

The American Military Experience

The US Army, 1783-1815



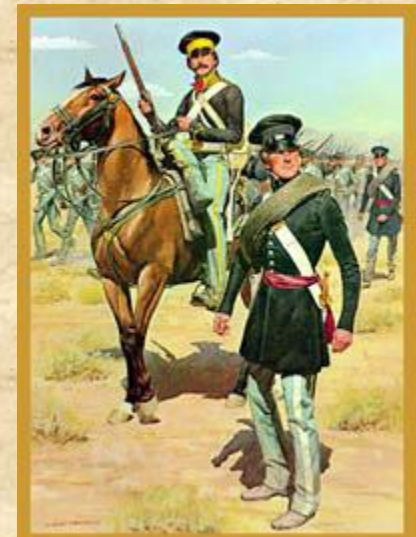
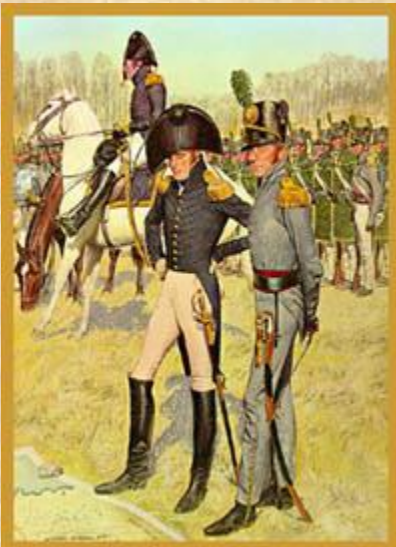
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University of Mobile



Time of Revolutionary Change: America in 1790 and 1850

- I. Demographic Revolution
- II. Political Revolution
- III. Market Revolution
- IV. Transportation Revolution
- V. Communication Revolution

Theme: Think about quickly setting the background within which the US military operated during the period.



Demographic Revolution

1770 2,205,000

1790 3,929,214 3.7 million rural .7 million urban

1850 23,191,876 19.6 million rural 3.2 million urban

Territory (land and water in square miles)

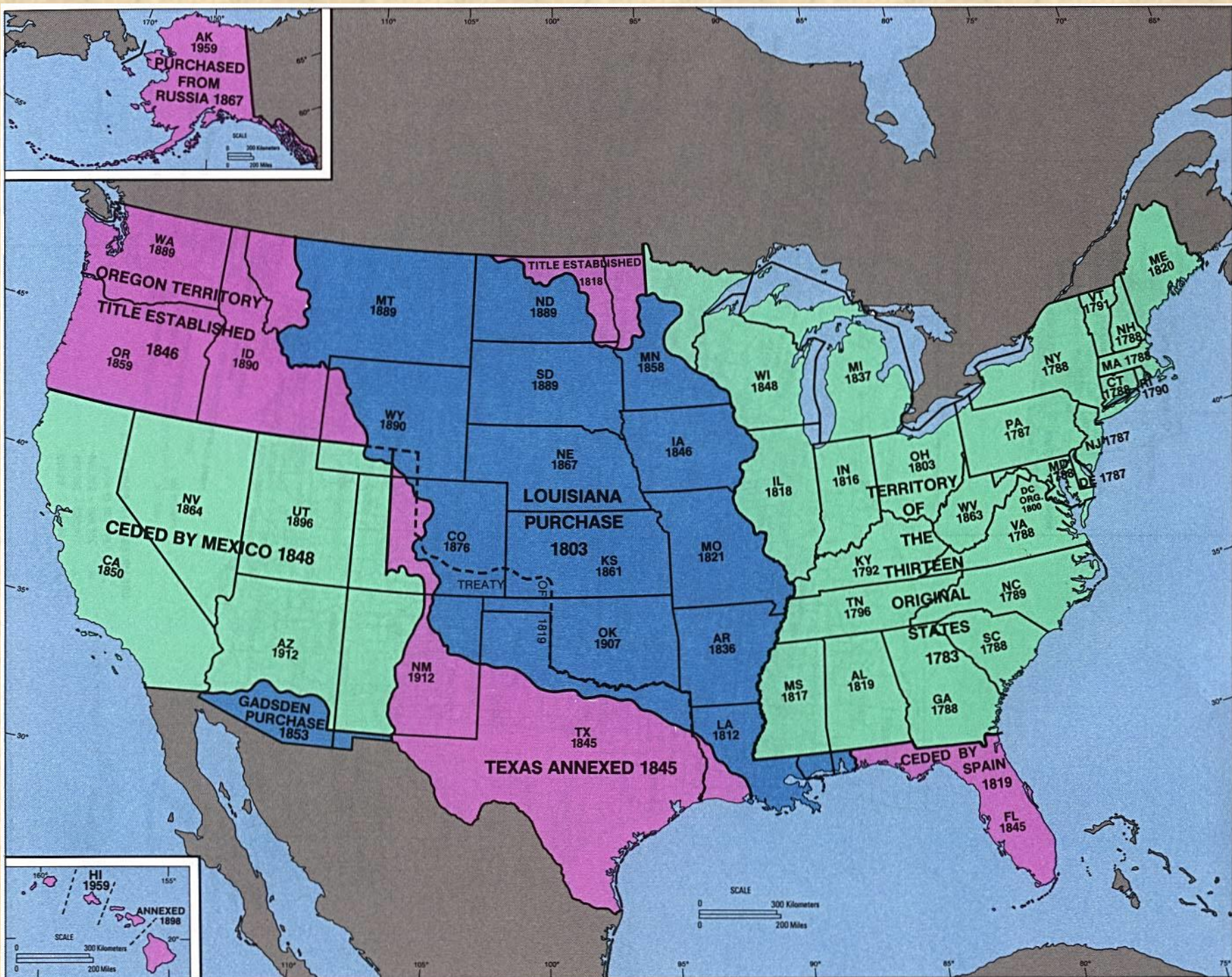
1790 888,811 .22 sq. miles/person 13 states

