

# JEFFERSON AND BEYOND

**MADISON AND THE WAR**

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# Re-Election

- Jefferson re-elected in 1804 easily (162) against Federalist Charles C. Pinckney (14)
  - Election of 1800 - wanted to focus on domestic and avoid foreign affairs
- After selling the US the LA purchase, France declares war on Great Britain
- 11 years of Napoleonic Wars
  - France conquers the land
  - Great Britain maintains control of the sea
- Once again, the US is stuck between the two powers
  - Want neutrality
  - Continue trading with both
  - U.S. Shipping of exports took off
  - Great Britain set up partial blockade

# IMPRESSMENT: WHAT IS IT?

- **Impressment, or “press gang”**
  - recruitment by force.
  - Affected the U.S.
  - One of the causes of the War of 1812.
- **The British Navy consistently suffered manpower shortages**
  - Low pay
  - Lack of qualified seamen.
- **During wartime the navy forced unwilling individuals into service.**
  - Residents of seaports lived in fear
  - Armed gangs kidnapping men in their beds, or barged into weddings to haul the groom out.
- **Generally “pressing” took place at sea where the armed gangs would board merchant ships.**
  - Forcibly took their men
  - Left without sufficient hands to take them safely into port.



# IMPRESSMENT (CONT'D)

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- **Impressment was first made lawful during Elizabethan times**
  - **Common practice of drafting soldiers dating back to the 13th century.**
  - **In 1563 Queen Elizabeth passed "an Act touching politick considerations for the maintenance of the Navy".**
  - **1597 "Vagrancy Act" allowed for men of disrepute to be impressed for service in the fleet.**
- **Essential but unpopular (viewed as an unconstitutional system).**
- **1740 act declared that all men under 18 and over 55 and foreigners who served on British ships were declared exempt from enforced service.**
  - **Ignored and impressment of foreigners was commonplace.**
  - **1780 the exemptions from impressment were withdrawn: needed sailors badly.**

# AMERICA HAS HAD ENOUGH

- **American merchant vessels were a common target.**
    - **Between 1793 and 1812, the British impressed more than 15,000 U.S. sailors.**
    - **18 JUNE 1812 declared war on Great Britain**

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      - Citing **IMPRESSMENT**
  - **After the Napoleonic Wars impressment was ended in practice, though not officially abandoned as a policy.**
    - **Last law was passed in 1835**
      - **Power to impress was reaffirmed.**
- BUT**
- **It limited the length of service of a pressed man to five years**
  - **Added the provision that a man couldn't be pressed twice.**



# War?

- Congress says that the act of Impressments is violation of neutrality from Great Britain

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- 1807 – *Leopard attack on Chesapeake* off coast of Virginia
- 3 American lives lost
- Angered Americans – twice as much because Jefferson refuses war
- Instead of war, we should stop trade with them to force their hand

# U.S. Reactions

- US issues Non-importation Acts: ban on British imports

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- Negotiations:
  - Britain decides to stop interfering on our trade with France

**BUT!!**

  - **WON'T** stop impressments
- Increased US hate of England
- Jefferson knows we are still too weak to go to war with England
  - Wants to hit them hard financially



# Embargo Act of 1807

- The U.S. will not trade with any European traders, no importation of British goods
  - Jefferson believed we would be okay without their products, but they would not be okay without ours
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- Politically and Economically disastrous
    - Widespread violation of the embargo with smuggling
    - Jefferson calls in the Army and Navy to control it
    - Declares part of the country in rebellion

**Goes against his belief of weak central  
government**



# Reactions

- Boosts Federalist supporters
- Jefferson changes policies after 2 years
  - Looses political respect, decides not to run for 3<sup>rd</sup> term
- 1809- Embargo repealed and replaced with Non-Intercourse Act
  - We will trade with everyone else **EXCEPT** Britain and France and their colonies
  - Trying to keep our economy working

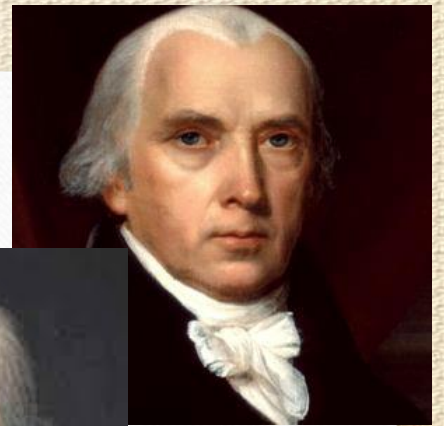
# Election of 1808

- Democrat-Republican - James Madison (122) “Little Jemmy”
- Federalist – Charles C. Pinckney (47)
  - Federalist support stemmed from New England

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- Why? Because merchants!
  
- Dolley Madison – First Lady

- “Presidentess”- Balance between queenliness and republican openness
- Weekly open-house parties “Mrs. Madison’s Crush” or “Levees”
- Parties lasted hours, with hundreds of people in attendance
- Established informal channels of information
- By opening the house – termed the “White House” during this time – made accessible the powerful leaders and dignitaries to many “common people”





# Back in the Northwest....

- **American's believed British were still interfering with Native Americans**
  - **230,000 people flooded into Ohio after Treaty of Greenville**
- **After Battle of Fallen Timbers, tribes called for unification**
- **Tecumseh, a Shawnee chief, wanted to hold onto Native American lands**
- **William Henry Harrison (governor of Indiana territory) continued buying pieces of land over a period of time from Native Americans**
- **Tecumseh argued that the land belongs to all tribes, no one tribe has the right to sell it to anyone.**
- **1809 – Treaty of Fort Wayne between Miami, Delaware, and Potawatomi tribes**
- **Treaty caused more tribes to unify against the Americans**

**(Harrison promised this purchase would be last one (LIES)– buys 3 million acres at 2 cents per acre).**

# Battle of Tippecanoe

- Tecumseh out on a mission to recruit other tribes to oppose Americans.
- Harrison with 1000 men defeat the Shawnee
  - 2 hour battle, 62 American deaths, 40 Native American deaths
- Tecumseh and his warriors go to British Canada for safety – welcomed
  - His welcome made Americans angry
- Native Americans and British become allies
- Henry Clay – Congressman of Kentucky argued for war!





# New Political Group: War Hawks

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- **Westerners who wanted war with the British – War Hawks**
- **Wanted British aid to Native Americans to STOP**
- **Wanted British out of Canada**
  
- **Wanted war because of impressment**

# Declaration of WAR

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- **June 18, 1812– Congress declares war on Britain**