

The War of 1812

Chapter 7, Section 2

The War at Sea

- War was finally declared by Congress.
 - On June 18, 1812
 - “Mr. Madison’s War”
 - Two days after Britain announced they would suspend the Orders of Council.
- Am. frigates did very well against the British.
 - Built following the XYZ Affair
 - Faster, tougher, larger, and more powerfully armed
 - Scored a # of early victories
 - *U.S.S. Constitution* vs. *H.M.S. Guerrière*
 - *U.S.S. United States* vs. *H.M.S. Macedonian*
 - *U.S.S. Constitution* vs. *H.M.S. Java*
 - But greatly outnumbered
 - Spent most of the war in port
 - Allowed the British to impose a blockade



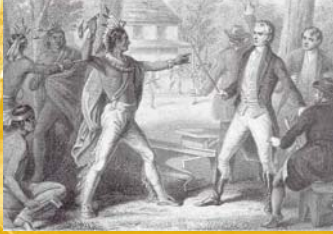
Invasion of Canada

- 3-pronged attack on Canada
 - Began w/ high hopes
 - But ineptly fought
 - And failed dismally
- Oliver Hazard Perry
 - Built a fleet of ships on the Great Lakes
 - Destroyed the British fleet on the Great Lakes
 - In a very bloody battle
 - “We have met the enemy, and they are ours.”



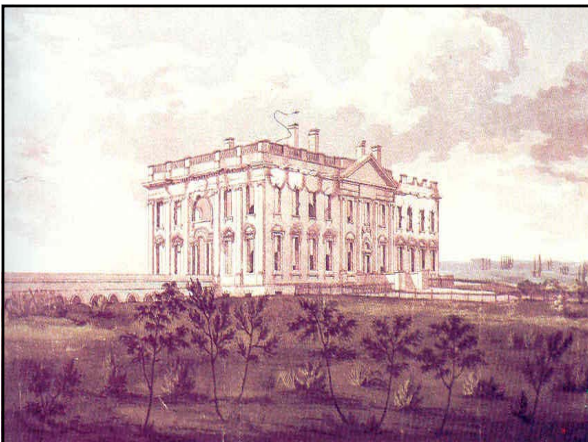
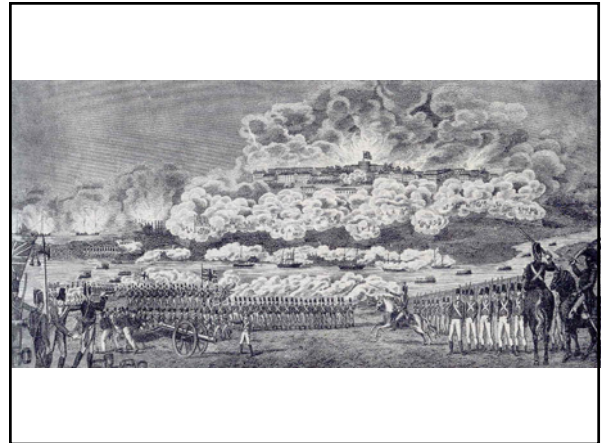
Invasion of Canada

- Harrison
 - Forced the British to w/draw from Detroit
 - After the Great Lakes were secured
 - Met the British in the Battle of the Thames (1813)
 - Resulting in Tecumseh's death, completely demoralizing the Indians



