

The New Nation, Parts One and Two: The Presidencies of George Washington and John Adams

A Presentation Based on the
Georgia Standards of Excellence
(GSE) Objectives for High School
History Students

SSUSH6 Analyze the challenges faced by the first five presidents and how they responded.

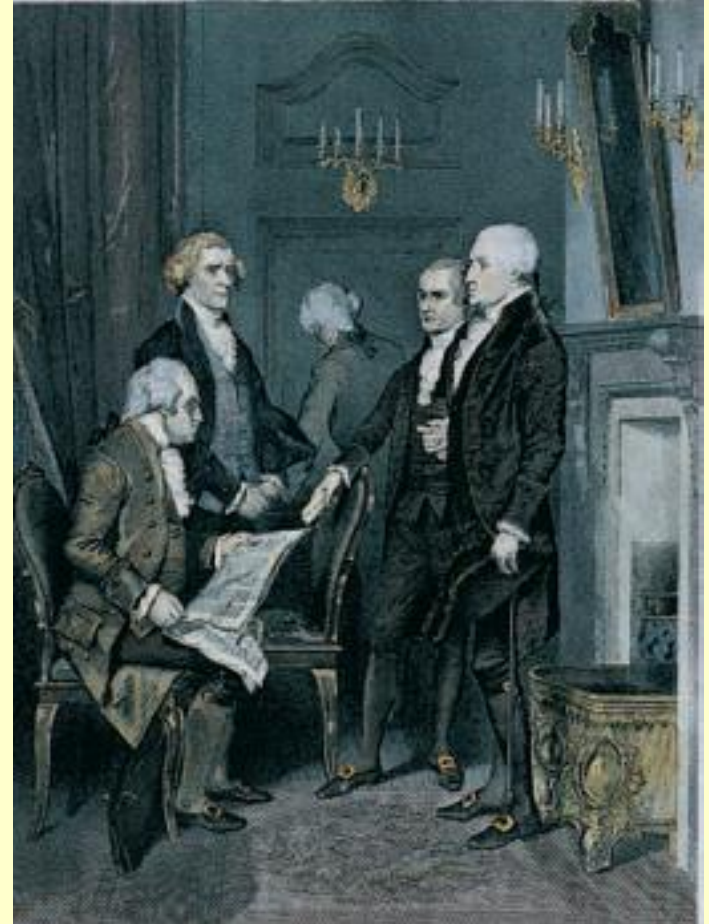


George Washington's Presidency

SSUSH6a. Examine the presidency of Washington, including the precedents he set.

George Washington's Presidency: 1789-1797

- In April 1789, Washington was chosen to be the first President of the new government.
- Washington is noted for setting a number of important **precedents** (traditions to be followed by his successors), such as
 - **Limit of two four-year terms** in office
 - Appointment of a **cabinet** (advisors)
- Two key members of Washington's **cabinet** were Thomas Jefferson (Secretary of State), and Alexander Hamilton (Secretary of the Treasury).



Formation of Political Parties

- A **political party** is a group of people who seek to control government by winning elections and holding office.
- During Washington's first term, **Congress** split into factions in part as a reaction to Secretary of the Treasury Hamilton's financial programs.
- Supporters of Hamilton's programs were called Federalists, while opponents were called Democratic-Republicans, or Republicans (not to be confused with today's Republican Party)

Competing National Visions	
Hamilton and the Federalists	Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans
National government supreme	State governments supreme
Ruling power given to wealthy, educated	Ruling power given to <i>all</i> landowners
Government should promote manufacturing	Government should promote agriculture
Loose interpretation of the Constitution	Strict interpretation of the Constitution
Protective tariffs protect domestic industries	Protective tariffs burden farmers

The Elastic Clause

- Hamilton's economic plan included creation of a national bank to borrow money, service debt and manage tariffs.
- Jefferson opposed this idea. He felt the bank would operate only for benefit of the wealthy, and he argued that the Constitution did not give government the power to create a bank.
- Hamilton answered by saying the Constitution's "necessary and proper" clause was sufficient authority for establishing a bank.
- Washington agreed with Hamilton, thus the Bank of the United States was chartered for 20 years on February 25, 1791.

