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**TREATY SERIES No. 6 (1924).**

**TREATY**

BETWEEN

**The British Empire, France, Japan and the United States of America**

RELATING TO

**Their Insular Possessions and Insular Dominions in the Pacific Ocean, and accompanying Declaration,**

TOGETHER WITH

**Treaty Supplementary to the above Treaty**

AND

**Identic Communication to Netherlands and Portuguese Governments respecting the above Treaty.**

*Signed at Washington, December 18, 1921, and February 6, 1922.*

*[Ratifications exchanged at Washington, August 17, 1923.]*

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*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.*

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LONDON :

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE  
at the following addresses : Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and  
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1924

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Cmd. 2037.

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**Treaty between the British Empire, France, Japan and  
the United States of America relating to their Insular  
Possessions and Insular Dominions in the Pacific  
Ocean.—Washington, December 13, 1921.**

[Ratifications exchanged at Washington, August 17, 1923.]

THE United States of America, the British Empire, France and  
Japan,

With a view to the preservation of the general peace and the  
maintenance of their rights in relation to their insular possessions  
and insular dominions in the region of the Pacific Ocean;

Have determined to conclude a treaty to this effect and have  
appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

The President of the United States of America :

Charles Evans Hughes,  
Henry Cabot Lodge,  
Oscar W. Underwood, and  
Elihu Root,

Citizens of the United States ;

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas,  
Emperor of India :

The Right Honourable Arthur James Balfour, O.M., M.P.,  
Lord President of His Privy Council ;

The Right Honourable Baron Lee of Fareham, G.B.E.,  
K.C.B., First Lord of His Admiralty ;

The Right Honourable Sir Auckland Campbell Geddes,  
K.C.B., His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipo-  
tentiary to the United States of America ;

and

for the Dominion of Canada :

The Right Honourable Sir Robert Laird Borden, G.C.M.G.,  
K.C. ;

for the Commonwealth of Australia :

The Honourable George Foster Pearce, Minister of Defence ;

for the Dominion of New Zealand :

Sir John William Salmond, K.C., Judge of the Supreme  
Court of New Zealand ;

for the Union of South Africa :

The Right Honourable Arthur James Balfour, O.M., M.P. ;

for India :

The Right Honourable Valingman Sankaranarayana Srinivasa  
Sastri, Member of the Indian Council of State ;

The President of the French Republic :

Mr. René Viviani, Deputy, Former President of the Council of Ministers ;

Mr. Albert Sarraut, Deputy, Minister of the Colonies ;

Mr. Jules J. Jusserand, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America, Grand Cross of the National Order of the Legion of Honour ;

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan :

Baron Tomosaburo Kato, Minister for the Navy, Junii, a member of the First Class of the Imperial Order of the Grand Cordon of the Rising Sun with the Paulownia Flower ;

Baron Kijuro Shidehara, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Washington, Jushii, a member of the First Class of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun ;

Prince Iyesato Tokugawa, Junii, a member of the First Class of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun ;

Mr. Masanoa Hanihara, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jushii, a member of the Second Class of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun ;

Who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :—

#### I.

The High Contracting Parties agree as between themselves to respect their rights in relation to their insular possessions and insular dominions in the region of the Pacific Ocean.

If there should develop between any of the High Contracting Parties a controversy arising out of any Pacific question and involving their said rights which is not satisfactorily settled by diplomacy and is likely to affect the harmonious accord now happily subsisting between them, they shall invite the other High Contracting Parties to a joint conference to which the whole subject will be referred for consideration and adjustment.

#### II.

If the said rights are threatened by the aggressive action of any other Power, the High Contracting Parties shall communicate with one another fully and frankly in order to arrive at an understanding as to the most efficient measures to be taken, jointly or separately, to meet the exigencies of the particular situation.

#### III.

This Treaty shall remain in force for ten years from the time it shall take effect, and after the expiration of said period it shall continue to be in force subject to the right of any of the High Contracting Parties to terminate it upon twelve months' notice.

## IV.

This Treaty shall be ratified as soon as possible in accordance with the constitutional methods of the High Contracting Parties and shall take effect on the deposit of ratifications, which shall take place at Washington, and thereupon the agreement between Great Britain and Japan, which was concluded at London on the 13th July, 1911, shall terminate. The Government of the United States will transmit to all the Signatory Powers a certified copy of the *procès-verbal* of the deposit of ratifications.

The present Treaty, in French and in English, shall remain deposited in the archives of the Government of the United States, and duly certified copies thereof will be transmitted by that Government to each of the Signatory Powers.