1850 2,992,747 .13 sq. miles/person 30 states

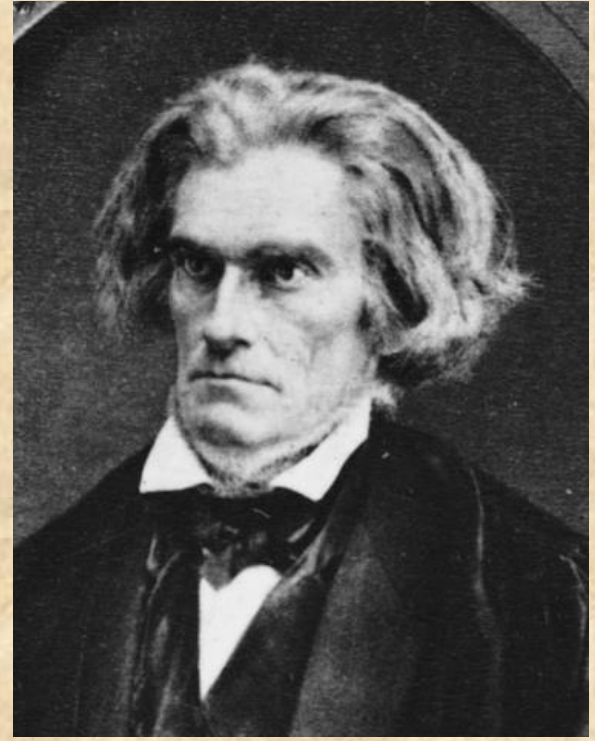
Fiscal

\$1.15 billion in national wealth \$293 per capita

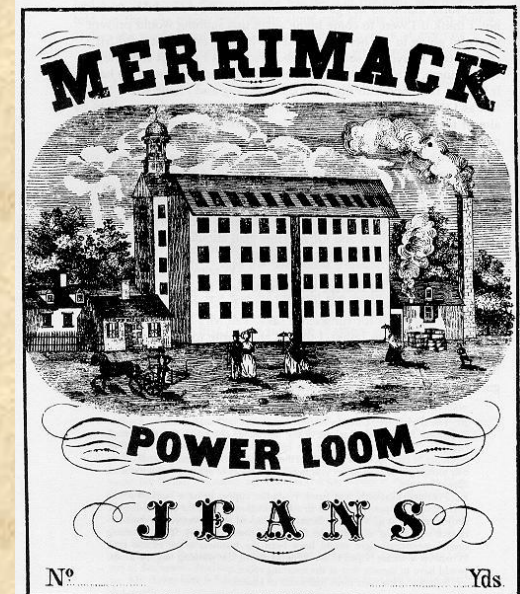
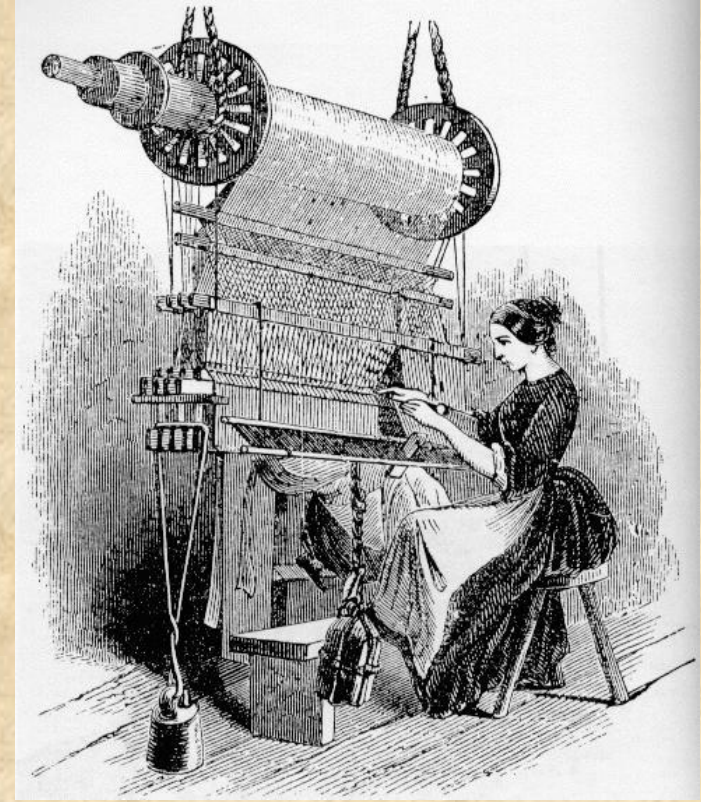
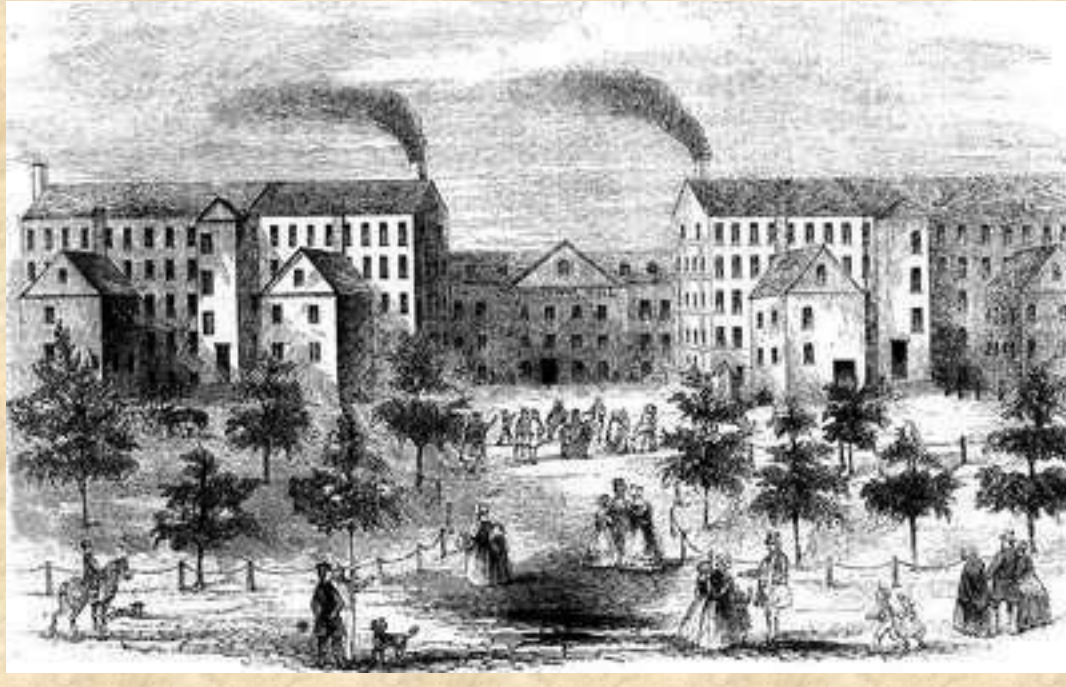
\$7.16 billion in national wealth \$308 per capita



