

The War of 1812

Election of 1808

1. James Madison wins easily
2. Repeals Embargo Act
3. By 1810 American ships were again free to sail Atlantic and take chances with seizure

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. *Felix Grundy of TN*
5. *Henry Clay of KY (SOH)*

War Hawks’ Issues

1. Believed impressment was insult to American flag
2. Indian Problem in the Indiana Territory
3. Wanted their own war to brag about

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 FL
 - 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
- r. That means invading Canada
- s. War Hawk rallying cry "On to Canada!"

Non-Intercourse Act – 1809

- 1. American attempt to get Britain and France to change their policy toward neutral shipping and impressment
- 2. allowed U.S. ships to trade with any country except Great Britain and France
- 3. opened American ports to all but British and French ships
- 4. It failed to convince England and France that they should change their policies

Macon's Bill No. 2 – 1810

- 1. if either France or GB agreed to respect US neutral rights, the US would cut off trade with the other.
- 2. Napoleon agreed
- 3. Madison cut off trade with GB in 1811
- 4. French continued to seize US ships
- 5. British Blockade US ports & continue impressments
- 6. June 16, 1812 – GB suspends attacks on US ships
- 7. GB needs food & US markets
- 8. US declares war on GB June 18, 1812

Causes of War of 1812

- 1. economic sanctions by GB & France
- 2. impressments
- 3. attacks on merchant ships
- 4. arming NA on western front
- 5. US expansion – Canada & FL
- 6. nationalism
- 7. War Hawks fanning the flames

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. small – less than 7,000
 - b. ill prepared
 - c. lacked a commanding general
 - d. no overall strategy
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. invasion from Canada
 - b. attack on Washington DC
 - c. attack on New Orleans
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. the Capitol
 - b. the White House
 - c. most of nonresidential Washington.
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. Andrew Jackson's ragtag army soundly defeated the British
 - b. battle had been fought unnecessarily (the treaty was already signed)
 - c. the US celebrated wildly
 - d. created an upsurge in American nationalism.

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
 - e. Federalists' Demands:
 - i. Financial assistance from DC to compensate from lost trade
 - ii. Amendment: 2/3 vote in Congress for embargoes, new states, war
 - iii. Abolition of slavery
 - iv. One term presidency
 - v. Abolition of 3/5 Clause
 - vi. Prohibition of election of 2 successive Presidents from the same state
5. News of the Treaty of Ghent arrived & made the Federalists look
 - a. silly

- b. even treasonous
- 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. War sheltered New England factory owners
 - b. Didn't have to compete with cheap British goods
 - c. American industry jump-started during the war years
 - d. accelerated the pace of industrialization in the North a process that would continue for the next hundred years with few
 - e. Henry Clay's "American System"
 - i. the building of a national railroad network
 - ii. project of building a national railroad would continue on through the 19th century
 - iii. transformed the nation in the process
 - 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. "Star Spangled Banner"
 - b. boosted American nationalism
 - c. paved the way for a primarily isolationist 19th century
 - d. US sovereignty in the Western Hemisphere would never again be legitimately challenged.
 - e. talk of secession at Hartford Convention provided a foundation for theories of States' Rights and secession that exploded in the Civil War

The American System

- A. Post War Period
 - 1. Era of Good Feelings
 - a. Only one party
 - b. Monroe Elected in 1816
 - c. Monroe Re-Elected in 1820
 - 2. Madison calls for:
 - a. internal improvements
 - b. tariff protection for new industries
 - c. creation of a new central bank
 - 3. The American System – 1816
 - a. proposed by Henry Clay
 - i. Republican
 - ii. from Kentucky
 - iii. War Hawk
 - b. Foundations of the American System
 - i. A national bank would provide a sound, uniform financial system
 - ii. Protective tariff would provide a wall behind which America could grow and prosper

- iii. Transportation system to ease trade between northeast and southern farmers
 - iv. Project of building national road & railroad would continue on through the 19th Century
- 4. 2nd Bank of US chartered – 1816
 - a. 1st Bank charter expired in 1811
 - b. many states granted charters for private banks
 - c. between 1811 & 1816, the number of banks tripled
 - d. began issuing more paper, value declined
 - e. Second Bank of the United States was chartered - 1816
- 5. Protective Tariff of 1816
 - a. during War, industrial revolution of sorts arose
 - b. after War, British manufacturers began dumping goods in America below cost
 - c. American factories began to close
 - d. British then drove prices higher
 - e. Daniel Webster
 - i. Federalist from MA
 - ii. Becomes main representative from NE States
 - iii. Supports high protective tariff
 - f. Tariff of 1816 passed in response to British actions
 - i. Tariff was high
 - ii. Protective Tariff
 - iii. Approved by all sections
 - iv. South thought it would eventually industrialize
- 6. Panic of 1819
 - a. Ended Post War economic boom
 - b. First real modern depression
 - c. Beginning of the Boom – Bust Cycle
 - d. Banks throughout the country failed
 - e. Mortgages were foreclosed, forcing people out of their homes and off their farms
 - f. Falling prices impaired agriculture and manufacturing
 - g. widespread unemployment
 - h. All regions of the country were impacted
 - i. prosperity did not return until 1824.
 - j. primary cause:
 - i. change toward more conservative credit policies by the Second Bank of the United States (rechartered in 1816)
 - ii. B.U.S. directors viewed with scorn the unconventional practices of many western banks.
 - iii. B.U.S. called in its loans, forcing the state banks to do likewise
 - iv. State loans had been made to land speculators who were unable to repay
 - v. banks failed and depositors were wiped out.
 - k. Conditions were exacerbated by:
 - i. the influx of large quantities of foreign goods into the American market
 - ii. the slumping cotton market in the South.
 - l. Reaction to the Panic depended upon where one lived