The Whiskey Rebellion

- In 1791, Congress imposed a direct tax on the manufacture of whiskey.
- Western farmers, the main manufacturers of whiskey, rebelled against the tax in 1794.
- Washington ordered and led 15,000 troops to put down the rebellion.
- The rebels dispersed without fighting, ending the rebellion.

What message did the new government send by ordering troops to put down the rebellion?

Washington's Foreign Policy

- During the French Revolution, France declared war on England, and Spain sided with the French.
- The U.S. conducted trade with both France and Britain, and U.S. citizens were divided over whom to support in the war.
- In 1793, Washington declared that the U.S. would be “friendly and impartial” towards both countries. The British, however, began seizing American ships headed to French ports.

Washington's Foreign Policy

- Jay's Treaty
 - John Jay was sent to Britain to negotiate a settlement in order to avoid war.
 - The treaty Jay negotiated helped prevent war between the U.S. and Britain and gave the U.S. **most-favored nation** status, but it did little to ease tension between the two countries.
- Pinckney's Treaty
 - Fearing a U.S./British alliance, Spain offered to negotiate a new treaty with the U.S.
 - Thomas Pinckney negotiated a treaty with Spain to allow the U.S. free access to the Mississippi River and the Port of New Orleans.

The End of Washington's Presidency

- Washington left office after his second term.
- In his Farewell Address, he warned against sectionalism, political parties and foreign alliances.
- Federalist John Adams was elected the second President of the U.S. in 1796.

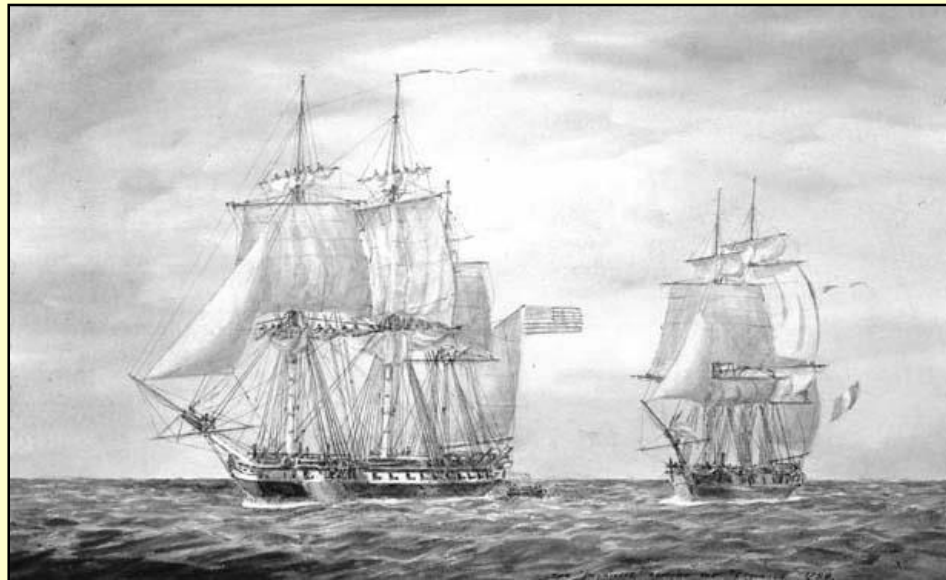


The John Adams Presidency

SSUSH6b. Explain the presidency of John Adams including the Sedition Act and its influence on the election of 1800.