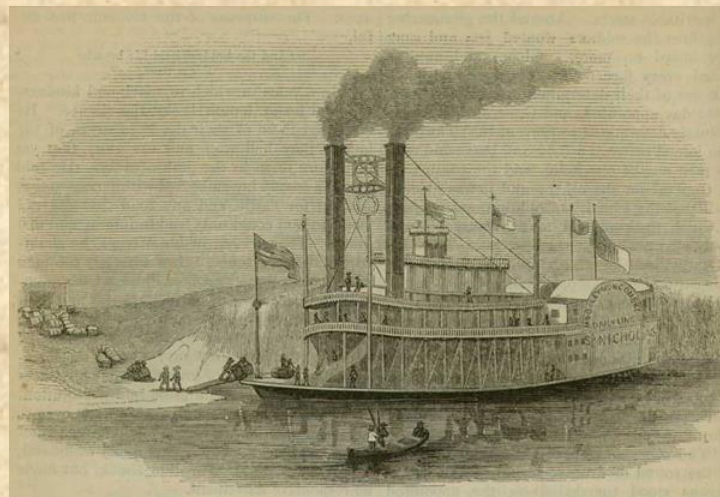
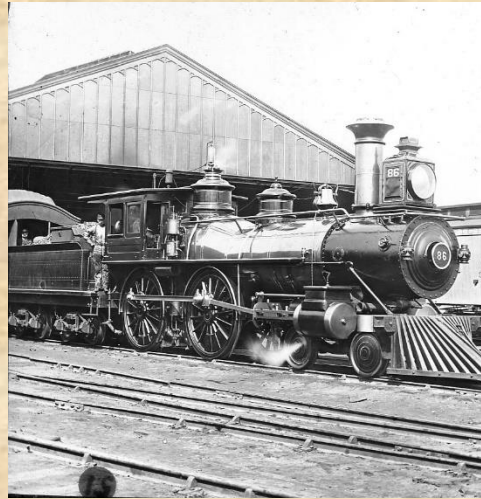
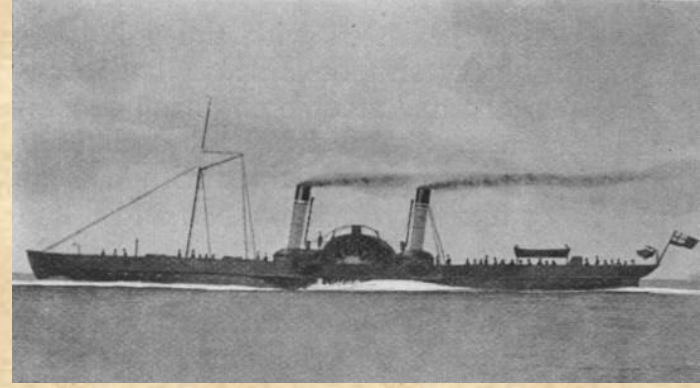
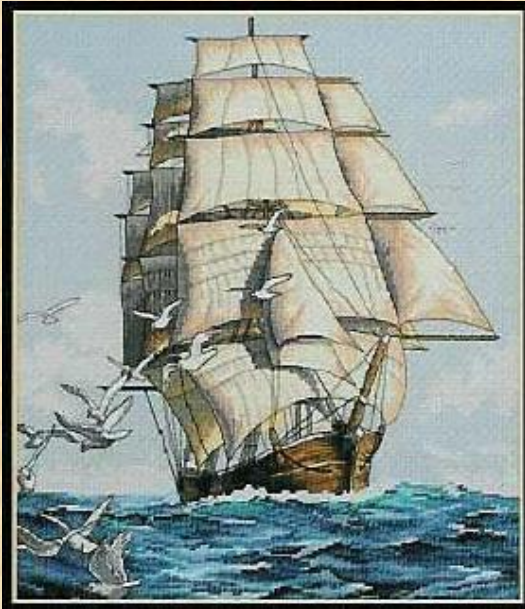
Political Revolution



Market Revolution



Transportation Revolution



Communication Revolution



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New York Transcript

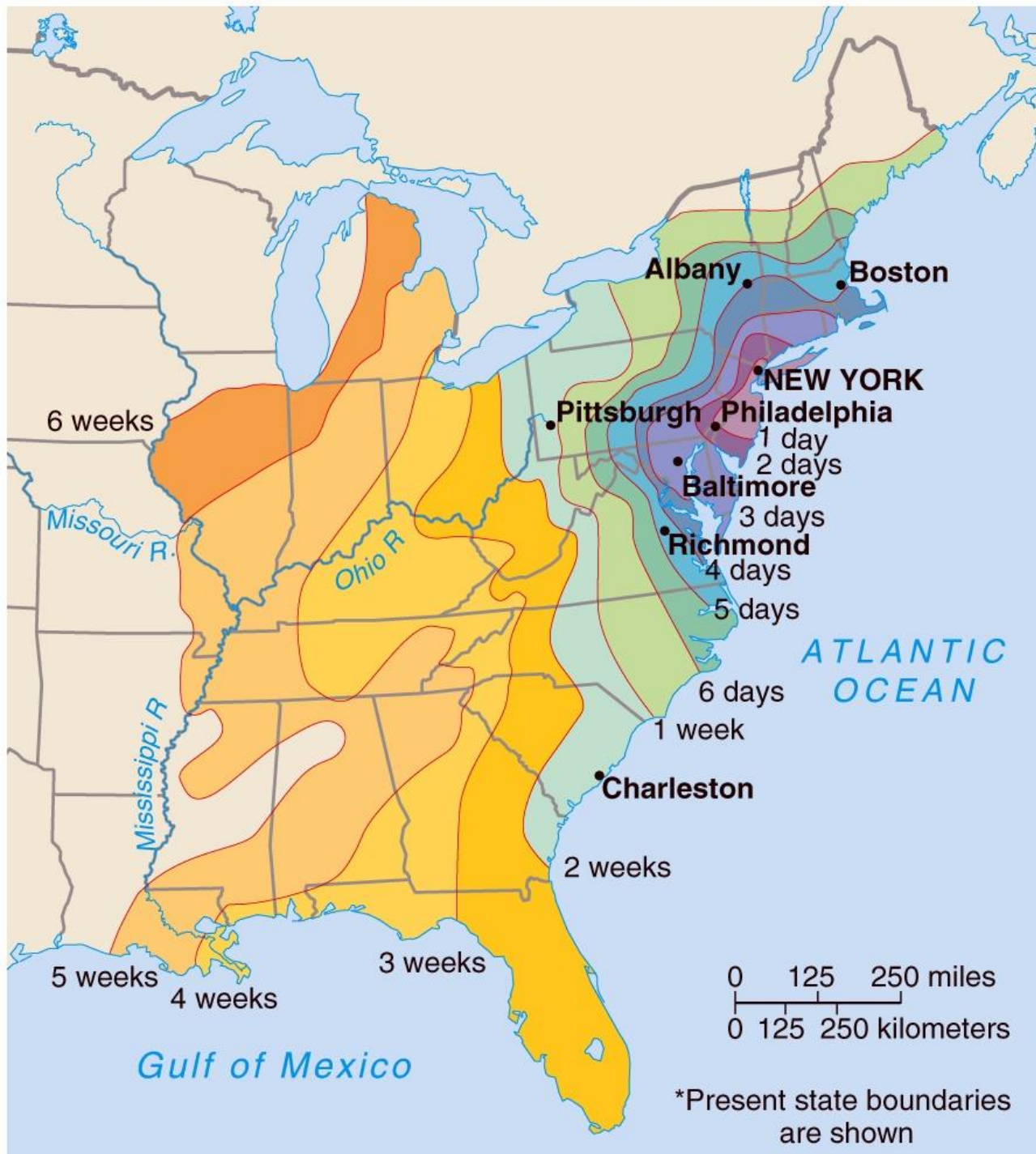
Vol. 21, No. 20. NEW YORK, TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 24, 1862.

