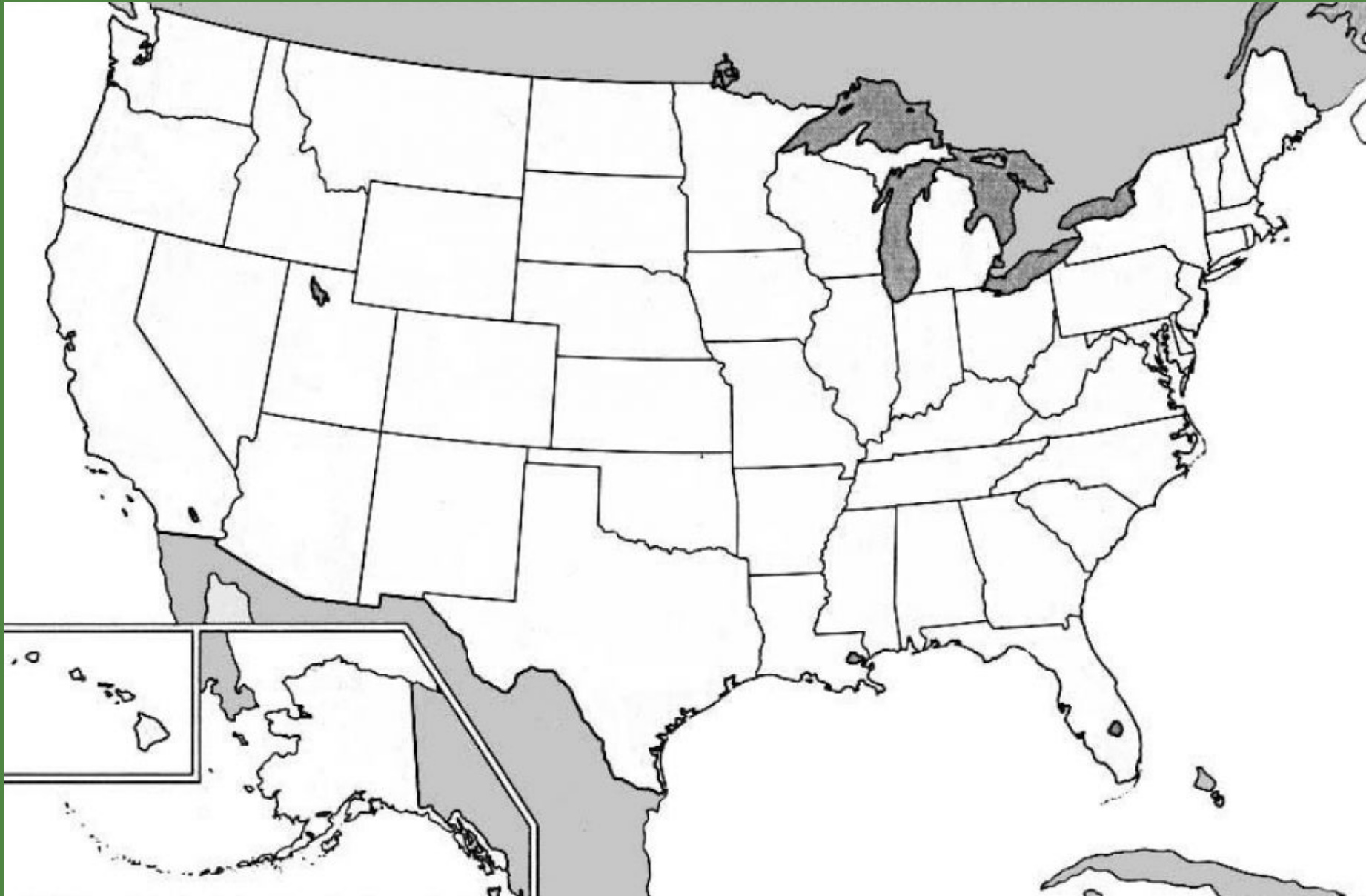
Find Rhode Island on this map of the current United States.



Rhode Island is now colored red. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

# New York

Find New York on this map of the current United States.



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# New York

Find New York on this map of the current United States.