In faith whereof the above-named Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Treaty.

Done at the City of Washington, the 13th day of December, 1921.

	CHARLES EVANS HUGHES.	(L.S.)
	HENRY CABOT LODGE.	(L.S.)
	OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD.	(L.S.)
	ELIHU ROOT.	(L.S.)
	ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.	(L.S.)
	LEE OF FAREHAM.	(L.S.)
	A. C. GEDDES.	(L.S.)
(L.S.)	R. L. BORDEN.	
(L.S.)	G. F. PEARCE.	
(L.S.)	JOHN W. SALMOND.	
(L.S.)	ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.	
(L.S.)	V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI.	
(L.S.)	RENE VIVIANI.	
(L.S.)	A. SARRAUT.	
(L.S.)	JUSSERAND.	
(L.S.)	T. KATO.	
(L.S.)	K. SHIDEHARA.	
(L.S.)	TOKUGAWA IYESATO.	
(L.S.)	M. HANIHARA.	

**Declaration accompanying the Treaty of December 13, 1921, between the British Empire, France, Japan and the United States of America, relating to their Insular Possessions and Insular Dominions in the Pacific Ocean.—Washington, December 13, 1921.**

IN signing the Treaty this day between the United States of America, the British Empire, France and Japan, it is declared to be the understanding and intent of the Signatory Powers :

1. That the Treaty shall apply to the Mandated Islands in the Pacific Ocean; provided, however, that the making of the Treaty

shall not be deemed to be an assent on the part of the United States of America to the mandates and shall not preclude agreements between the United States of America and the Mandatory Powers respectively in relation to the mandated islands.

2. That the controversies to which the second paragraph of Article I refers shall not be taken to embrace questions which according to principles of international law lie exclusively within the domestic jurisdiction of the respective Powers.

Washington, D.C., 18th December, 1921.

CHARLES EVANS HUGHES.  
HENRY CABOT LODGE.  
OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD.  
ELIHU ROOT.  
ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.  
LEE OF FAREHAM.  
A. C. GEDDES.  
R. L. BORDEN.  
G. F. PEARCE.  
JOHN W. SALMOND.  
ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.  
V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI.  
RENE VIVIANI.  
A. SARRAUT.  
JUSSERAND.  
T. KATO.  
K. SHIDEHARA.  
TOKUGAWA IYESATO.  
M. HANIHARA.

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**Protocol of Deposit of Ratifications of the Treaty  
between the British Empire, France, Japan and the  
United States of America, relating to their Insular  
Possessions and Insular Dominions in the Pacific  
Ocean, concluded at Washington, December 13, 1921.**

IN conformity with Article 4 of the treaty between the United States of America, the British Empire, France and Japan, relating to their insular possessions and insular dominions in the region of the Pacific Ocean, concluded at Washington on 13th December, 1921, the undersigned representatives of the United States of America, the British Empire, France and Japan, this day met at the Department of State at Washington, to proceed with the deposit with the Government of the United States of America of the instruments of ratification of the said treaty by the Governments they represent.

The representative of the United States of America declared that

the instrument of ratification of the United States is deposited with the reservation and understanding, recited in the ratification, that—

“The United States understands that under the statement in the preamble or under the terms of this treaty there is no commitment to armed force, no alliance, no obligation to join in any defence.”

The instruments of ratification produced, having been found upon examination to be in due form, are entrusted to the Government of the United States of America to be deposited in the archives of the Department of State.

In witness whereof, the present *procès-verbal*, of which a certified copy will be sent by the Government of the United States of America to each one of the Powers signatory to the said treaty, is signed :

Done at Washington, the 17th August, 1923, at 12 o'clock.

For the United States :

CHARLES EVANS HUGHES. (L.S.)

For the British Empire :

H. G. CHILTON. (L.S.)

For France :

ANDRÉ de LABOULAYE. (L.S.)

For Japan :

M. HANIHARA. (L.S.)

**Treaty between the British Empire, France, Japan and the United States of America, supplementary to the Quadruple Pacific Treaty of the 13th December, 1921. Washington, February 6, 1922.**

THE United States of America, the British Empire, France and Japan have, through their respective Plenipotentiaries, agreed upon the following stipulations supplementary to the Quadruple Treaty signed at Washington on the 13th December, 1921 :

The term “insular possessions and insular dominions” used in the aforesaid Treaty shall, in its application to Japan, include only Karafuto (or the southern portion of the island of Sakhalin), Formosa and the Pescadores, and the islands under the mandate of Japan.