WELLS, FARGO & COMPANY.
 PONY EXPRESS TO SAN FRANCISCO.
 The Pony Express, which was started on the 3d of Sept. 1860, and which has since that time been running at intervals of ten days, has just received its first mail from the North Pacific coast, and has returned to New York on the 23d inst. The mail was carried by the Pony Express, and was delivered to the office of Wells, Fargo & Co. at New York on the 23d inst. The mail was carried by the Pony Express, and was delivered to the office of Wells, Fargo & Co. at New York on the 23d inst.

THE GREENWICH INSURANCE COMPANY.
 The Greenwiche Insurance Company, which was organized in 1858, and which has since that time been running at intervals of ten days, has just received its first mail from the North Pacific coast, and has returned to New York on the 23d inst. The mail was carried by the Pony Express, and was delivered to the office of Wells, Fargo & Co. at New York on the 23d inst.

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1800



HEY, AMERICAN ARMY.....

You've just defeated the greatest army in the world. And you've made Mel Gibson a national hero...



Sure, you needed help from the snotty French. But now you can relax.

Now you can have some fun now that the parent (nation) is not around.

Now you drink imported tea, guilt-free.

Now you can wait patiently for the next British Invasion (in 1964)

Now comes Miller time...

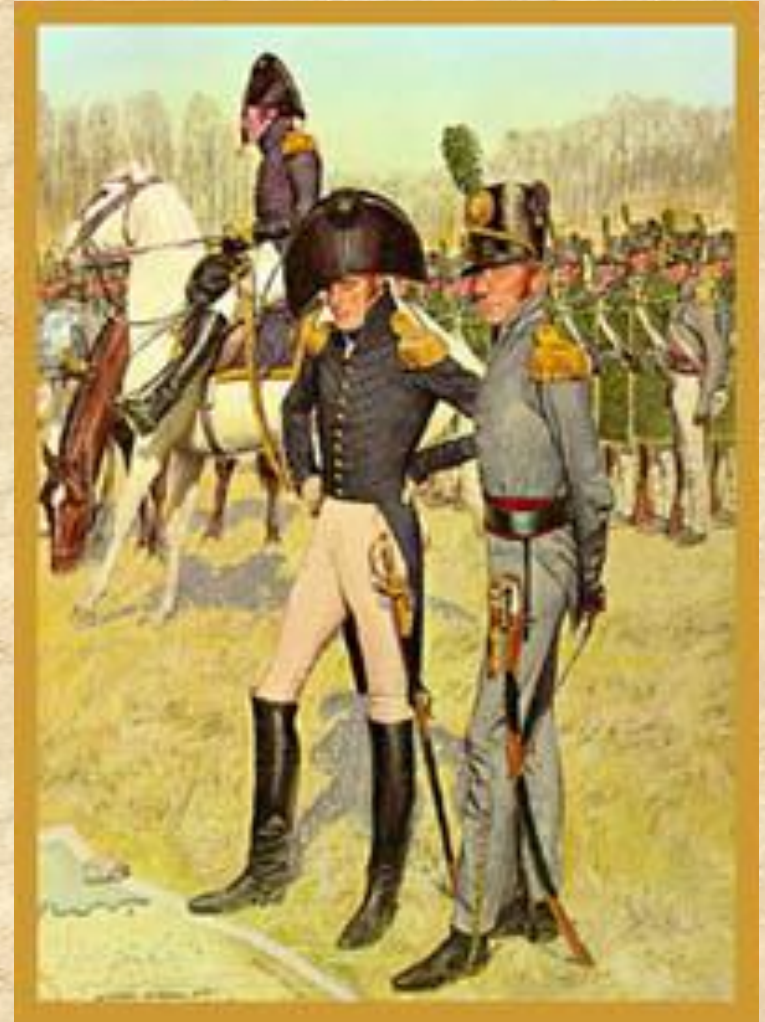


It's 1783. What should the military strategy of the young United States be?



Army Problems?

- Funding
- Composition
- Mission
- British
- Indians
- Leadership
(Civilian/Military)





Sentiments on a Peace Establishment—1783

- 1) **Small regular army (2,631)**
- 2) **Militia**
 - a. **Federal standardization**
 - b. **Volunteer and Common militia**
- 3) **Federal arsenals and factories**
- 4) **Military Academies**



“... Regular Troops alone are equal to the exigencies of modern war, as well as for defense as offence, and whenever a substitute is attempted it must prove illusory and ruinous”

George Washington
15 September 1780

“Standing armies in time of peace are inconsistent with the principles of republican government.”

The Confederation Congress
2 June 1784

A standing army as a political issue.

Militia vs. Professional Standing Army

Why were folks concerned about this? --- Power; just fought a Revolution

Why was a militia considered a better fighting force despite evidence to the contrary? ---motivated by love of freedom rather than pay; self-interest; civic virtue

Events that worked against a decent sized standing army:

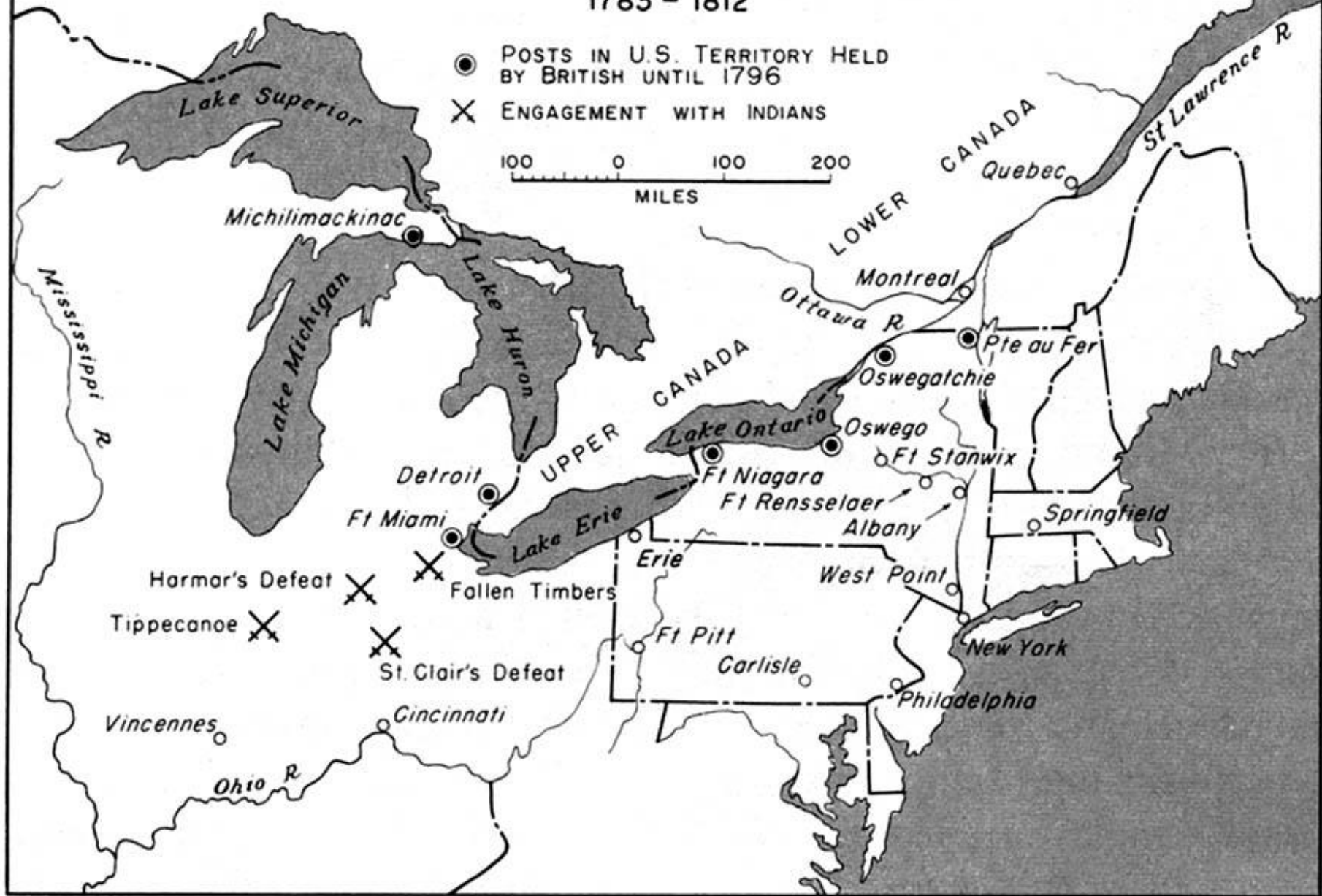
1. Newburgh Conspiracy (winter 1782-1783) a great story with tons of leadership potential
2. Society of the Cincinnati (1783) membership hereditary
3. Philadelphia Riots (1783)
4. Whiskey Rebellion (1794)
5. Alien and Sedition Acts (1798) Quasi-War with France
6. Political Ideology and Party Politics: Nationalism (Alexander Hamilton—Federalists) vs Republicanism (Jeffersonian Republicans)

Nationalists were petrified by Shays' Rebellion (1786-1787); Washington, who didn't frighten easily, was "mortified beyond expression." Crisis atmosphere—led to Constitutional Convention.

Constitution stuck a balance regarding military power—the fear remained.

THE NORTHERN FRONTIER

1783 - 1812



Washington's War: 1790-1795

- Confederation of Miami, Shawnee, Delaware, and Wyandot Indians
 - Defending the Ohio Country encouraged by the British
 - Led by Blue Jacket of the Shawnee and Little Turtle of the Miami
- Battle of Kekionga (**Harmar's** defeat) – 20-22 October 1790
- Battle of the Wabash (**St. Clair's** defeat) – 4 November 1791
- **Wayne** placed in command - organizes "Legion of the United States"
- Victory at Fallen Timbers on 20 August 1794
- Treaty of Grenville - 3 August 1795



Washington to St. Clair: "Trust not the Indian; leave not your arms for the moment; and when you halt for the night be sure to fortify your camp. Again and again, General: Beware of surprise!"



Henry Knox of MA, Secretary of War and Chief Little Turtle

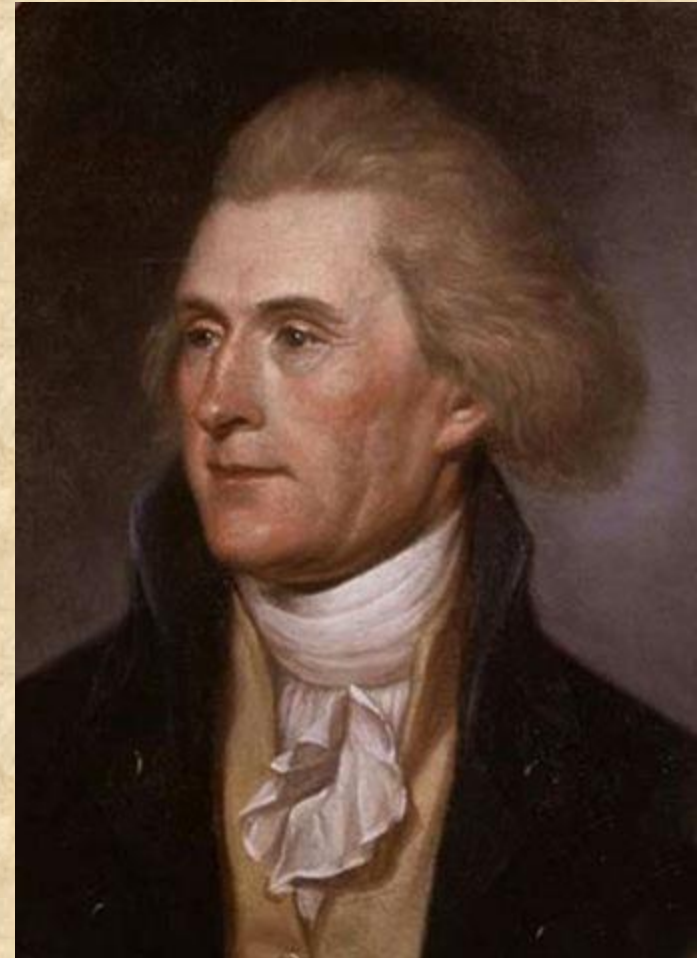
War with the Indians brings up the question of a standing army!

“the Constitution certainly never contemplated a Standing Army in time of Peace”

Sen. William Maclay

Republican Defense Policy: **Jefferson Administration (1800-1808)** **Hippies or Pragmatists?**

- **Reduce standing Army (budget)**
- **Establish USMA at West Point & “Republican-ize” officer corps**
- **Create Gunboat Navy; “Mosquito Fleet”**
- **Build stone masonry fortresses along the coast**
- **Economic sanctions in response to British outrages**