- i. Northern manufacturers thought future economic downturns could be avoided by enacting high tariffs that would protect them from foreign competition.
- ii. Southerners, however, resented the higher prices they had to pay for imports because of the tariff and began a long campaign against those duties, hoping that freer trade would revive the cotton economy
- iii. Westerners, taking a still different approach, blamed the bankers and speculators.

Foreign Powers, American Expansion, & Slavery

A. Rush – Bagot Agreement (1817)

1. naval disarmament treaty
2. b/t US & GB
3. demonstrated significant trust & understanding
4. treated US & GB equally

B. Convention of 1818 (Treaty of 1818)

1. fixed land boundary of US & Canada at 49th parallel
2. US & GB jointly occupy the Oregon Country

C. Adams – Onis (Transcontinental) Treaty (1819)

1. Spain surrenders FL to US
2. Spain gives up claim to Oregon Territory north of the 42nd parallel
3. US gives up claims to TX west of the Sabine River
4. US assumes \$5 million debt Spain owes US merchants

D. The Missouri Compromise (1820)

1. Henry Clay introduced a compromise that decided whether or not Missouri would be admitted as a slave state
2. Congress decided to admit Missouri as a slave state in 1820
3. Maine, which was apart of Massachusetts, was to be admitted as a separate, free state
4. Therefore, there were 12 slave states and 12 free states.
5. Congress forbade slavery:
 - a. in the remaining territories in the LA Territory north of the line of 36° 30'
 - b. except for Missouri.

E. The Monroe Doctrine (1823)

1. Western Hemisphere is closed to further European colonization
2. US will not interfere with existing colonies of any European Power
3. US will not interfere in the internal affairs of any European power
4. Any attempt by European powers to intervene in the Western Hemisphere would be regarded as, “dangerous to our peace & security.”

The Marshall Court

A. *Fletcher vs. Peck* (1810)

1. The Georgia legislature granted 35 million acres to private speculators

2. The next legislature cancelled the bribery-induced transaction
3. Question: Could the contract between Fletcher and Peck be invalidated by an act of the Georgia legislature?
4. Marshall's unanimous decision let the state give the acres to the private speculators calling it a contract and constitutional
5. The decision protected property rights & contracts against popular pressures.

B. *Dartmouth College vs. Woodward* (1819)

1. Dartmouth College was given a charter by King George III
2. New Hampshire wanted to take it away
3. Question: Did the New Hampshire legislature unconstitutionally interfere with Dartmouth College's rights under the Contract Clause?
4. Marshall ruled (5-1) in favor of the college by equating the charter with a contract between two private parties

C. *McCulloch vs. Maryland* (1819)

1. Attempt by Maryland to destroy a branch of the Bank of the United States
2. MD imposing a tax on the Bank's notes, Bank refused to pay
3. Question 1: Did Congress have the authority to establish the bank?
4. Question 2: Did the Maryland law unconstitutionally interfere with congressional powers?
5. Marshall declared the U.S. Bank constitutional by invoking the Hamiltonian doctrine of implied powers
6. Unanimous decision strengthened federal authority by denying the right of Maryland to tax the Bank.

D. *Cohens vs. Virginia* (1821)

1. An act of Congress authorized the operation of a lottery in the District of Columbia
2. The Cohen brothers proceeded to sell D.C. lottery tickets in the state of Virginia, violating state law
3. State authorities tried and convicted the Cohens, and then declared themselves to be the final arbiters of disputes between the states and the national government.
4. Question: Did the Supreme Court have the power under the Constitution to review the Virginia Supreme Court's ruling?
5. In a unanimous decision, the Court held that the Supreme Court had jurisdiction to review state criminal proceedings
6. After establishing the Court's jurisdiction, Marshall declared the lottery ordinance a local matter and concluded that the Virginia court was correct to fine the Cohens brothers for violating Virginia law
7. Unanimous ruling further cemented the powers of the federal government.

E. *Gibbons vs. Ogden* (1824)

1. New York tried to give a private company a monopoly of waterborne commerce between New York and New Jersey
2. Meaning that no other company could use the waterway
3. Question: Did the State of New York exercise authority in a realm reserved exclusively to Congress, namely, the regulation of interstate commerce?
4. New York lost, unanimous
5. Only Congress can regulate interstate trade