JAMES MADISON & THE WAR OF 1812
President James Madison
1809-1817
Democratic Republican
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<th>Presidential Rankings: C-Span Survey, 2009</th>
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<td>James Buchanan</td>
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Election

- TJ left after 2 terms – escaped the “splendid misery”
- Madison (DR) vs. Pinckney (Fed) – 122 to 47
- Virginian – felt crippled by problems in his party and in his cabinet
Macon’s Bill No. 2

• **No more Non-Intercourse Act**
  • Reopened trade with ALL
  • Whoever wanted to trade 1st – US would restore embargo against the other
  • Madison HATED this – we were admitting that we needed European trade

• **Napoleon saw his chance to hurt GB**

• **Madison hoped that trading with France would make GB stop impressing or sailors and attacking our ships – didn’t**
  • Embargo against GB

• **New Congress had young hot heads from South and West = WAR HAWKS**
Henry Clay: Speaker of the House

John C. Calhoun
Tecumseh and the Prophet

- 2 Shawnee brothers brought together all tribes near Miss. R.
  - Urged supporters to NEVER cede land to whites unless they ALL agreed

Tecumseh was the military leader of the Shawnee Confederation and one of its main political leaders.

The Prophet (Tenskwatawa), Tecumseh’s brother, was a religious and political leader of the Shawnee.
• GB giving Indians weapons and were buying American scalps

• Battle of Tippecanoe
  • William Henry Harrison, governor of Indiana Territory, gathered army and advanced on Tecumseh’s HQ at Tippecanoe
  • Tecumseh was gone but the Prophet attacked with small force – failed
  • Harrison is a national hero
  • Tecumseh now officially an ally of GB – fought for them in War of 1812
  • Dream of Indian Confederacy gone
Battle of Tippecanoe (Nov, 1811)  
- General William H. Harrison  
  - Significance: effectively ended the Amerindian threat in the northwest territory

An illustration of the Battle of Tippecanoe
Declaration of War

• Congress declares war
  • House – 79 to 49, Senate – 19 to 13
  • Shows division
• Support for war from South, West, and DR’s in middle states
• Federalists in NE don’t want war
  • Flags half-mast, public fasting
  • Pro-British, taking Canada meant more agrarian states (more votes for DRs)
  • Actually should want war – war for free seas and NE are shippers!
  • Sent supplies and food to Canada, enabling GB to invade NY – lent $ to GB
  • NE governors refused to let militia go outside state to help US army
• America is fighting Old and New England!
Causes of War

• Short Term:
  ✓ Chesapeake-Leopold incident
  ✓ Embargo – didn’t work
  ✓ War hawks pushing for war
  ✓ Want Canada
  ✓ GB supplying Indians with weapons
  ✓ Restore confidence in republican experiment – can this system endure??

• Long Term
  ✓ British impressment
  ✓ American needs to assert their rights! (show we are the real deal!)

• Overall – people are divided and apathetic towards war
THE WAR OF 1812
Battles

• US army weak, generals are senile from Revolutionary War

• American Plan:
  ▪ Should’ve gone after Montreal – center of population and transportation
  ▪ 3-pronged invasion of Canada – all beaten back

• Michilimackinac – British and Canadians capture fort which commanded Great Lakes

• Other US land attacks failed – turned to the water
3 U.S. Invasions of 1812

- 1. Detroit
- 2. Fort Niagara
- 3. Montreal

U.S. invasions
Battles

- American navy stronger than army
  - *Constitution (Old Ironsides)* had thicker sides, heavier firepower, large crew
  - Oliver Hazard Perry took Great Lakes
- Battle of Thames – Harrison’s army push British back, Tecumseh killed
- By 1814 – we are defending our soil not on the offensive
- Napoleon exiled to Elba – no chance of French help
  - 1000s of GB pour into Canada
  - Prepare for invasion of NY – had to go through waterways
  - Meet near Plattsburgh – heroic naval victory (US)
    - British army retreats, saved Union from possible dissolution
**Battles**

- A 2\textsuperscript{nd} British force of 4,000 land at Bladensburg in Chesapeake Bay (Aug 1814)
  - US militia there disperse
  - British enter capital and set fire to public buildings
- Baltimore – British hammer Fort McHenry with cannon but couldn’t capture city
  - Francis Scott Key – detained on British ship, watched bombardment and wrote Star Spangled Banner
While the British were invading Washington, D.C., Dolly Madison saved some important works of art in the White House and fled just before the British arrived and torched the White House.
Battle of Fort McHenry, 1814

Oh Say Can You See
By the Dawn's Early Light...

-- Francis Scott Key
Gave proof through the night,
That our flag was still there..
The flag that flew at Fort McHenry the night of the British bombardment

The flag has been restored and is on display at the Smithsonian National History Museum in Washington, D.C.
• New Orleans – British attack
  ▪ Andrew Jackson returned from defeating Indians at Horseshoe Bend – placed in command
    ✓ Force = 7,000 sailors, soldiers, French, militiamen, free blacks
  ▪ British had 8,000 seasoned vets and launched a frontal assault – lost 2000 in 30 minutes
  ▪ Jackson became a hero
  ▪ Peace treaty was signed 2 weeks prior to this battle
  ▪ British Royal Navy – naval blockade of coast and had raiding parties
    ✓ Crippled our fishing, no revenue from trade
Battle of New Orleans
An American War Hero

General Andrew Jackson
Stop, Stop, Stop, Brother Jonathan, or I shall fall with the loss of blood—I thought to have been too heavy for you. But I must acknowledge your superior skill. Two blows to my one! And so well directed too! Mercy, mercy on me, how does this happen?'

