



## 9.2 FOREIGN ENTANGLEMENTS AND THE WAR OF 1812

<p><b>TROUBLES AT SEA</b> <b>Impressment</b></p> <p><b>The Chesapeake</b></p>	<p>Although both France and England placed restrictions on American trade with the enemy, the British policy of IMPRESSMENT proved most troublesome for the United States. Between 1807 and 1812, about 2,500 men were captured by British commanders and impressed into royal navy. Finally three AMERICAN SAILORS WERE KILLED when a British frigate fired on the <i>CHESAPEAKE</i>, an American ship that had picked up some British deserters in American territorial waters.</p>
<p><b>The Embargo Act of 1807</b></p> <p><b>Non-Intercourse Act of 1809</b></p>	<p>Though many Republicans called for war, the American army and navy were unprepared so Jefferson had to resort to economic measures to warn Great Britain. In 1807, he persuaded Congress to pass the EMBARGO ACT which prohibited American ships from engaging in any trade with any foreign port. He thought it would punish the British by denying them American agricultural goods, but instead it was a COMPLETE DISASTER FOR THE AMERICAN ECONOMY. The act hit NEW ENGLAND MERCHANTS and SOUTHERN PLANTERS particularly hard, bringing trade to a standstill. It was also difficult to enforce and had little of the intended impact on the British, who simply turned to South American countries for agricultural goods. The embargo stayed in place until Jefferson left office but was then replaced by the NON-INTERCOURSE ACT OF 1809, which prohibited trade only with Great Britain, France, and their colonial possessions.</p>
<p><b>Madison Elected in 1808 During Depression</b></p> <p><b>Macon's Bill No. 2</b></p> <p><b>War Hawks</b></p>	<p>The 1808 presidential election came in the midst of a depression. James Madison, Jefferson's secretary of state, was elected president, but the Federalist candidate Charles Pinckney got more votes than he had in 1804.</p> <p>In 1810, the Non-Intercourse Act expired and was replaced by a new law (MACON'S BILL NO. 2) that stated that if either Britain or France would end their seizure of American vessels, then the Non-Intercourse Act would be imposed on the other. FRANCE AGREED TO THE TERMS, although it CONTINUED TO SEIZE SHIPS, and the EMBARGO WAS IMPOSED ON ENGLAND. At this point, young congressional Republicans called WAR HAWKS called for war with Great Britain.</p>
<p><b>THE INDIAN CONFEDERACY</b> <b>Tecumseh &amp; the Prophet</b></p> <p><b>Tippecanoe</b></p>	<p>Meanwhile, to the west in the Ohio River valley, the United States experienced difficulty with Native Americans. Two Shawnee Indian leaders, the war chief TECUMSEH and his mystical brother TENSKWATAWA THE "PROPHET," united the many tribes of Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan into a confederation to protect their lands. The governor of the Indiana Territory, WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, negotiated a treaty to purchase three million acres of territory at bargain prices. This caused Tecumseh to work with Southern tribes as well. In 1811, Harrison met the Shawnees at Tippecanoe Creek and captured and destroyed Prophetstown. The BATTLE OF TIPPECANOE was proclaimed a great victory for the Americans and made Harrison a national hero, but after the battle, Tecumseh allied with British military commanders in lower Canada.</p>
<p><b>THE WAR OF 1812</b> <b>Aims: Justify Western Attacks, End Impressment, Preserve Honor</b></p>	<p>The WAR HAWKS URGED THE COUNTRY TO GO TO WAR, which they felt would JUSTIFY ATTACKS ON WESTERN INDIANS, END IMPRESSMENT, and PRESERVE NATIONAL HONOR. In June 1812, Congress declared war on Great Britain in a sectional vote, with New Englanders largely opposed. The war did not go well: a proposed invasion of Canada failed, and the British grabbed forts on the Great Lakes. On the home front, New Englanders, led by FEDERALIST MERCHANTS, OPENLY OPPOSED THE WAR and carried on illegal trade with England. Federalists gained political strength in the election of 1812, demonstrating discontent with the war. American fortunes improved somewhat with General Harrison's victory at the Battle of the Thames in 1813 and Andrew Jackson's defeat of the Creeks at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814.</p>