The present agreement shall have the same force and effect as the said Treaty to which it is supplementary.

The provisions of Article IV of the aforesaid Treaty of the 13th December, 1921, relating to ratification shall be applicable to the present agreement, which in French and English shall remain deposited in the archives of the Government of the United States, and duly certified copies thereof shall be transmitted by that Government to each of the other Contracting Powers.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present agreement.

Done at the City of Washington, the 6th day of February, 1922.

	CHARLES EVANS HUGHES.	(L.S.)
	HENRY CABOT LODGE.	(L.S.)
	OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD.	(L.S.)
(L.S.)	ELIHU ROOT.	
(L.S.)	ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.	
(L.S.)	LEE OF FAREHAM.	
(L.S.)	A. C. GEDDES.	
(L.S.)	R. L. BORDEN.	
(L.S.)	G. F. PEARCE.	
(L.S.)	JOHN W. SALMOND.	
(L.S.)	ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.	
(L.S.)	V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI.	
	A. SARRAUT.	(L.S.)
	JUSSERAND.	(L.S.)
	T. KATO.	(L.S.)
	K. SHIDEHARA.	(L.S.)
	M. HANIHARA.	(L.S.)

**Protocol of Deposit of Ratifications of the Treaty between the British Empire, France, Japan and the United States of America, concluded at Washington, February 6, 1922, supplementary to the Treaty concluded between the same four Powers on December 13, 1921, relating to their Insular Possessions and Insular Dominions in the Pacific Ocean.**

In conformity with the agreement between the United States of America, the British Empire, France and Japan, concluded at Washington on 6th February, 1922, supplementary to the treaty concluded between the same four Powers at Washington on 13th December, 1921, relating to their insular possessions and insular dominions in the region of the Pacific Ocean, the undersigned representatives of the United States of America, the British Empire, France and Japan this day met at the Department of State at Washington to proceed with the deposit with the Government of the United States of America of the instruments of ratification of the said agreement by the Governments they respectively represent.

The representative of the United States of America declared that the instrument of ratification of the United States is deposited with the reservation and understanding recited in the ratification, and which repeats the declaration of intent and understanding signed on 13th December, 1921, by the plenipotentiaries of the four Powers signatories of the treaty of the 13th December, 1921, as follows:—

“1. That the Four-Power Treaty relating to Pacific possessions shall apply to the mandated islands in the Pacific Ocean, provided, however, that the making of the treaty shall not be

deemed to be an assent on the part of the United States of America to the mandates and shall not preclude agreements between the United States of America and the Mandatory Powers respectively in relation to the mandated islands.

"2. That the controversies to which the second paragraph of Article 1 of the Four-Power Treaty relating to Pacific possessions refers shall not be taken to embrace questions which according to principles of international law lie exclusively within the domestic jurisdiction of the respective Powers."

The instruments of ratification produced, having been found upon examination to be in due form, are entrusted to the Government of the United States of America, to be deposited in the archives of the Department of State.

In witness whereof, the present *procès-verbal*, of which a certified copy will be sent by the Government of the United States of America to each one of the Powers signatory to the said treaty, is signed :

Done at Washington, the 17th August, 1923, at 12 o'clock.

For the United States of America :  
CHARLES EVANS HUGHES. (L.S.)

For the British Empire :  
H. G. CHILTON. (L.S.)

For France :  
ANDRÉ de LABOULAYE. (L.S.)

For Japan :  
M. HANIHARA. (L.S.)

**Identic Communication made to the Netherlands (February 4, 1922) and Portuguese (February 6, 1922) Governments on behalf of the British Empire, and also "mutatis mutandis" on behalf of the other Powers signatory to the Quadruple Pacific Treaty of December 13, 1921.**

THE British Empire has concluded on the 13th December, 1921, with the United States of America, France and Japan a Treaty with a view to the preservation of general peace and the maintenance of their rights to their insular possessions and insular dominions in the region of the Pacific Ocean. They have agreed thereby as between themselves to respect their rights in relation to these possessions and dominions.

The Netherlands not being signatory to the said Treaty, and the Netherlands possessions in the region of the Pacific Ocean therefore not being included in the agreement referred to, His Britannic Majesty's Government, anxious to forestall any conclusion contrary to the spirit of the Treaty, desires to declare that it is firmly resolved to respect the rights of the Netherlands in relation to her insular possessions in the region of the Pacific Ocean.