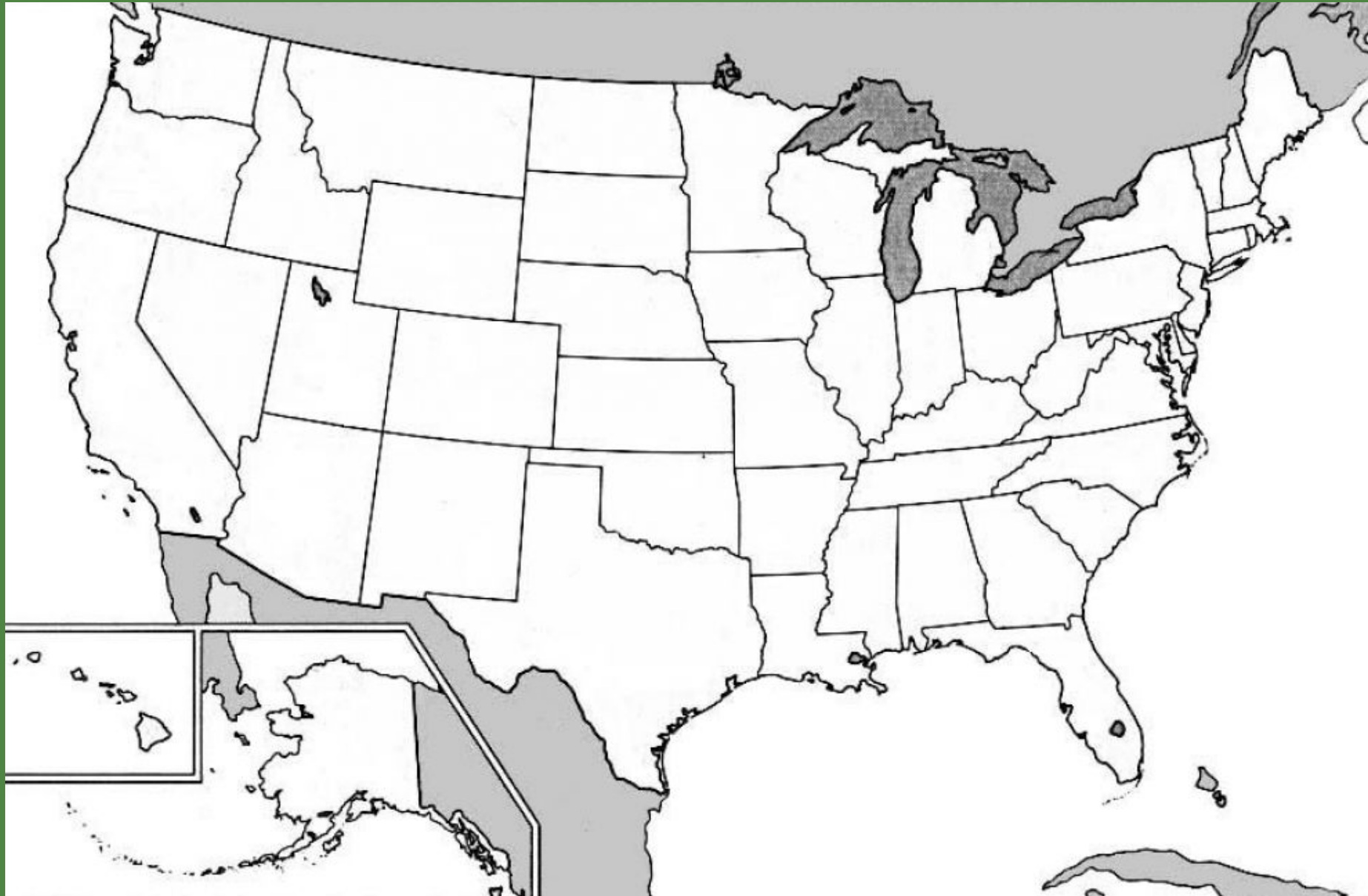


New York is now colored red. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.



# South Carolina

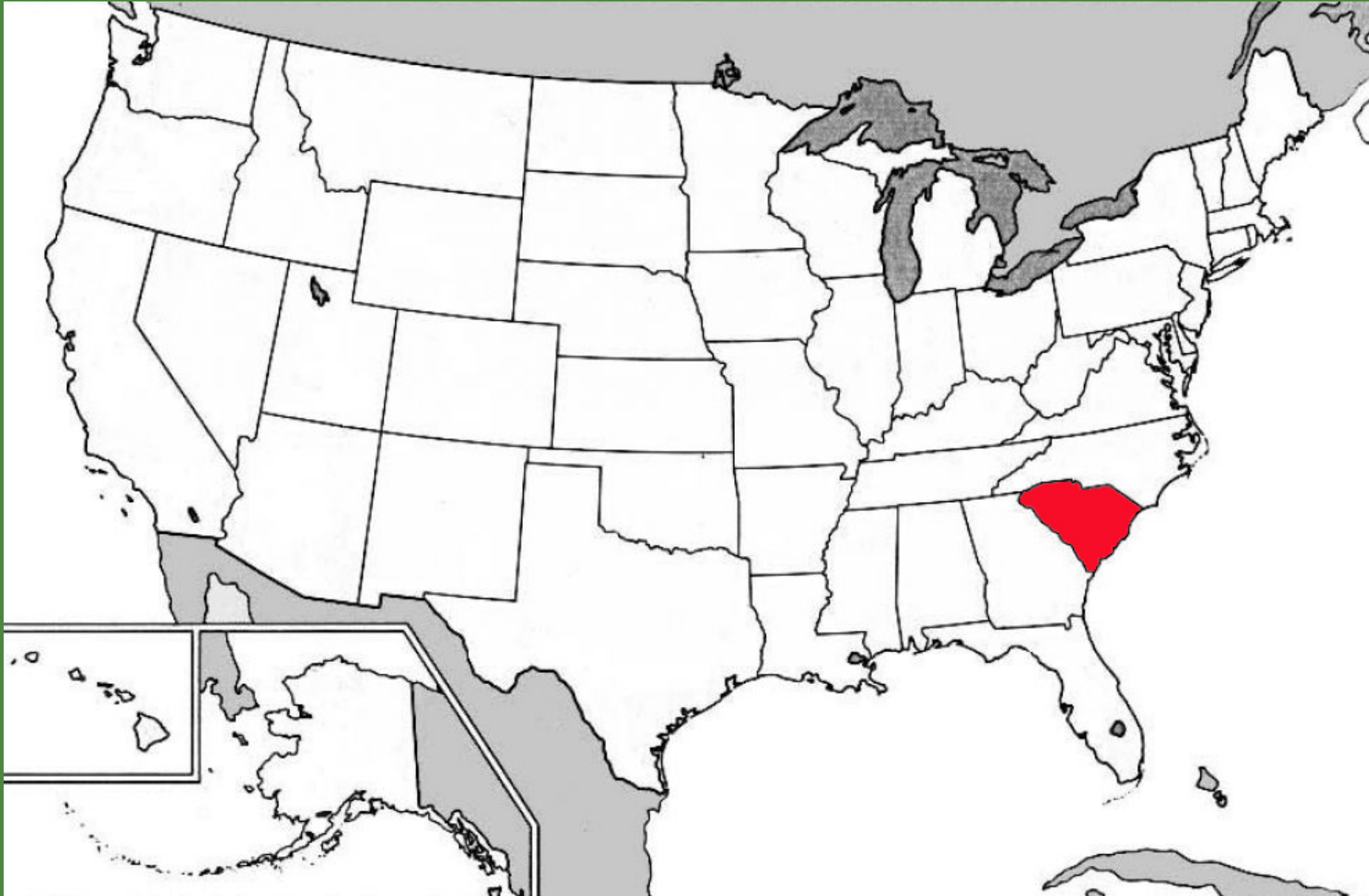
Find South Carolina on this map of the current United States.