Ft. Jackson, LA



Ft. Moultrie, SC

Coastal Defenses

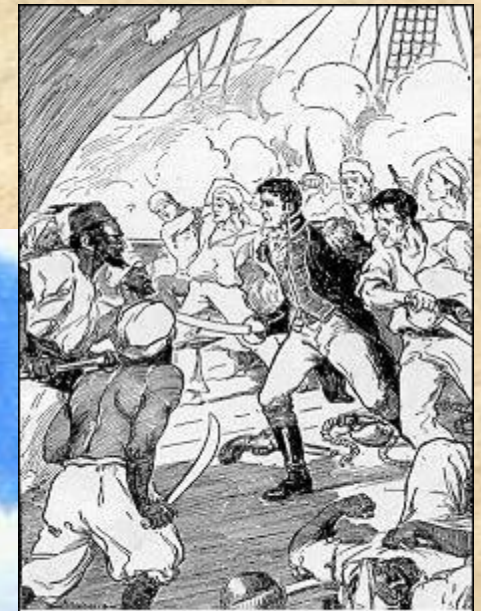


Ft. McHenry, MD



Ft. Monroe, VA

Reality intrudes! T.J. and the Pirates



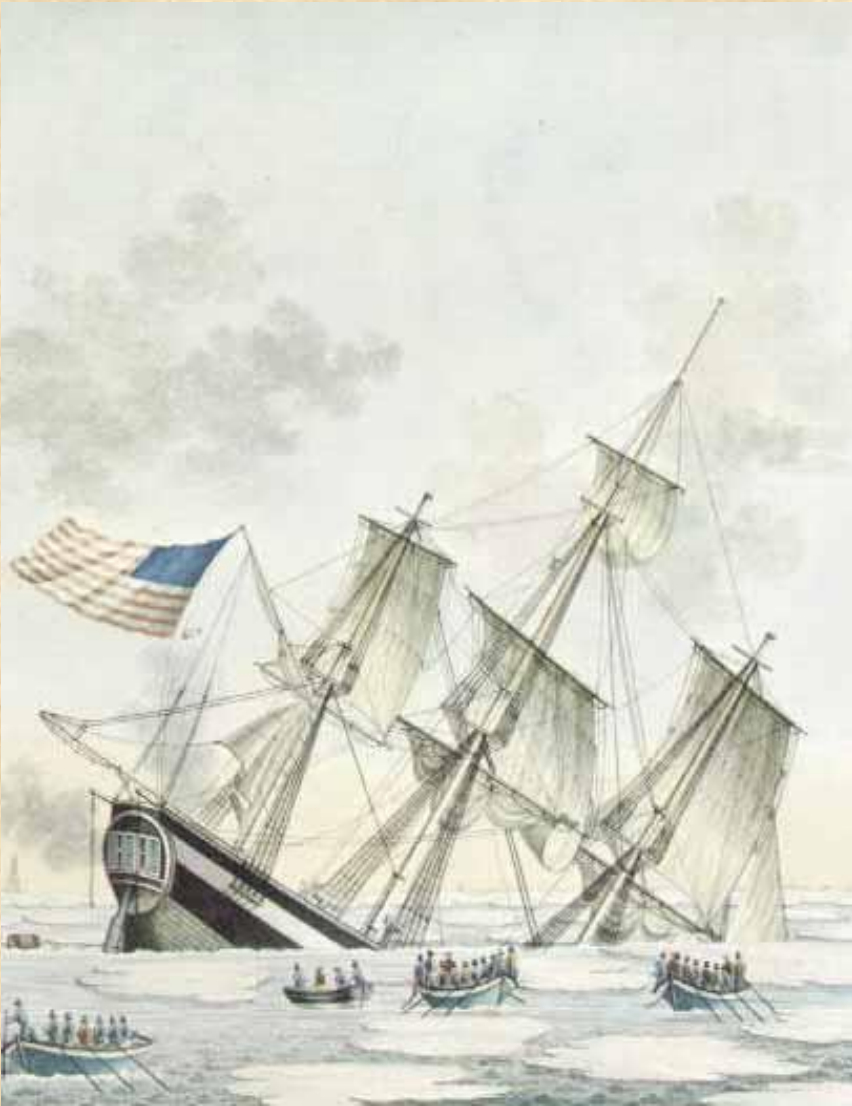
Fighting the Barbary Pirates

Toward the War of 1812

After 1803, Britain and France are once again at war.

The British blockade Europe and forbid any neutral ships to trade in European ports. U.S. ships are treated by British as hostile vessels. British board and sink U.S. ships.

French also treat U.S. ships as enemy.

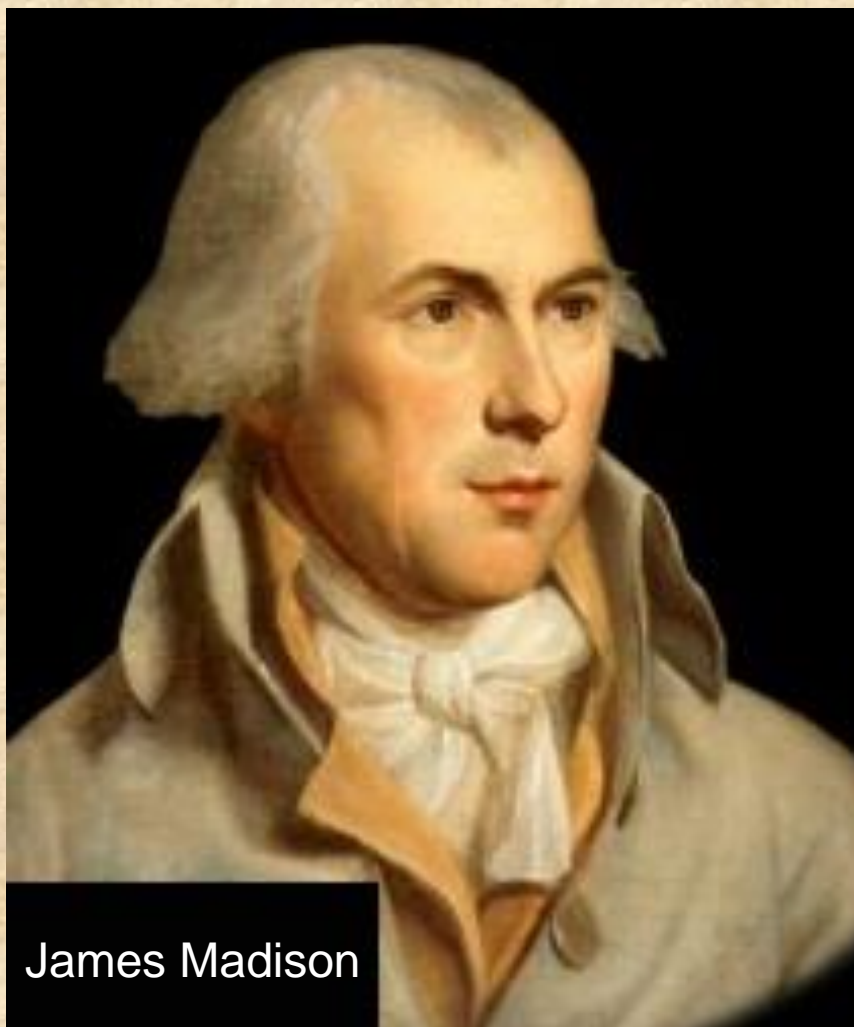




Jefferson, like Washington, caught between two European super-powers. He decides that the U.S. will trade with neither France nor Britain, until either or both recognize U.S. neutrality.