'Ha, uh, Johnny you thought yourself a boxer did you? I'll let you know we are an enterprising nation and ready to meet you with equal force any day.'

A Boxing Match, or Another Bloody Nose for John Bull.
Tsar Alexander I of Russia wants peace b/w GB and US – needs help vs. Napoleon

Peacemakers meet at Ghent, Belgium

- John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay
- British winning – made sweeping demands – Indian buffer state, control of Great Lakes and Maine – US rejected
- Later in war – British losing = compromise

Dec 24, 1814 – armistice

- Stop fighting, restore conquered territory
- No mention of earlier US grievances: Indian menace, impressment, Orders in Council
- War is a draw
War of 1812 - Debate

Pro-War
1. What were the causes of conflict between the US and Britain? How are these important enough to lead to war?

2. Why is war the only option? Are we prepared?

3. What are the gains of going to war?

4. What are the long-term positive effects of going to war with GB?

Anti-War
1. What were the causes of conflict between the US and Britain? How are these NOT enough to go to war?

2. What other steps could we take to avoid war? How prepared are we?

3. What possible losses could happen should we go to war?

4. What are the long-term negative effects of going to war with GB?
Hartford Convention

• NE prospered during war – illegal trade with enemy, not blockaded until 1814

• A minority of Federalists in NE proposed secession from Union OR a separate peace with GB
  - “Blue Lights” – New Englanders who flashed lanterns to British if American ships were escaping

• Hartford Convention (CT) – Mass, CT, RI, NH, VT – 26 reps met in secret for 3 weeks
  - Discuss grievances and seek action
  - Final report was moderate – want $ from Washington to compensate for lost trade
    - Proposed amendments for 2/3 vote in Congress before an embargo, new states admitted, war declared
    - Want no 3/5 compromise, a single presidential term, no election of 2 successive presidents from the same state
  - 3 Massachusetts envoys carried demands to Washington – met news of win at New Orleans and the Treaty of Ghent
    - Envoys went back
    - Death of Federalists BUT still talk of secession
A 2nd War of American Independence?

- A small war – 6,000 Americans dead or wounded
- Huge consequences
  - US will resist wrongdoing
  - New respect for US military strength/prowess
  - Sectionalism looked at with scorn
  - War heroes – Jackson and Harrison (future presidents)
  - Indians give up more land
  - Manufacturing prospered – we relied on ourselves – more independent
  - Canadians feel betrayed by treaty = Canadian nationalism
    - Wanted an Indian buffer state or control of Great Lakes
  - Still naval battles on Great Lakes
    - Rush-Bagot Agreement (1817) – limited naval armament on lakes
  - Napoleon defeated at Waterloo – peace in Europe, conservatives dominate
Nationalism

• More American nationalism

• More literature
  • Washington Irving and James Fennimore Cooper – use American scenes
  • American textbooks, paintings, magazines

• New Bank of the U.S. (1816)

• Larger and prettier national capital

• Army expanded to 10,000

• Navy defeats N. African pirates

• Many seeing themselves as Americans – not state citizens
Tariff of 1816

- British have a surplus of goods – flood US at low prices
  - Infant industries/factories want protection
- Congress passes Tariff of 1816 – 1\textsuperscript{st} tariff instituted for protection, not revenue
  - 20-25\% on value – but not high enough
Increased Tariff Rates in the 1820s
U.S. Tariff Rates, 1820-2005

- Tariff of Abominations (1828)
- Morrill and Civil War Tariffs (1861-1864)
- Tariff of 1857
- Underwood Tariff (1913)
- Smoot-Hawley Tariff (1930)
- Trade Agreements Act (1934)
How a Tariff Works

In the United States
American-made cloth costs $4.00 a roll.

In Britain
British-made cloth costs $4.00 a roll.

A 25% tariff of $1.00 is added to the price.

British-made cloth costs $5.00 a roll in the United States.
The American System

• Henry Clay’s plan for developing a profitable home market
  1. Strong banking system – provide credit
  2. Protective tariff
  3. Roads and canals = more trade
     ✓ Knit country together
     ✓ Paid for by revenue from tariff
     ✓ West wanted this

• Congress voted in 1817 – will give $1.5 million to states for internal improvements (Bonus Bill)
  ▪ Madison vetoed as unconstitutional
  ▪ States had to fund their own improvements – NY Erie Canal
  ▪ Federal govt CAN fund interstate improvements – NE opposed this because the population would leave and create competing western states
Henry Clay’s American System

2nd Bank of the U.S.
- Depository for federal funds
- Made credit available in much the country
- Killed in 1832

Protective Tariff (1816)
- First protective tariff in U.S. History
- Most divisive sectional issue, besides slavery

Internal Improvements
- Vetoed by Madison & Monroe (& later, Jackson)
- States were responsible