This map shows the present boundaries of the states. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

# South Carolina

Find South Carolina on this map of the current United States.



South Carolina is now colored red. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

# New Hampshire

Find New Hampshire on this map of the current United States.



This map shows the present boundaries of the states. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.



# New Hampshire

Find New Hampshire on this map of the current United States.



New Hampshire is now colored red. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

# Maryland

Find Maryland on this map of the current United States.



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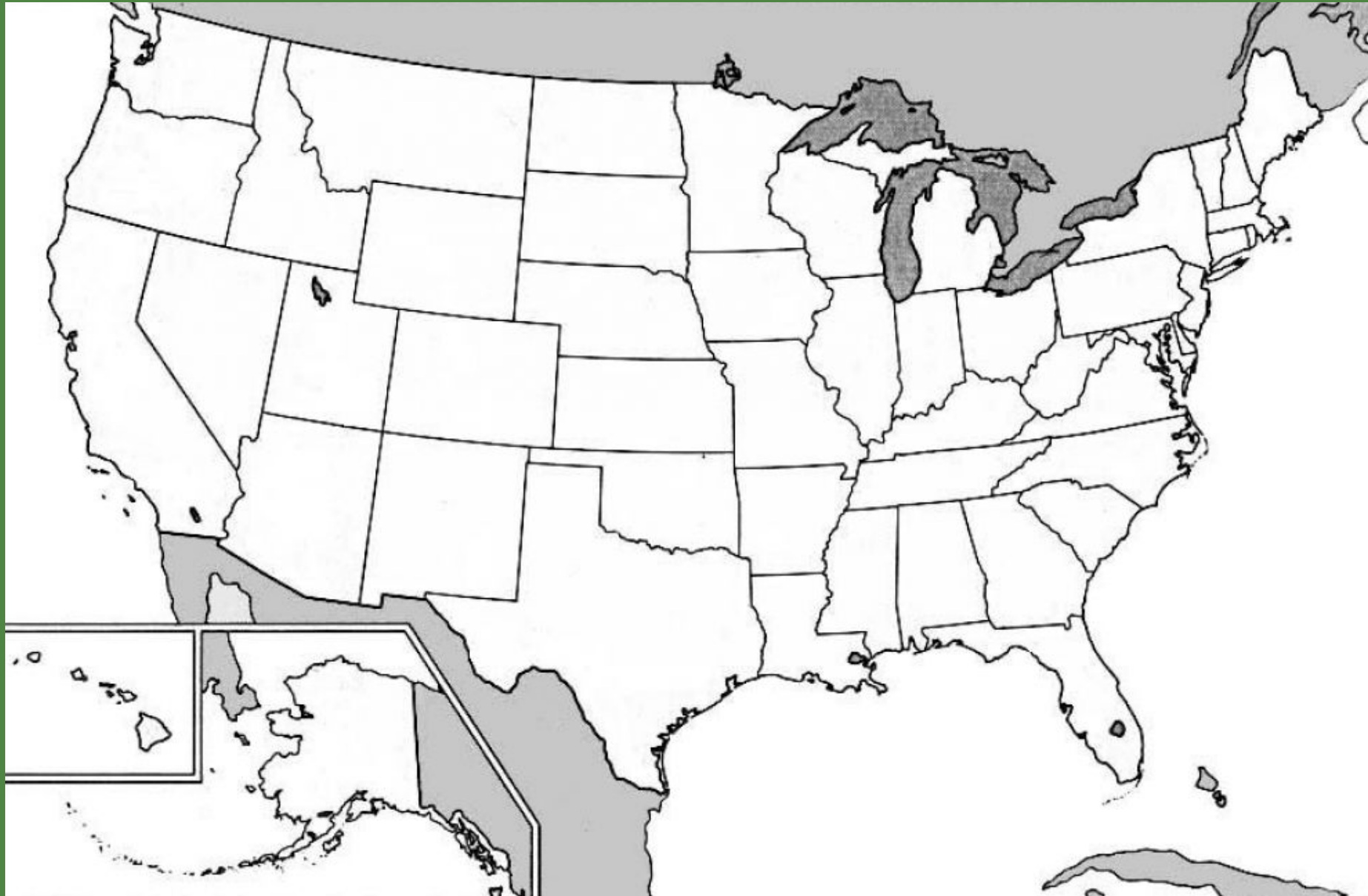


Maryland is now colored red. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.



