

The War of 1812

Thomas Jefferson - Foreign Affairs

The Barbary War – (1801 – 1805)

1. Jeff sent naval force to Med. Sea to break N. African Muslim rulers practice of exacting tribute from Western merchant ships
2. War until 1805, no decisive settlement.

The Napoleonic Wars

1. War b/t France & European powers led by GB
2. Both tried to prevent each other from trading with US
3. US ships seized by both sides
4. US sailors impressed into British navy

Berlin & Milan Decrees

- 1.
- 2.

Orders in Council – 1806

- 1.
- 2.

The Chesapeake-Leopard Affair (1807)

1. British Ship HMS Leopard stopped the USS Chesapeake off coast of Chesapeake Bay
2. Four alleged Brits deserters were taken off the ship.
3. Public outcry against Brits, Jeff hard to remain neutral

The Embargo of 1807

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Election of 1808

- 1.
- 2.

Interim Election of 1810 – The Rise of the “War Hawks”

1. In 1810 Interim elections bright young men in early 30s elected to Congress
2. Mostly from western states
3. *John C. Calhoun of SC*
4. *Henry Clay of KY (SOH)*

War Hawks' Issues

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The West & the "Indian Problem"

1. White Settlers attitude:
 - a. "Is one of the fairest portions of the globe to remain in a state of nature, the haunt of a few wretched savages, when it seems destined, by the Creator, to give support to a large population, and to be the seat of civilization, of science, and of true religion?" - General William Henry Harrison (future president)
2. In 1809, Harrison had invited elderly Indian chiefs to Fort Wayne, Indiana.
3. He got them drunk
4. Persuaded them to sign away 3 million acres of tribal land.
5. Jeff told Harrison about assimilating Indians into white culture making them farmers not hunters
6. But, if any were "foolhardy enough to take up the hatchet" they should be driven across the Mississippi.
7. Tecumseh & the Prophet (strength & religious fervor)
8. "The Great Spirit gave this great land to his red children. He placed the whites on the other side of the big water. They were not contented with their own, but came to take ours from us. They have driven us from the sea to the lakes. We can go no further."
 - a. Took up the hatchet
 - b. Shawnee chief from Ohio Valley
 - c. Wanted vast Indian confederacy, traveled from WI to FI
 - d. Make Ohio valley border b/t whites & Indians
 - e. Prevent further western expansion by whites
 - f. Brother Tenskwatawa is Indian mystic who called for revival of Indian ways & rejection of white culture
 - g. Large army of young braves gathered at junction of Tippecanoe and Wabash Rivers
 - h. Gen. W.H. Harrison, Gov. of Indiana Territory took 1000 men to camp near Indians
 - i. Tecumseh was traveling and Prophet ordered attack in Nov. 1811
 - j. Indians inflicted heavy losses on US troops
 - k. Eventually Indians driven back & scattered
 - l. Harrison destroyed food, village & Prophet's claim of invincible magic
 - m. Shattered Indian confidence & ended hopes of confederation
 - n. Westerners used this as excuse to fan anti-British sentiment in Congress
 - o. Claimed Tecumseh's movement was a British scheme – some Indian guns were from Canada
 - p. Land hungry westerners increased war fever
 - q. Wanted British expelled from North America & that means invading Canada
 - r. War Hawk rallying cry "On to Canada!"

Non-Intercourse Act – 1809

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Macon's Bill No. 2 – 1810

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Causes of War of 1812

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

War of 1812 – “Mr. Madison’s War”