John Adams' Presidency: 1797-1801

- **Upset with Jay's Treaty, the French began seizing U.S. ships, causing an undeclared naval war called the Quasi-War between France and the U.S.**
- **Negotiations between the two countries ended the hostilities in 1800.**



Alien and Sedition Acts

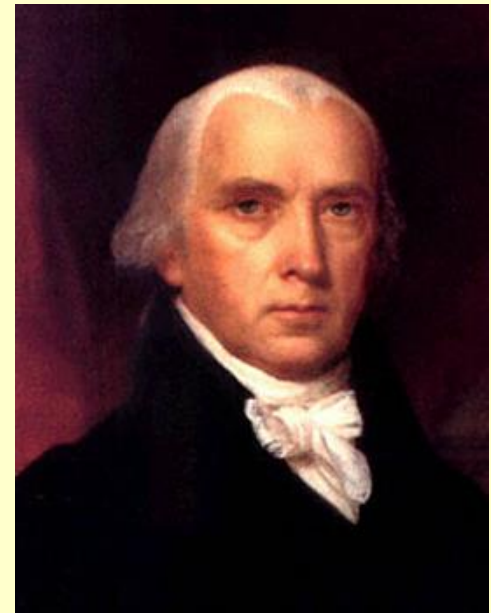
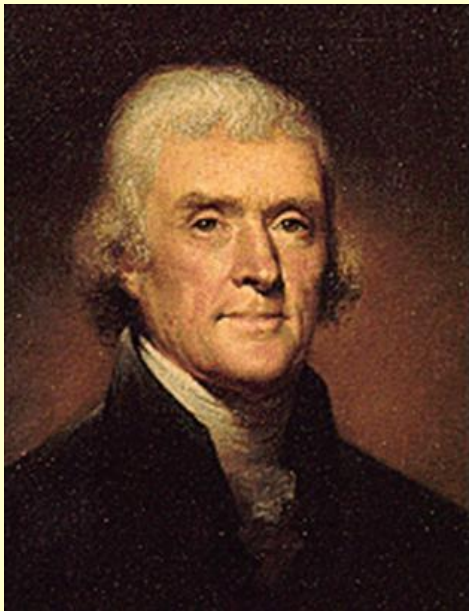
- Passed in 1798, the Alien and Sedition Acts were intended to weaken the Republican Party.
- The Acts put voting restrictions on immigrants, many of whom tended to vote for Republicans.
- The Acts also made it illegal to criticize the government. This made it difficult for Republicans to speak out against the Federalists.

Alien and Sedition Acts (1798)

- The three [A]lien laws. . .
 - raised the waiting period for naturalization from 5 to 14 years,
 - permitted the detention of subjects of an enemy nation, and
 - authorized the chief executive to expel any alien he considered dangerous. . . .
- The Sedition Act (July 14)
 - banned the publishing of false or malicious writings against the government and
 - inciting opposition to any act of Congress or the President.

Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions

- The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions were written in secret by Jefferson and Madison.
- These resolutions argued that states had the right to protect the people from unjust federal laws by either:
 - **interposition (Virginia Resolution), or**
 - **nullification (Kentucky Resolution).**



Adams' Political Defeat

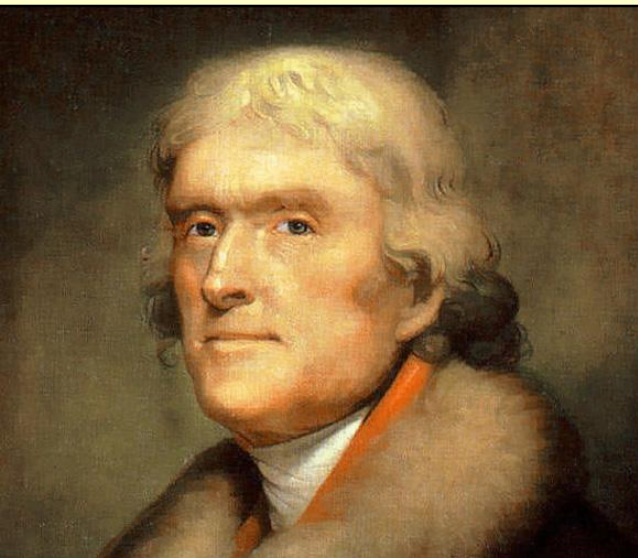
- John Adams lost the election of 1800 to Thomas Jefferson because many people were angered over the Alien and Sedition Acts and a new tax created by Federalists on houses, land and slaves.
- Although the Federalists controlled the army, the presidency, and Congress, they allowed power to peacefully transfer to the Republicans.