# Connecticut

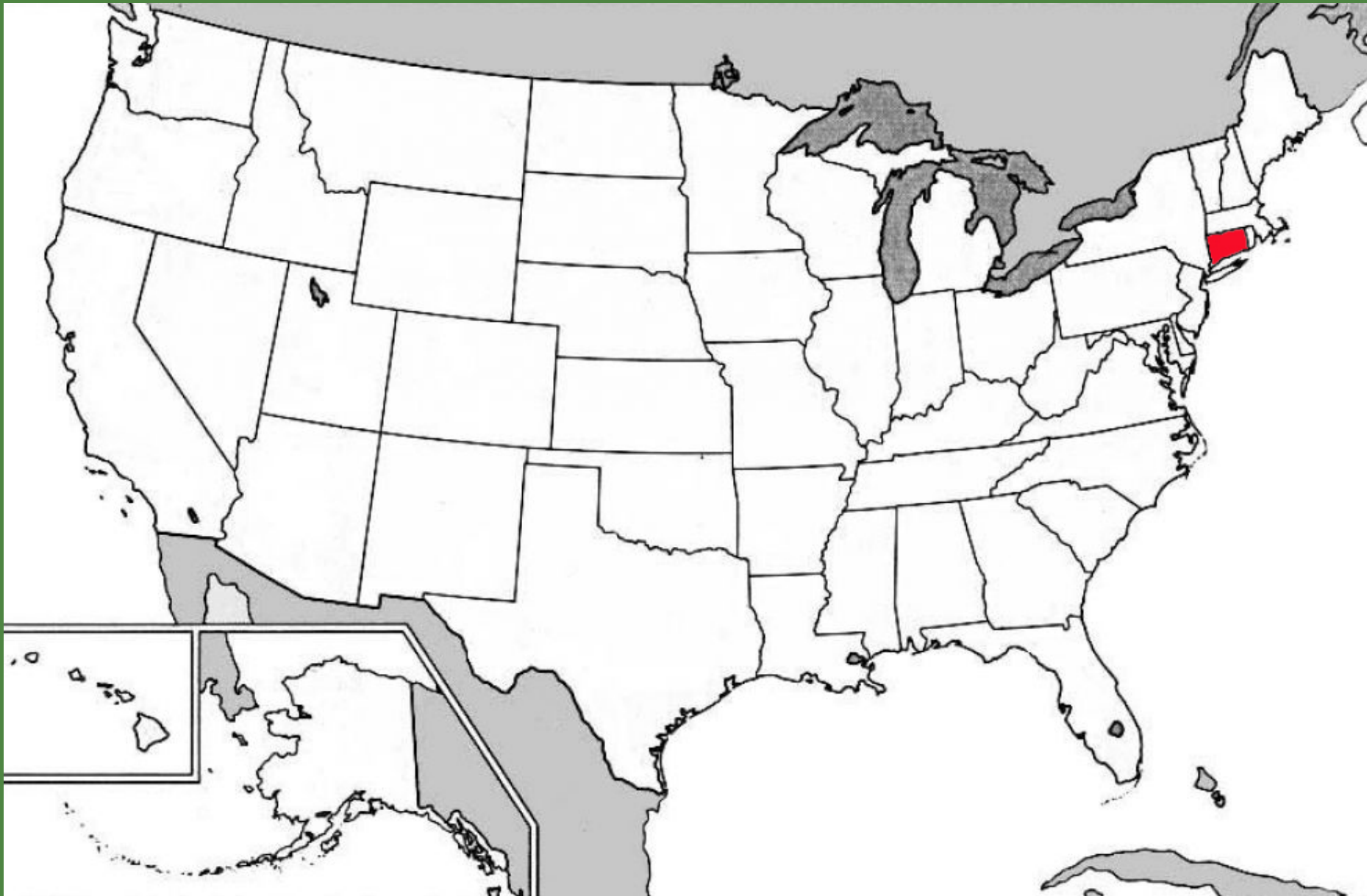
Find Connecticut on this map of the current United States.



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# Connecticut

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# Georgia

Find Georgia on this map of the current United States.