<p><b>March on Washington</b></p>	<p>The lowest point for Americans in the war came in August 1814 when BRITISH TROOPS LANDED AND MARCHED ON WASHINGTON, putting the government to flight and SETTING FIRE TO SEVERAL PUBLIC BUILDINGS, INCLUDING THE CAPITOL. The invading army then proceeded up toward Baltimore, where it was turned back by the Maryland militia. At the same time, the Americans were halting other offensives in northern New York at Plattsburgh and in the South at New Orleans, where General Andrew Jackson once again led American forces to a decisive victory – ironically, after peace negotiators had concluded a treaty.</p>
<p><b>TREAT OF GHENT</b></p>	<p>The 1814 TREATY OF GHENT that ended the War of 1812 resulted in the AMERICANS GIVING IN ON IMPRESSMENT AND RELINQUISHING ANY CLAIMS TO CANADA. For their part, the BRITISH AGREED TO ABANDON THEIR WESTERN FORTS AND AID TO INDIANS. The FEDERALIST PARTY WAS DISGRACED because in December 1814, New England Federalists had met in Hartford, Connecticut, to discuss their grievances and propose amendments to the Constitution designed to protect New England from the growing southern and western influence. But in the changed atmosphere produced by American victories and the peace treaty, the HARTFORD CONVENTION and the Federalist Party itself came to seem irrelevant and even treasonous. The war's biggest winners were the Republican War Hawks, who REDEFINED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ALONG MORE EXPANSIVE LINES. Its biggest losers were the Indians; their leader, Tecumseh, had been killed, and they could no longer count on support from the British.</p>
<p><b>Hartford Convention: Demise of Federalists</b></p>	<p>The 1814 TREATY OF GHENT that ended the War of 1812 resulted in the AMERICANS GIVING IN ON IMPRESSMENT AND RELINQUISHING ANY CLAIMS TO CANADA. For their part, the BRITISH AGREED TO ABANDON THEIR WESTERN FORTS AND AID TO INDIANS. The FEDERALIST PARTY WAS DISGRACED because in December 1814, New England Federalists had met in Hartford, Connecticut, to discuss their grievances and propose amendments to the Constitution designed to protect New England from the growing southern and western influence. But in the changed atmosphere produced by American victories and the peace treaty, the HARTFORD CONVENTION and the Federalist Party itself came to seem irrelevant and even treasonous. The war's biggest winners were the Republican War Hawks, who REDEFINED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ALONG MORE EXPANSIVE LINES. Its biggest losers were the Indians; their leader, Tecumseh, had been killed, and they could no longer count on support from the British.</p>
<p><b>Republican Party Redefined as Expansionist</b></p>	<p>The 1814 TREATY OF GHENT that ended the War of 1812 resulted in the AMERICANS GIVING IN ON IMPRESSMENT AND RELINQUISHING ANY CLAIMS TO CANADA. For their part, the BRITISH AGREED TO ABANDON THEIR WESTERN FORTS AND AID TO INDIANS. The FEDERALIST PARTY WAS DISGRACED because in December 1814, New England Federalists had met in Hartford, Connecticut, to discuss their grievances and propose amendments to the Constitution designed to protect New England from the growing southern and western influence. But in the changed atmosphere produced by American victories and the peace treaty, the HARTFORD CONVENTION and the Federalist Party itself came to seem irrelevant and even treasonous. The war's biggest winners were the Republican War Hawks, who REDEFINED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ALONG MORE EXPANSIVE LINES. Its biggest losers were the Indians; their leader, Tecumseh, had been killed, and they could no longer count on support from the British.</p>
<p><b>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p><b>The War Hawks gave as their motives for going to war: western attacks, impressments, and national honor. Which of these motives do you think was most important to them?</b></p> <p><b>Does the coming of the War of 1812 help you to understand current thoughts about going to war with Iraq?</b></p> <p><b>Do you find a discrepancy between the Republican’s democratic ideals and their expansionist policy? Explain.</b></p>