The New Nation, Part Three: Jefferson & Territorial Growth

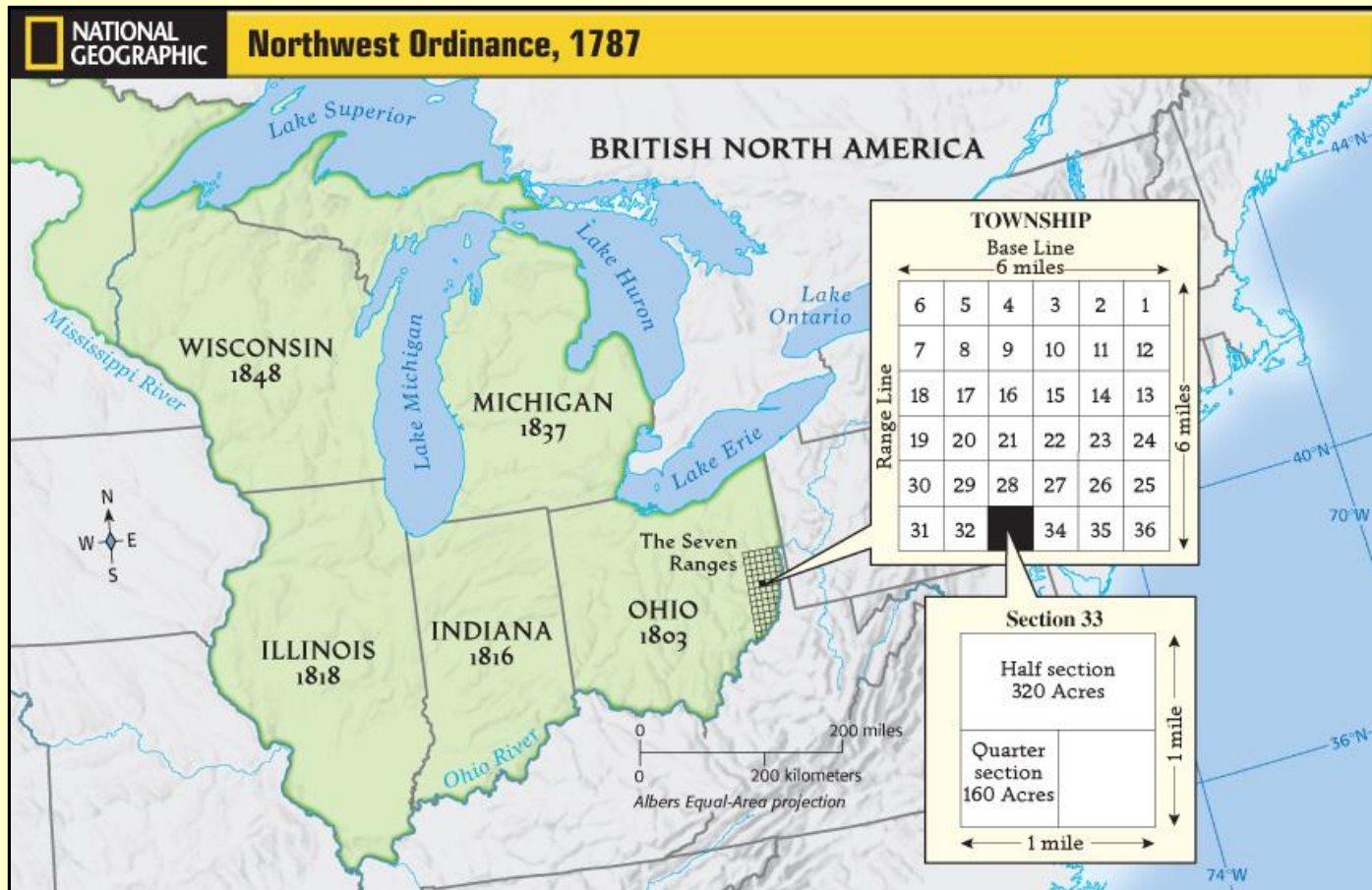
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c. Explore Jefferson's expansion of presidential power including the purchase and exploration of the Louisiana Territory.