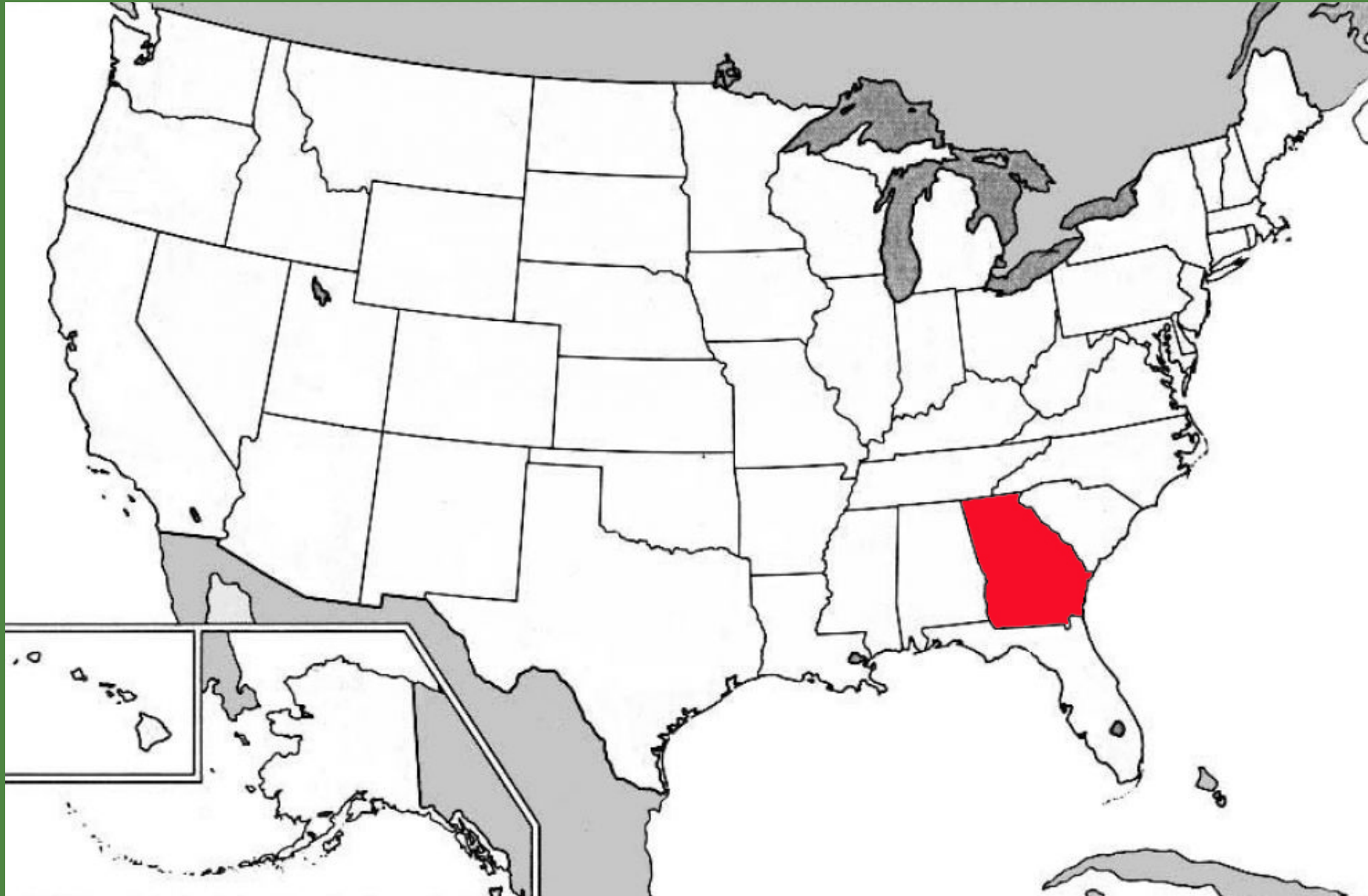


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# Georgia

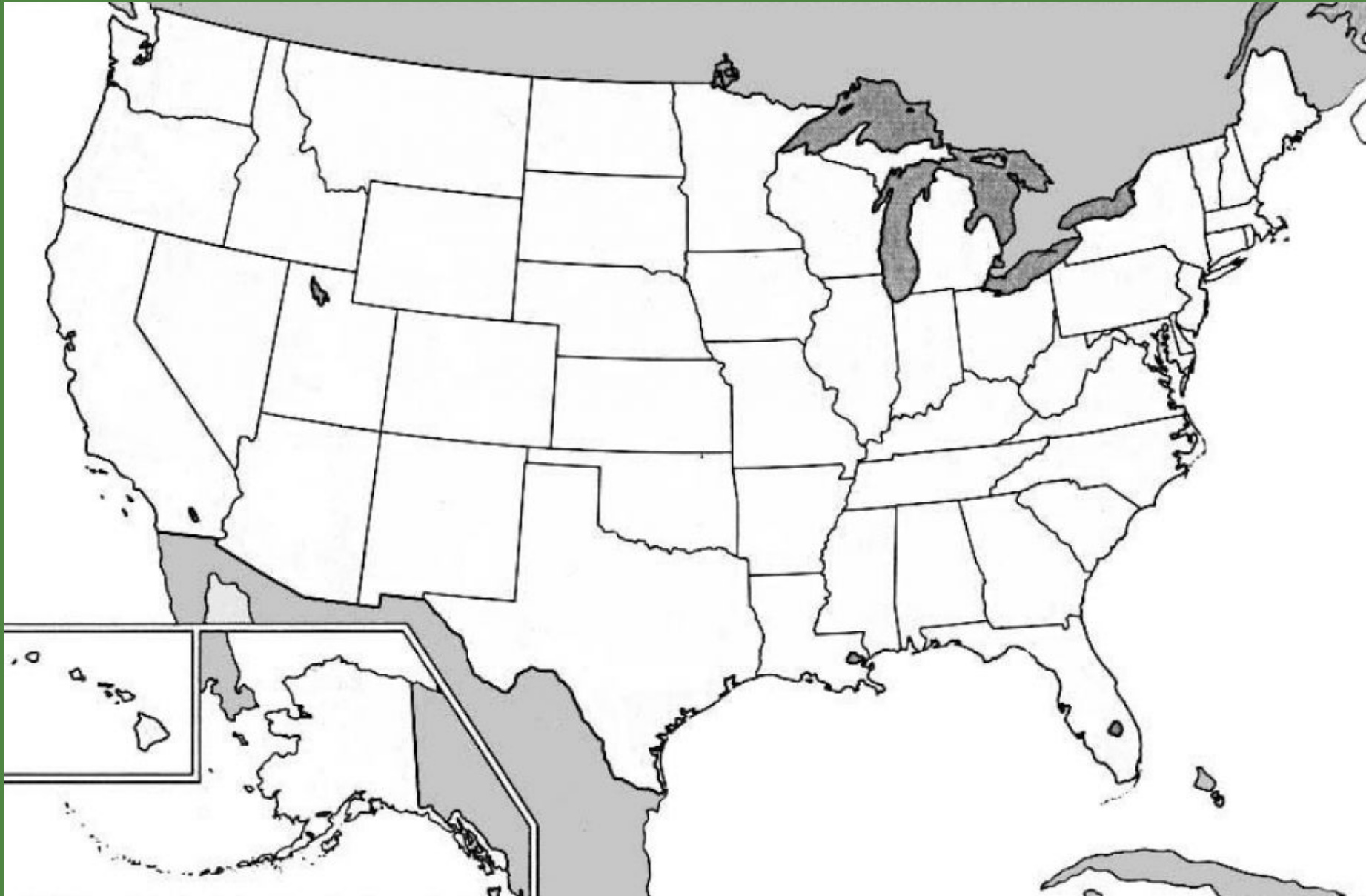
Find Georgia on this map of the current United States.