Congress passes a series of Embargo Acts between 1806-1807 meant to exclude British and French goods from U.S. and U.S. goods from Europe.

The “Dumbargo” as New England Federalists call it, is disastrous for U.S. commerce. Doesn’t really solve any problems.



James Madison elected President in 1808. He inherits all of Jefferson's problems. The British convince Madison to renew trade with Britain, then seize U.S. ships that try.

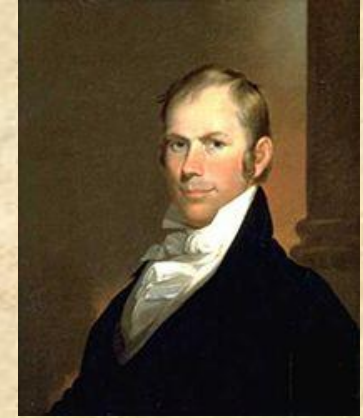
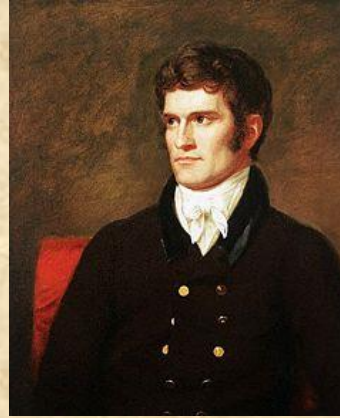
With Madison's approval, Congress passes Macon's Bill no.2 (1810). The bill says that U.S. will trade with whichever side is nice to us.

Neither side is – Madison declares war on Britain, June 18, 1812.

War of 1812

Causes:

- Impressment
- Indian Problems
- British forts on the Ohio frontier
- War Hawks want to annex Canada
- Americans tired of being pushed around.



Problems

- U.S. unprepared for war. 6,000 soldiers and 18 warships. British have 600 ships, 250,000 soldiers.
- Most of the U.S. army in the West, war is in the East.
- Lack a coherent strategy

The War of 1812



The White House

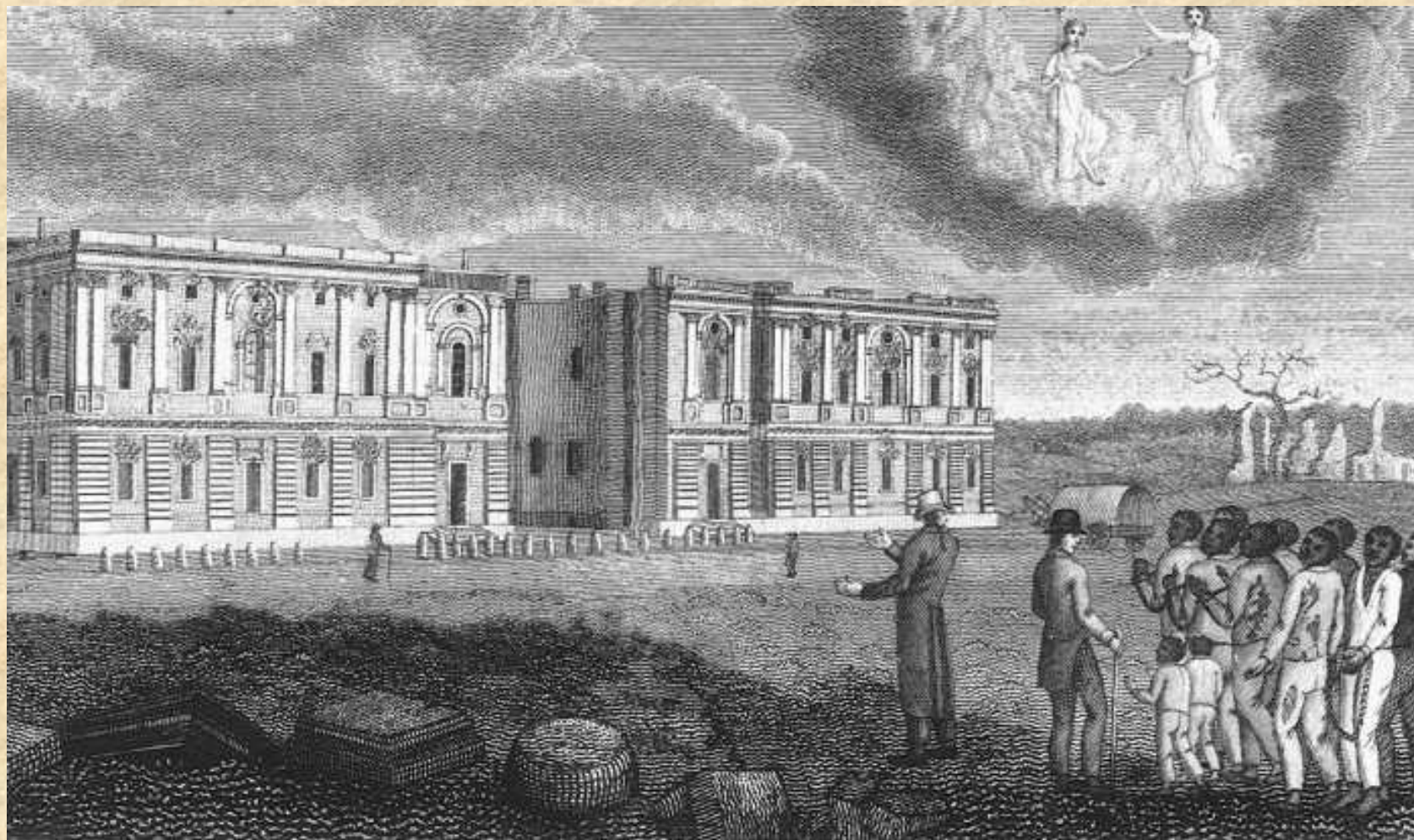


The White House



CAPTURE AND BURNING OF WASHINGTON BY THE BRITISH, IN 1814.

