In 1802, the administrator of New Orleans, a city under European control, placed restriction on American ships using the city’s port on the Mississippi River. Under pressure from American merchants, President Thomas Jefferson instructed envoys James Monroe and John Livingston to offer France $10 million for New Orleans and West Florida. The deal they struck with a cash-hungry Napoleon secured all of France’s North American territory for $15 million. Ratified by Congress in December 1803, the Louisiana Purchase more than doubled U.S. territory at a cost of less than three cents an acre.

**Think Through History: Drawing Conclusions:**
What does Article III of the Treaty presume about who will live in these territories and how they will live?

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The President of the United States of America, and the First Consul of the French Republic in the name of the French People desiring to remove all source of misunderstanding... have agreed to the following Articles.—

**Article I**

Whereas by the Article the third of the Treaty concluded at St. Idelfonso the 1st October 1800 between the First Consul of the French Republic and his Catholic Majesty it was agreed as follows.—

“His Catholic Majesty promises and engages on his part to cede to the French Republic six months after the full and entire execution of the conditions and stipulations herein relative to his Royal Highness the Duke of Parma, the Colony or Province of Louisiana with the same extent that it now has in the hands of Spain, & that it had when France possessed it; and such as it should be after the Treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other States.”

And whereas in pursuance of the Treaty and particularly of the third article the French Republic has an incontestable title to the domain and to the possession of the said Territory—The First Consul of the French Republic desiring to give to the United States a strong proof of his friendship doth hereby cede to the said United States in the name of the French Republic forever and in full sovereignty the said territory with all its rights and appurtenances as fully and in the same manner as they have been acquired by the French Republic in virtue of the above mentioned Treaty concluded with his Catholic Majesty.

**Article II**

In the cession made by the preceding article are included the adjacent Islands belonging to Louisiana all public lots and squares, vacant lands and all public
buildings, fortifications, barracks and other edifices which are not private property. The Archives, papers and documents relative to the domain and sovereignty of Louisiana and its dependencies will be left in the possession of the Commissaries of the United States.

**Art: III**

The inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the Union of the United States and admitted as soon as possible according to the principles of the Federal Constitution to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States; and in the mean time they shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and the Religion which they profess.

**Art: VII**

As it is reciprocally advantageous to the commerce of France and the United States to encourage the communication of both nations for a limited time in the country ceded by the present treaty until general arrangements relative to the commerce of both nations may be agreed on; it has been agreed...that the French ships coming directly from France or any of her colonies loaded only with the produce and manufactures of France or her said Colonies, and the ships of Spain coming directly from Spain or any of her colonies loaded only with the produce or manufactures of Spain or her Colonies shall be admitted during the space of twelve years in the Port of New-Orleans and in all other legal ports-of-entry within the ceded territory...without being subject to any other or greater duty on merchandise or other or greater tonnage than that paid by the citizens of the United States.—

During the space of time above mentioned no other nation shall have a right to the same privileges in the Ports of the ceded territory.

**Art: X**

The present treaty shall be ratified in good and due form and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the space of six months after the date of the signature by the Ministers Plenipotentiary or sooner if possible.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed these articles in the French and English languages; declaring nevertheless that the present Treaty was originally agreed to in the French language; and have thereunto affixed their seals.

Done at Paris the tenth day of Floreal, in the eleventh year of the French Republic; and the 30th of April 1803

Robert R Livingstone
James Monroe.
Francis Barbé Marbois