Georgia is now colored red. The image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

# Delaware

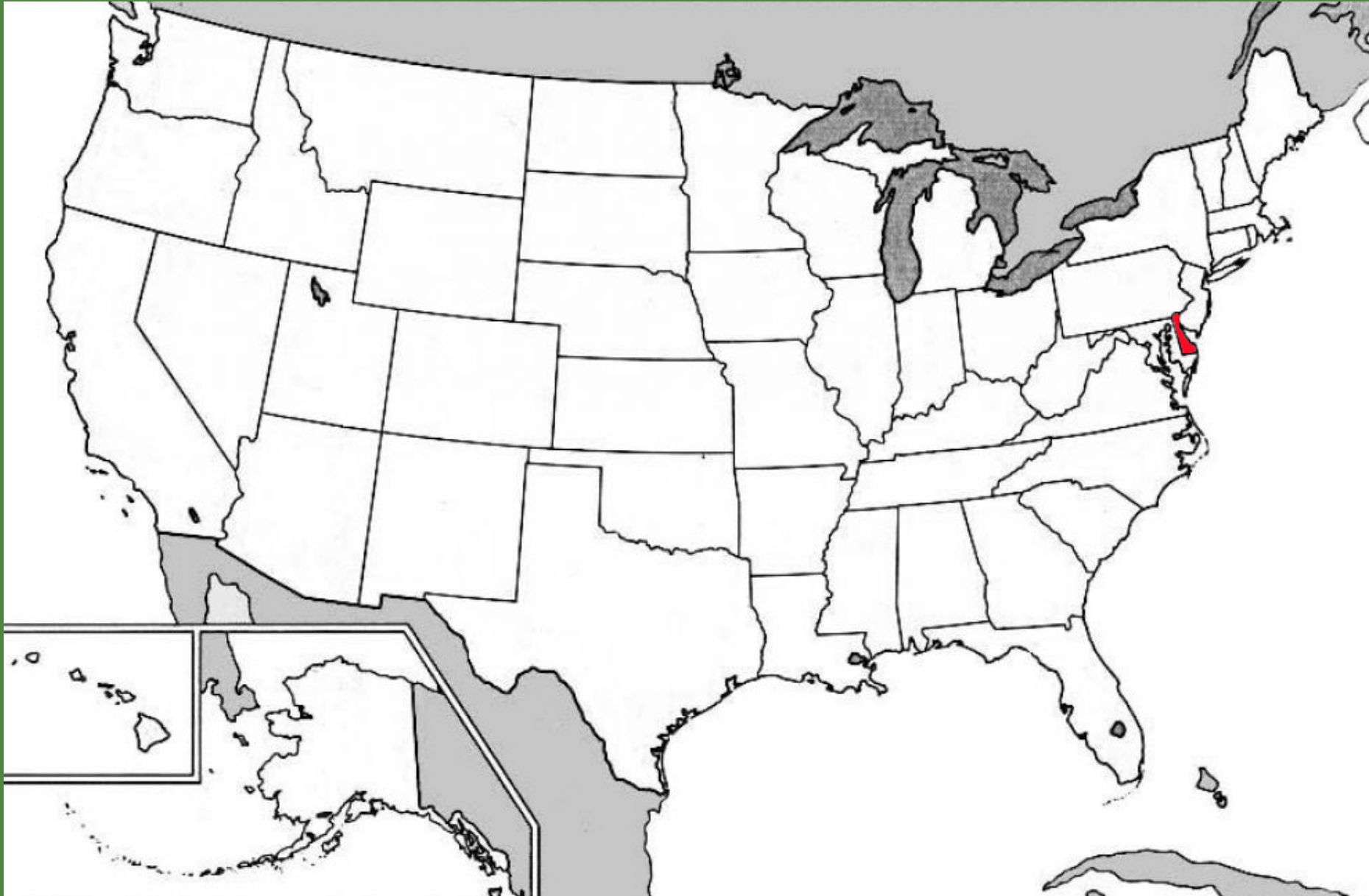
Find Delaware on this map of the current United States.