- A. The war began with an attack on Canada
 1. an effort to gain land
 2. cut off British supply lines to Tecumseh's Indian confederation
 3. initial battles in Canada were not as easy as the War Hawks hoped
 4. US Army:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 5. NE Gov's refused to send militias or troops
 6. inexperienced American soldiers were pushed back rapidly
 7. American losses:
 - a. Detroit
 - b. Fort Dearborn
 - c. Niagara River in NY
 8. clutch US naval victories by
 - a. Oliver Hazard Perry on Lake Erie
 - b. Thomas Macdonough on Lake Champlain
 - c. serious northern-front invasion of the United States, including New York, was prevented
 9. Battle of the Thames in 1813
 - a. General William Henry Harrison's forces manage to kill Tecumseh
 - b. decisive victory against the British General Isaac Brock's smaller force
 10. Held British off along western end of the Canadian front
 11. US failed in Several attempts to invade Canada from the east
- B. In 1814
 1. War of 1812 was turning out to be tougher fighting than either side expected

2. Britain, caught up in the costly Napoleonic Wars
3. Napoleon eventually defeated in 1814
4. GB turns full attention to US
5. British three pronged attack:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. GB sends 14,000 troops from Montreal to invade NY
7. Lake Champlain
 - a. Americans drive British back into Canada
 - b. British do not invade US from Canada again

C. Mid-Atlantic Coast

1. British troops landed in the Chesapeake Bay area in 1814
2. British marched toward Washington DC
3. US General William Winder made an attempt to stop the British forces, led by General Ross, at Bladensburg
4. US troops were badly routed
5. The city of Washington was evacuated
6. British burned:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
7. British pressed onward as Admiral Cochrane sought to invade Baltimore
8. General Ross was killed as his forces advanced towards Baltimore
9. British movement stalled
10. Cochrane's forces bombarded Fort McHenry:
 - a. Fort guarded Baltimore's harbor
 - b. GB unable to take it
 - c. This event inspired Francis Scott Key:
 - i. an American lawyer detained on one of Cochrane's ships
 - ii. wrote the Star-Spangled Banner
 - d. GB unsuccessful at Baltimore
11. Cochrane's damaged fleet limped to Jamaica for repairs
12. Cochrane made preparations for an invasion of New Orleans
13. hoping to cut off American use of the Mississippi River.

D. The Treaty of Ghent

1. December 24, 1814
2. GB began to look for a way to extricate itself from its American commitment
3. In the Belgian city of Ghent, American negotiators (including John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay) met with British diplomats
4. After considerable bickering, the negotiators signed the Treaty of Ghent
5. officially ended the War of 1812
6. treaty returned US-Britain relations to same status as had been before the war
7. US neither gained nor lost any territory
8. Impressment went unaddressed.

E. Battle of New Orleans

1. war was officially over
2. news traveled slowly across the Atlantic Ocean
3. Cochrane landed the British troops

- a. waiting for their replacement commander for General Ross
- b. General Packenham was to arrive from Britain.
- 4. January 8, 1815
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

F. The Hartford Convention

- 1. December 1814
- 2. war had sheltered New England manufacturing from British competition
- 3. New England merchant shipping had been seriously hurt
- 4. group of Federalists met at the Hartford Convention
 - a. discuss their grievances
 - b. talked of secession from the Union
 - c. most wanted to make it hard for US to declare war or impose embargoes in the future
 - d. wrote seven Constitutional Amendments
- 5. news of the Treaty of Ghent arrived & made the Federalists look
 - a.
 - b.
- 6. The Hartford Convention spelled the end of the Federalist Party

G. Long-Term Results of the War of 1812

- 1. US Economic Self-Sufficiency
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e. Henry Clay's "American System"
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- 2. Death of the Federalists
 - a. appeared to the country as unpatriotic at best, treasonous at worst
 - b. Federalist power declined rapidly
 - c. Federalists ceased to be players on the national stage
- 3. Future American Politics
 - a. War heroes become eventual presidents:
 - i.
 - ii.
 - b. "Star Spangled Banner"
 - c. boosted American nationalism
 - d. paved the way for a primarily isolationist 19th century
 - e. US sovereignty in the Western Hemisphere would never again be legitimately challenged.
 - f. talk of secession at Hartford Convention provided a foundation for theories of States' Rights and secession that exploded in the Civil War