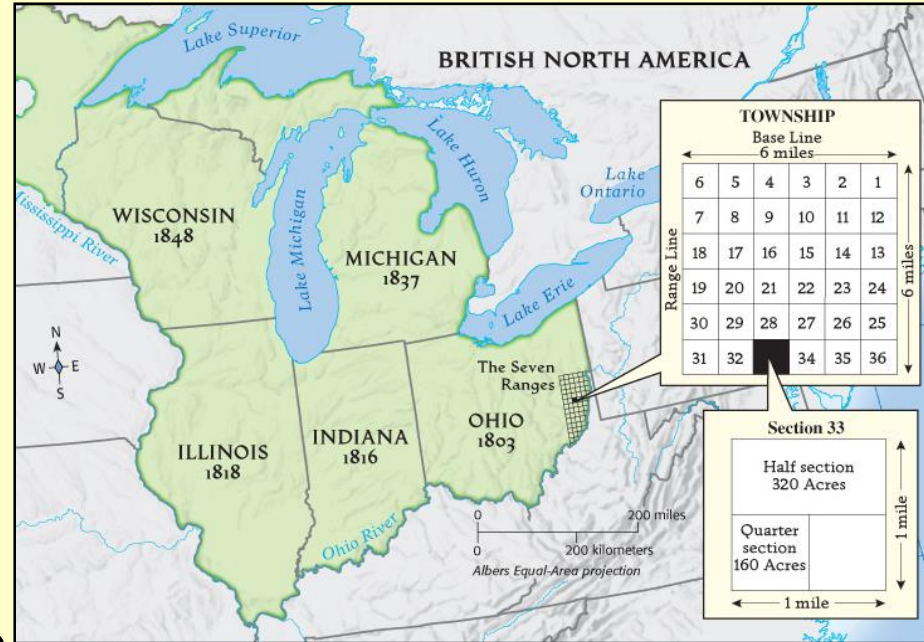


a. Explain the Northwest Ordinance's importance in the westward migration of Americans, and on slavery, public education, and the addition of new states.



The Land Ordinance of 1785

- Along with the later Northwest Ordinance, the Land Ordinance of 1785, set up an orderly way of settling the new territory.
- The Land Ordinance called for surveying and dividing the area into townships of six square miles, then subdividing townships into 36 one-square mile sections.
- These sections were sold for a minimum of \$640 per section by the government to help raise money and to provide new lands for settlement.
- Income from the 16th section of each township sold went to support public education
- Because an entire section was too expensive for most individual buyers, wealthy speculators bought much of this land, sub-divided it, and then sold it for a profit.



The Northwest Ordinance

The Northwest Ordinance provided for the following:

1. It set rules for how territories were governed and how they could become states.
2. It guaranteed freedom of religion, property, and trial by jury.
3. It forbade slavery, emphasizing the division between northern and southern states
4. It set aside land for support of public education
5. When the population reached 5,000 males, they were allowed to elect a legislature.
6. When the population reached 60,000, they could apply for statehood after drafting a republican constitution

Question: What ordinances were passed to entice settlers to move into the new territory?

b. Describe Jefferson's diplomacy in obtaining the Louisiana Purchase from France and the territory's exploration by Lewis and Clark.



The Louisiana Purchase

- In 1800, France gained Louisiana from Spain. This concerned Jefferson because it gave France control of the port of New Orleans.
- Jefferson sent an ambassador to France to negotiate rights to use the Mississippi.
- In 1803, to finance war with Britain, Napoleon offered to sell the entire Louisiana Territory to the U.S.
- The U.S. accepted and purchased the territory for a total price of \$15 million.
- This acquisition doubled the nation's size.
- Many view the Louisiana Purchase as exceeding the power of the presidency because the Constitution does not authorize Presidents to purchase land.