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# North Carolina

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# North Carolina

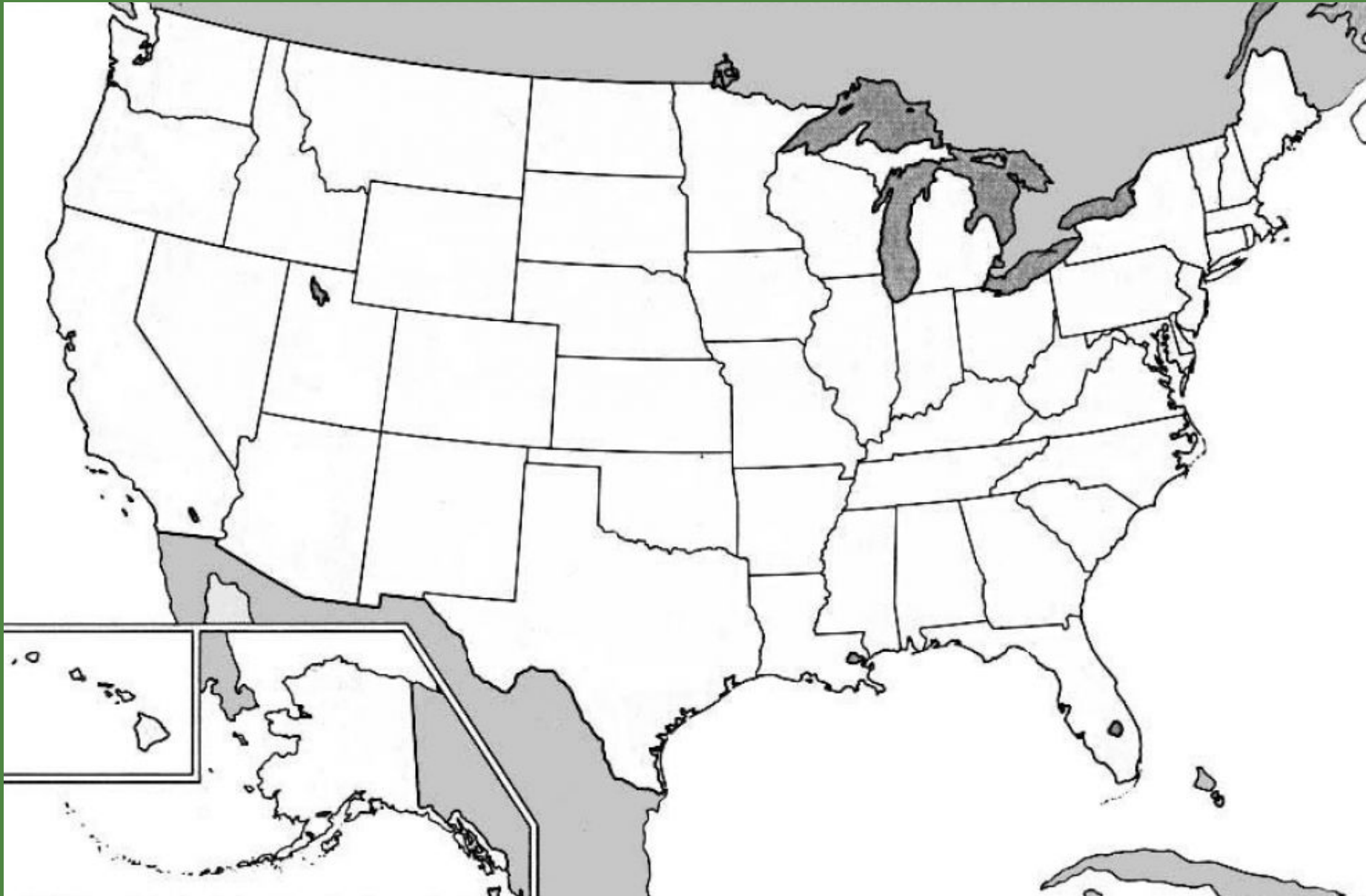
Find North Carolina on this map of the current United States.



North Carolina is now colored red. This image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

# New Jersey

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# New Jersey

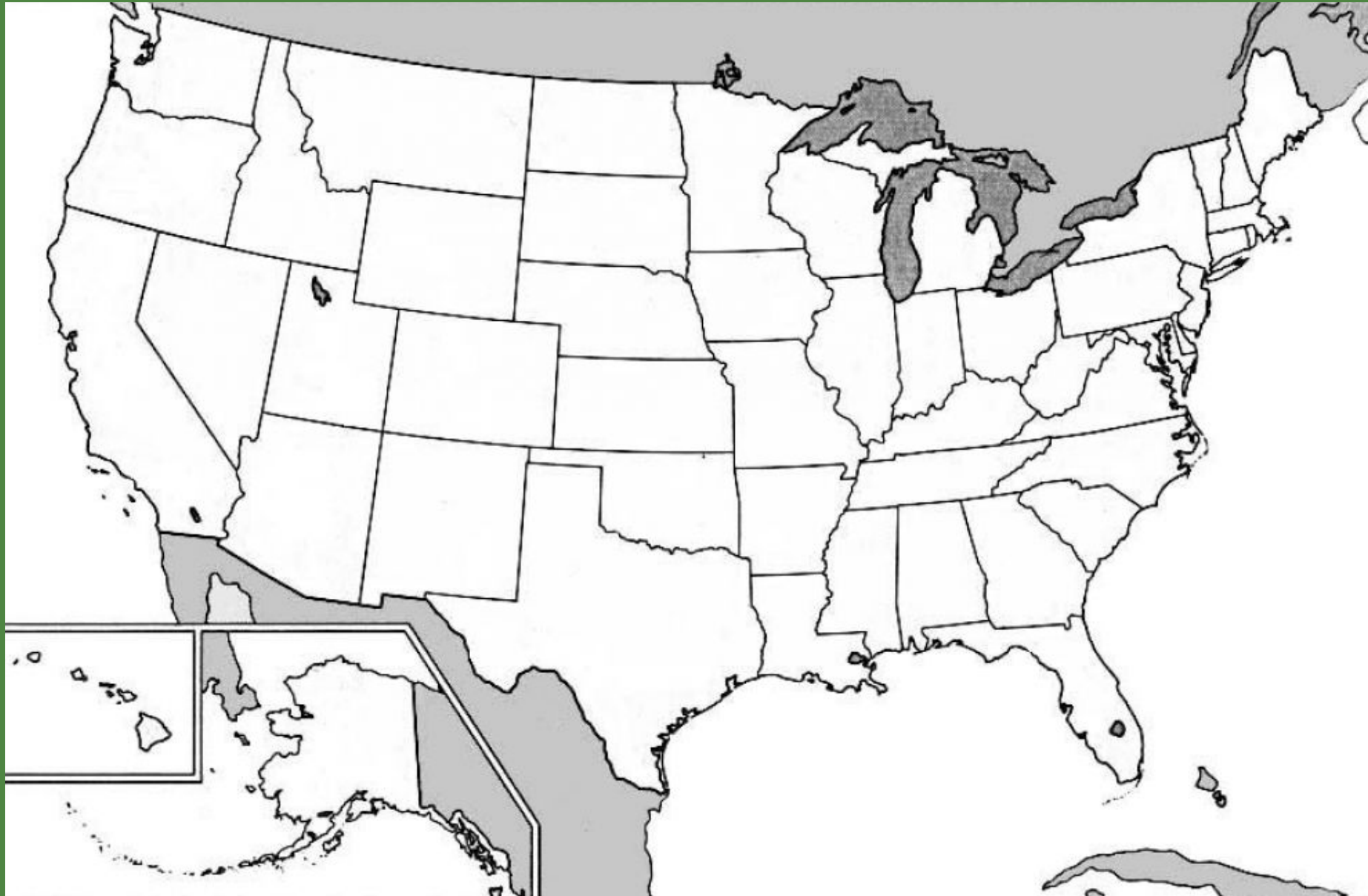
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New Jersey is now colored red. This image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

