

Key Events & Causes: War of 1812

Event	Date	Location	Significance
Napoleon excludes British goods from "fortress Europe"	1806	Europe	American ships caught in middle as British respond with blockade. British seize 1000 U.S. ships, French ca. 500.
British impress American sailors	1803-1812	High seas	British captains took over 10,000 American citizens to man ships.
Chesapeake -Leopard fight	June 1807	3 miles off Norfolk, Virginia	Chesapeake fired on by Leopard after refusing to be boarded. 3 Americans killed, 18 wounded.
Embargo Act	December 1807	Washington, D.C.	Jefferson's attempt at "peaceful coercion" resulted in economic disaster for merchants.
War Hawks elected to Congress	1810	U.S.	Calhoun, Clay, others bothered by insults to U.S. and Indian presence
Battle of Tippecanoe	1811	Ohio River Valley	Tecumseh's brother (the Prophet) led attack on Harrison's army of 1000.
Congress declares "Mr. Madison's War"	June 18, 1812	Washington, D.C.	Pushed by War Hawks, Madison asked for declaration. All Federalists oppose it.
British capture Ft. Mackinac	August 16, 1812	Michigan	U.S. lost fort as British invade American territory.
Invasion attempts of Canada	1812	U.S.--Canadian border	3 attempts of U.S. to invade Canada all fail.
<i>Constitution vs. Guerriere</i>	1812	Atlantic Ocean	Victory by U.S. ship ("Old Ironsides"). Other privateers captured or burned British ships.
Battle of Frenchtown	January 1813	Michigan	Kentucky troops repelled by British and Indians in bloody fighting. American survivors killed in Raisin River Massacre.
Battle of York (Toronto)	April 1813	Toronto, Canada	U.S. troops took control of Great Lakes, burn York. This action later returned by British burning of Washington, D.C.
Battle of Lake Erie	September 1813	Put-in-Bay	British naval attack repulsed by Capt. Perry.

Battle of Thames	October 1813	Ontario, Canada	Tecumseh killed in U.S. victory. NW Indians weakened by battle.
Battle of Horseshoe Bend	March 1814	Mississippi Territory	Andrew Jackson defeated Creek Indians.
British plan 3-part invasion of U.S.: Chesapeake Bay, Lake Champlain, & mouth of Mississippi River	1814		British successful in Chesapeake, but fail at Lake Champlain and at New Orleans
British burn Washington, D.C.	August 1814	District of Columbia	Sailing up Patuxent River, British burn Capitol and White House. Dolly Madison saves Washington's portrait.
Battle of Plattsburgh	September 1814	Lake Champlain	U.S. secured northern border with victory over larger British force.
Hartford Convention	December 15, 1814	Hartford, Connecticut	Group of Federalists discussed secession, propose 7 amendments to protect influence of Northeast states.
Treaty of Ghent	December 24, 1814	Ghent, Belgium	British and American diplomats agreed on status quo antebellum
Battle of New Orleans	January 1815	New Orleans	Jackson's forces defeated British. 700 British killed, 1400 wounded. U.S. losses: 8 killed, 13 wounded

I. President **James Madison** drifts towards war

A. **War Hawks**

1. Congress met late in 1811 – deeply divided (although Republicans still in control)
 - a. Differed from past Congresses: new young leaders from South & West
 - i. Strongly nationalistic
 - ii. Wanted war with Britain to achieve the glory their fathers had in Revolutionary War.
2. War Hawks desired U.S. to attack Canada to remove further Indian threats.
3. Southern expansionists desired Spanish Florida, Britain's ally.
4. War hawks also outraged at British impressments and Orders in Council

B. U.S. declares war on Britain in June, 1812

II. **War of 1812**

- Small war -- 6,000 Americans killed or wounded → Mostly Canadians fought Americans, very few British.
- Nation militarily unprepared for war

The Campaign against Canada

- failed efforts to invade Canada by Americans and equally failed attempts by British to invade US meant a standstill.

War in the South (Creek War)

- Led by Andrew Jackson troops from TN and KY militia combined with Creek foes (Cherokees, Choctaws and Chickasaws) sought revenge.
 - Jackson's troops using equal violence as the "Redsticks" trapped the Creeks in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in March 1814 and 800 were killed and Jackson then went into the Creek villages plundering everything in site.
 - End of Creek War in 1814 Jackson demanded large land concessions—23mil acres or more than half the Creek domain.
 - Failed to achieve capturing Florida from Spain.
 - Peace Treaty was signed in early 1815 but word had not reached Jackson before he achieved his greatest victory defeating the British in the Battle of New Orleans.
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- British burned Washington in 1814
 - Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner -- British attack of Baltimore and Fort McHenry

War ended in a stalemate

Hartford Convention convened by the Federalists (Dec. 15, 1814 -- Jan. 5, 1815)

- Purpose: Discuss their grievances and seek redress for their wrongs / opposition to the war.
Immediate goal to secure financial assistance from Washington due to British blockading menace on New England shores.
- A minority of radical delegates urged secession -- Outvoted by moderate Federalists
- Hartford resolutions were the death knell of the Federalist party.
Exaggerated treasonous accounts hurt the Federalist cause.
- Until 1815, more talk of nullification and secession in New England than in any other section, including the South → Flouting of the Jeffersonian embargo and the later crippling of the war effort were the two most damaging acts of nullification in U.S. prior to the events leading up to the Civil War.

The Treaty of Ghent

- 1814 - after the long Napoleonic war - Britain decided to end its war with America
- Peace treaty signed in Belgium Christmas 1814
- British agreed to evacuate their western lands and abandoned their insistence on a buffer state for Indians.
- War increased national unity especially Andrew Jackson's winning battle of New Orleans
- British began to no longer see America as a "colony"
- The New England response to the war indicated that there remained within the states new and fragile ideas to national unity.
- Indians great loss
 - lose protection from the British + territory
 - death of Tecumseh in 1813 and defeat of Creeks in 1814 meant weak future resistance by Indians and by 1815 American settlers pushed further west again.
- Andrew Jackson emerged as a national hero for defending New Orleans → President
- William H. Harrison a hero and later and also elected President
- American industry was stimulated by less dependence on British manufacturing.