Lewis and Clark

- In 1804, Jefferson sent a “Corps of Discovery” headed by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark westward to explore the new territory and to find a water route to the Pacific Ocean
- This expedition included Sacagawea, an Indian guide, and York, Clark’s slave, among others.



Lewis and Clark

- The expedition lasted just over 3 years.
- Accomplishments:
 - discovered many new plant and animal varieties
 - made contact with many different native groups
 - Published detailed records of their discoveries
 - mapped the territory they explored
- Although they did not discover a water route to the Pacific, they did expand Americans' knowledge of the area and set up a claim to the Oregon territory.

The New Nation, Part Four: Madison's Presidency

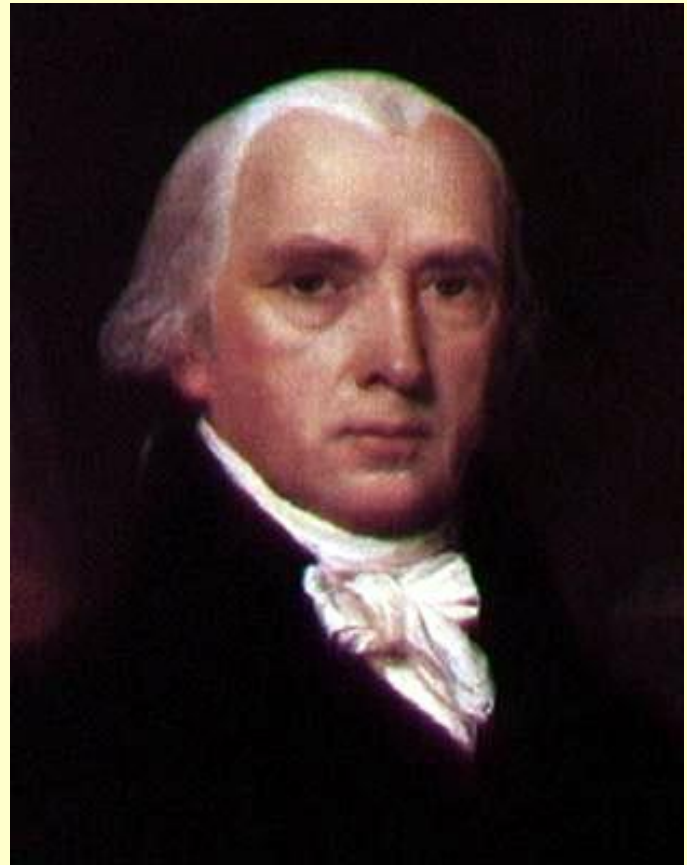
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d. Explain James Madison's presidency in relation to the War of 1812 and the war's significance in the development of a national identity.

