

The War of 1812



Impressment Strains Neutrality



British sailors often deserted their ships for American ships b/c our pay and conditions were better

impressment

the British demanded the right to stop US ships, search for British sailors, and force them back into service

USS Chesapeake

(June 1807)

US warship
Chesapeake
was stopped by
a British ship,
the *Leopard*



the
commander of
the *Leopard*
demanded to
board the
Chesapeake to
search for
British
deserters

the *Chesapeake* refused

the *Leopard* fired, killing 3, wounding 18, and capturing 4 British “deserters”

Americans clamored for war

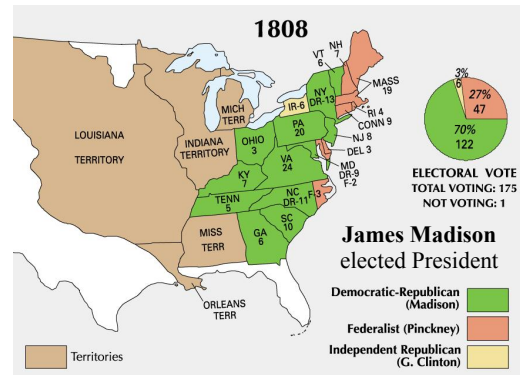
Embargo Act (1807)



Jefferson thought Britain and France needed US goods so badly that they'd stop violating our neutral rights if we threatened to cut off trade with them

Jefferson passed the **Embargo Act**:
forbade any US ship to sail for any foreign ports
caused some suffering for Britain, hurt France very little,
and was disastrous for the US

Other Attempts at Neutrality



Non-Intercourse Act

banned trade w/British or French but allowed trade w/rest of world
still didn't force Britain or France to respect the rights of American ships

Macon's Bill #2 (1810)

Madison challenged France and Britain: whomever agreed to respect the neutral rights of the US could trade w/us and we'd cut off trade w/the other nation

Napoleon responded first - promised to respect the US

US cut off trade w/Gr Britain but French continued to seize US ships (Napoleon = LIAR!)

War of 1812

War Hawks

young Republican Congressmen who wanted war w/ Britain, mainly for land

US declared war on England in June of 1812

US army = only about 6,000 soldiers scattered throughout the frontier

Madison asked states for militia to join army; many in New England refused, calling it "Mr. Madison's War"



Sept. 10, 1813: Oliver Hazard Perry's message to William Henry Harrison after the Battle of Lake Erie:
"We have met the enemy and they are ours."

Napoleon forced into exile in 1814

14,000 experienced British soldiers invaded NY from Montreal

outnumbered 3 to 1, American soldiers near Lake Champlain drove back the British (YAY!)

Battle of Baltimore

US had burned York (now Toronto), the Canadian capital, in 1813

in retaliation, British troops destroyed the Capitol & burned the White House in 1814

British turned back at Fort McHenry in Baltimore



An artist's rendering of the battle at Fort McHenry, September, 1814, where Francis Scott Key was inspired to write "The Star Spangled Banner."

Battle of New Orleans

Dec 1814: 10,000 British soldiers met 4,500 US in New Orleans, LA

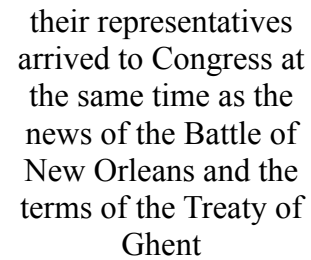


commander Andrew Jackson used anyone who would fight, including convicts, African Americans

American forces sheltered behind cotton bales killed 2,000 British soldiers before they surrendered

(greatest American victory of the war, unfortunately 2wks after treaty signed to end the war)

New Englanders opposed to the War of 1812 drew up list of constitutional amendments to increase the power of New England also discussed (but did not agree to) seceding from the Union



the Treaty of Ghent (Belgium, Dec. 1814) was really just an armistice

No land or valuables were given or taken.

The main issue of the war, impressment, was left unmentioned.

although the U.S. didn't win land or money, it won respect in other nation's eyes:
America dared to fight against the strongest nation in the world

New war heroes had emerged:

Andrew Jackson and William Henry Harrison would both become presidents

Nationalism was born: patriotism and sense of national pride