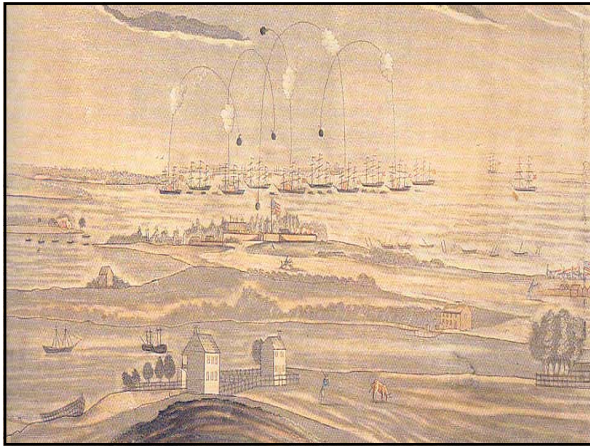
Britain's Response

- Napoleon's abdicated in April 1814
 - Forced into exile on island of Ebla
 - Freed the British army to attack
 - But proved to be as ineffective as Am.
- Attack on Washington, D.C.
 - Burned most of the public buildings
 - Including the Capitol and the White House
 - In response for the Am. burning Montreal
 - Dolley Madison
 - 1st Lady
 - Saved a few priceless artifacts before escaping into nearby hills



Britain's Response

- Attack on Baltimore, Maryland
 - Pounded Fort McHenry w/ 1,800 shells in 25 hrs.
 - Observed by Francis Scott Key
 - Who was detained aboard British ship during bombardment
 - Inspired him to write the "Star-Spangled Banner"
 - Set in tune to a British drinking song
 - Became the national anthem
 - Failed
 - Britain w/draws to concentrate attack on New Orleans.

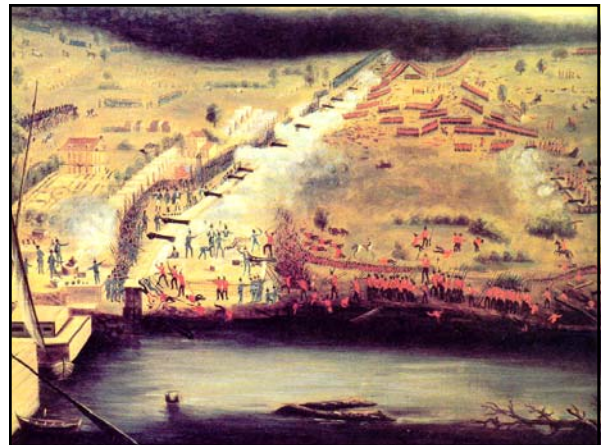


Treaty of Ghent

- Negotiated in Ghent, Belgium, in 1814
- Am. Delegation
 - Albert Gallatin—former sec. of the treasury
 - Henry Clay—speaker of the House
 - James A. Bayard—former senator
 - Jonathan Russell—minister to Sweden
 - John Quincy Adams—minister to Russia
- British Delegation
 - Mostly 2nd rate foreign service workers
 - Topflight diplomats were reshaping Europe at Congress of Vienna
- Accomplished very little
 - Simply ended hostilities on Dec. 24, 1814
 - Known as the *status quo ante bellum* treaty

Battle of New Orleans (Jan. 1815)

- Planned in an effort to menace the Miss. Valley
- Andrew Jackson
 - Battle of Horseshoe Bend (1814)
 - Crushed the Creek Indians in Alabama
 - Assigned task of defending Gulf Coast
- The British were overconfident.
 - They had just defeated the mighty Napoleon.
 - They suffered 2,000 casualties in less than 30 min.
 - Compared to 70 Am. casualties
- The battle was fought needlessly.
 - The Treaty of Ghent had already been signed.



Hartford Convention

- Meeting of New England Federalists
- Fueled by frustrations of the Federalists
 - Opposed war from the beginning
 - Suffered economically from blockade
 - Stopped all foreign trade
 - Were convinced the British would win
- Discussed the potential secession of New England
 - But quickly voted down
 - But roused fears b/c meeting was held in secret
- Proposed revisions in the Const.
 - Would require a 2/3 vote for . . .
 - Imposing an embargo
 - Admitting new states
 - Declaring war, except in case of invasion
- Sent envoys to submit demands to Washington
 - Arrived just as news of the Battle of New Orleans and Treaty of Ghent reached Washington
- Completely discredited the Federalists