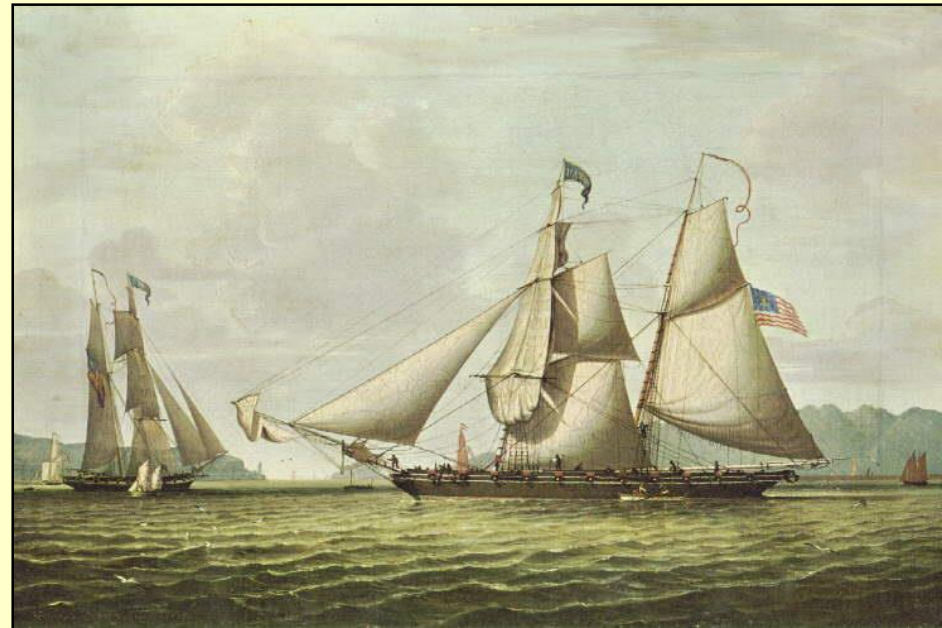
James Madison's Presidency

- James Madison was elected president in 1808
- British and French navies were again seizing U.S. ships and restricting U.S. trade.
- To force the British to drop their trade restrictions, the U.S. stopped importing British goods.



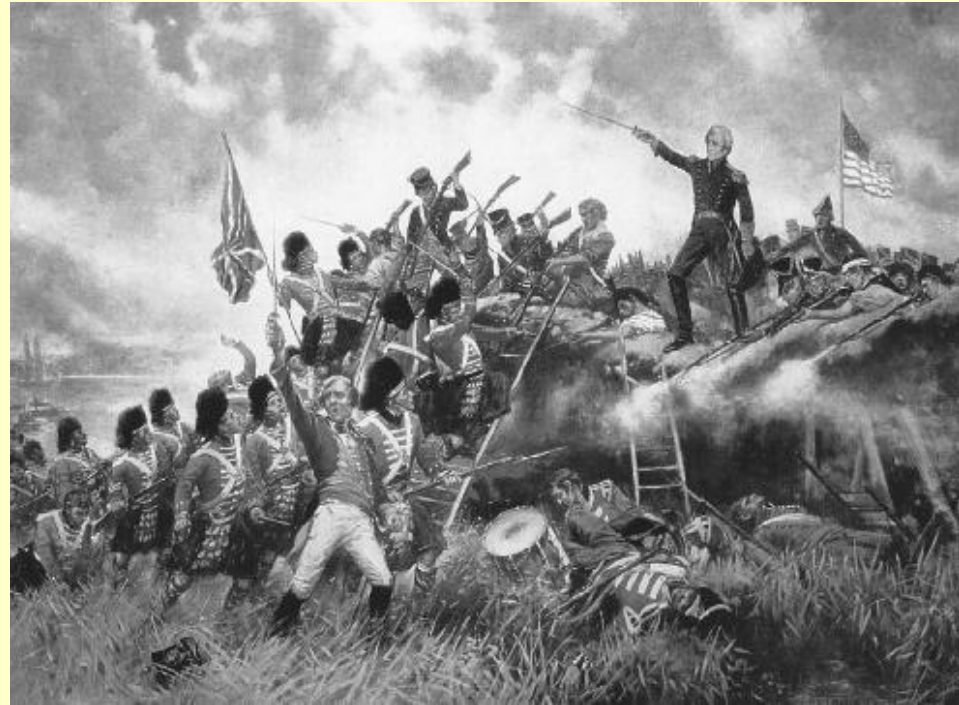
The War of 1812

- The U.S. Congress began to debate the merit of going to war against the British because of the trade restrictions.
- The British were also supporting Native uprisings against U.S. western farmers in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.
- **War Hawks**, mainly from the South and West, supported going to war against the British.



The War of 1812

- By 1812 the U.S. boycott of British goods was having such an effect on the British economy that the British ended all trade restrictions with the U.S.
- The U.S., however, declared war on Britain and launched an unsuccessful attack on British Canada
- After raiding and burning Washington D.C., the British were defeated in New Orleans by Andrew Jackson in 1815.



War of 1812: Summary of Causes

- 1. British trade policies and refusal to accept U. S. neutrality.
- 2. British impressment and the HMS Leopard/USC Chesapeake affair.
- 3. British arms/support for Native Americans.
- 4. War Hawks elected to Congress.
- 5. Madison was re-elected President in 1812 and was pressured to have Congress declare war.