# Massachusetts

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# Massachusetts

Find Massachusetts on this map of the current United States.

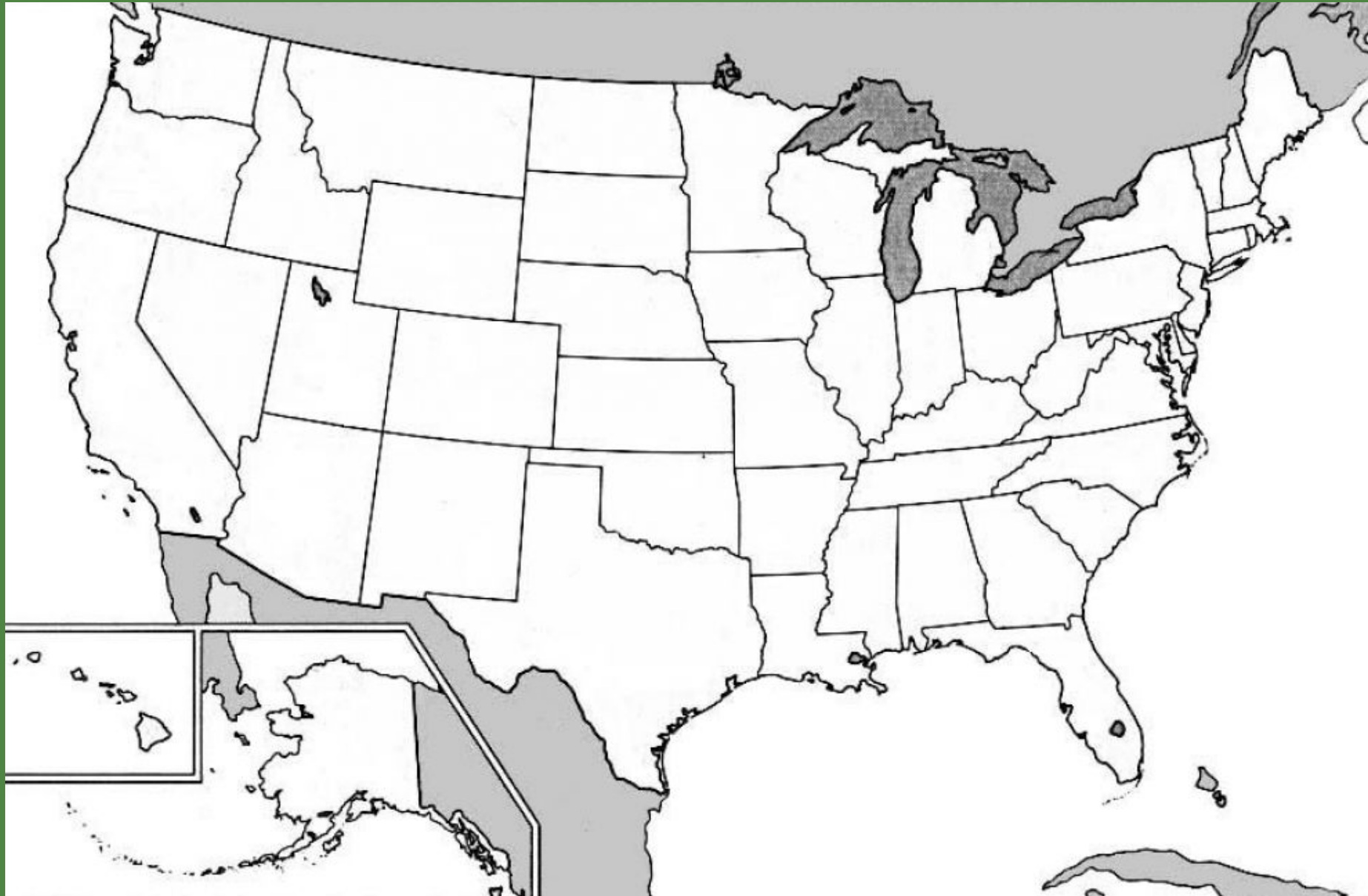


Massachusetts is now colored red. This image is courtesy of the University of Texas.



# Pennsylvania

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