The War of 1812

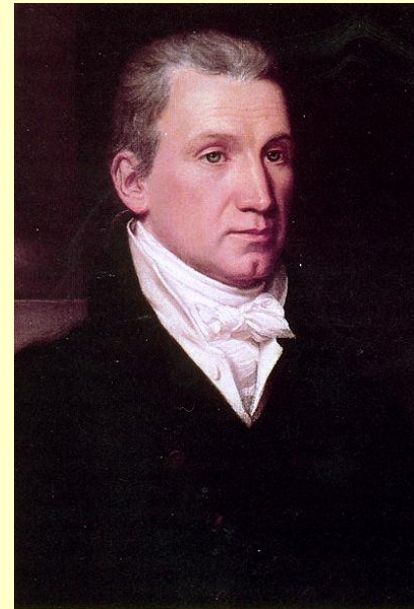
- In 1814, New England Federalists met to discuss how the region could gain political power and end the war.
- Jackson's victory in New Orleans made these Federalists seem unpatriotic and destroyed support for the Federalist Party.
- The war, which ended in 1814, helped build a sense of nationalism, and built U.S. prestige in Europe.

Key Events: War of 1812

- Great Lakes Battles in 1812
- 1813 - Frenchtown (British and Native Americans repelled forces from Kentucky)
- 1813 - Battle of York: U.S. gained control of the Great Lakes and burned Toronto (York)
- 1814 - Battle of Horseshoe Bend
- New British strategy: a three-pronged British attack (Chesapeake, Montreal/Lake Champlain, and New Orleans) is repulsed
- 1814 - Treaty of Ghent restored status quo
- 1815 – Battle of New Orleans makes Andrew Jackson a national hero

Results of the War of 1812

- During the war, Americans came together for the first time as *United States* citizens, and not just as citizens of individual states.
- The period after the War of 1812 came to be known as the “**Era of Good Feelings.**”
- This era is noted for :
 - President James Monroe elected (1816)
 - No political infighting (why?)
 - new national bank to help economy
 - tariffs on foreign goods to help U.S. manufacturing



The New Nation, Part Five: The Monroe Presidency

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- e. Explain James Monroe's presidency in relation to the Monroe Doctrine.

American Nationalism

- After the War of 1812, the United States rode a wave of nationalism while developing a booming economy, extending infrastructure, and developing a long-standing policy platform for its foreign relations.

Foreign Affairs

American Nationalism

First Seminole War (1817–18)

- began over U.S. attempts to recapture runaway black slaves living among Seminole bands.
- Under General **Andrew Jackson**, U.S. military forces invaded the area, scattering the villagers, burning their towns, and seizing Spanish-held Pensacola and St. Marks.
- As a result, in 1819 Spain was induced to cede its Florida territory under the terms of the Transcontinental Treaty.

Adams-Onís Treaty (1819)

- Aka Transcontinental Treaty
- Agreement between U.S. and Spain that:
 - divided their North American claims along a line from the southeastern corner of what is now Louisiana, north and west to what is now Wyoming, thence west along the latitude 42° N to the Pacific.
 - Spain ceded Florida To the U.S. and renounced the Oregon Country in exchange for recognition of Spanish sovereignty over Texas

The Monroe Doctrine: Origins

- The Monroe Doctrine remains to this day a cornerstone of U.S. Foreign Policy.
- It grew out of two diplomatic problems:
 1. Russia's attempted colonization of the northwest Pacific coast
 2. European powers support for Spain to regain former American colonies that had successfully rebelled

The Monroe Doctrine

- Named after President James Monroe, but largely the work of Secretary of State John Quincy Adams
- Issued in 1823, the Doctrine marked the start of the U.S. policy of preventing European powers from further colonizing and interfering with western hemisphere countries



Three Main Points of the Monroe Doctrine

1. Non-colonization: the U.S. would consider attempts to further colonize the Western Hemisphere as aggression.
2. Non-intervention: The U.S. would not allow European powers to intervene in the legitimate affairs of American nations.
3. Non-interference: The U.S. pledged not to interfere in legitimate dealings between Europe and the Americas.