British Burn Washington

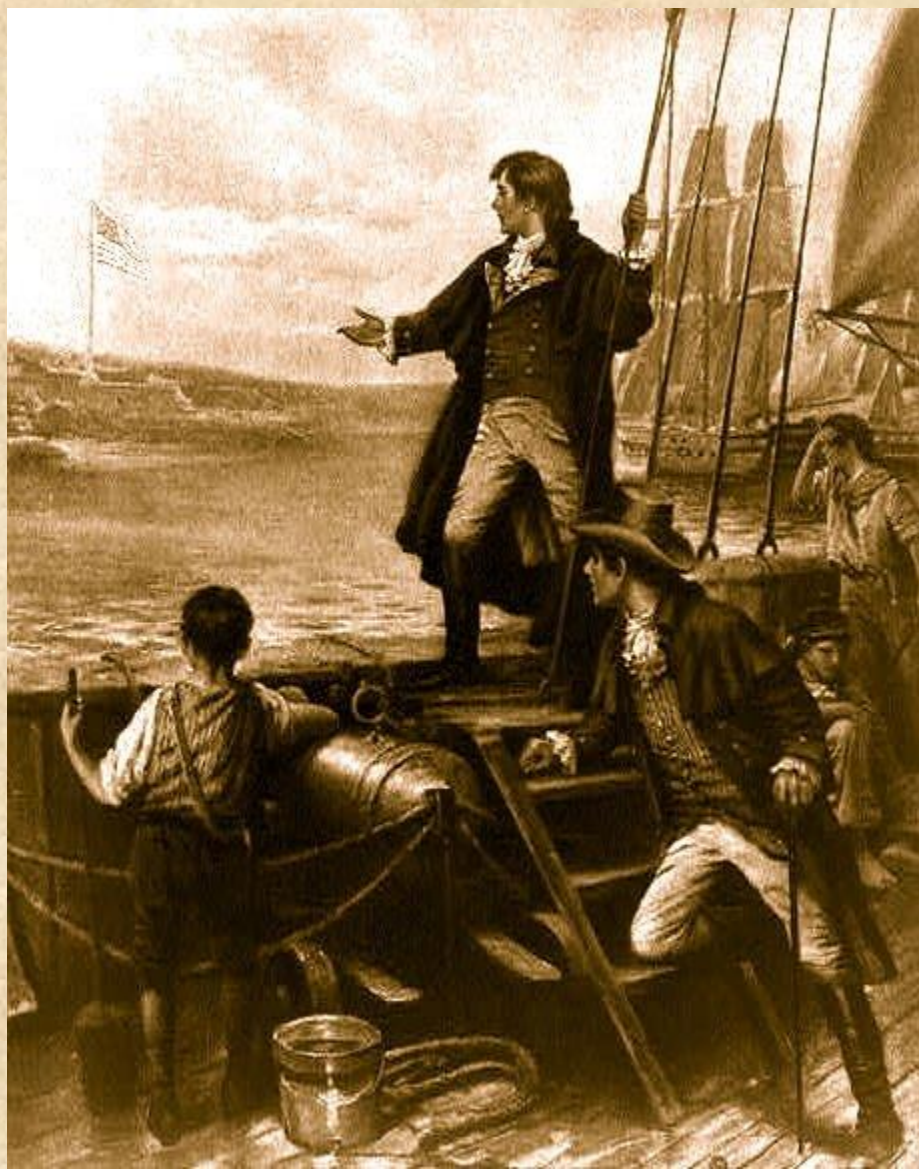


Above is a print of the Capitol after British burn it. The engraver, an early abolitionist, shows angels above and slaves right, implying that the destruction is divine vengeance for slavery.

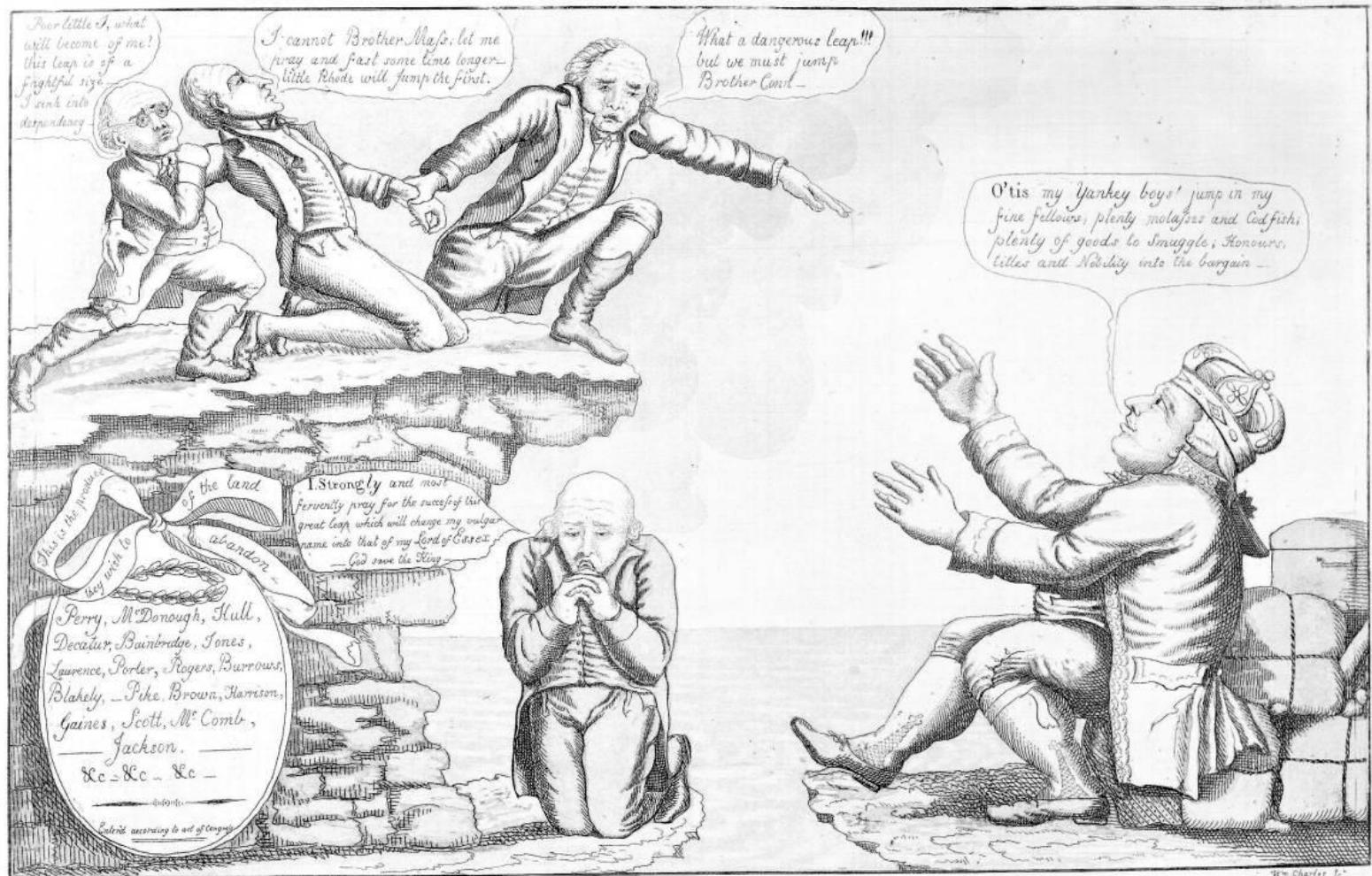
Ft. McHenry



Francis Scott Key



Hartford Convention, 1814



The Hartford Convention or *LEAP NO LEAP.*

The Battle of New Orleans—8 January 1815



Engraver, B. B. Russell & Co.
BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS.
JANUARY 8th 1815.
ENGRAVED EXPRESSLY FOR ABOTTS LEVER OF THE PRESIDENTS

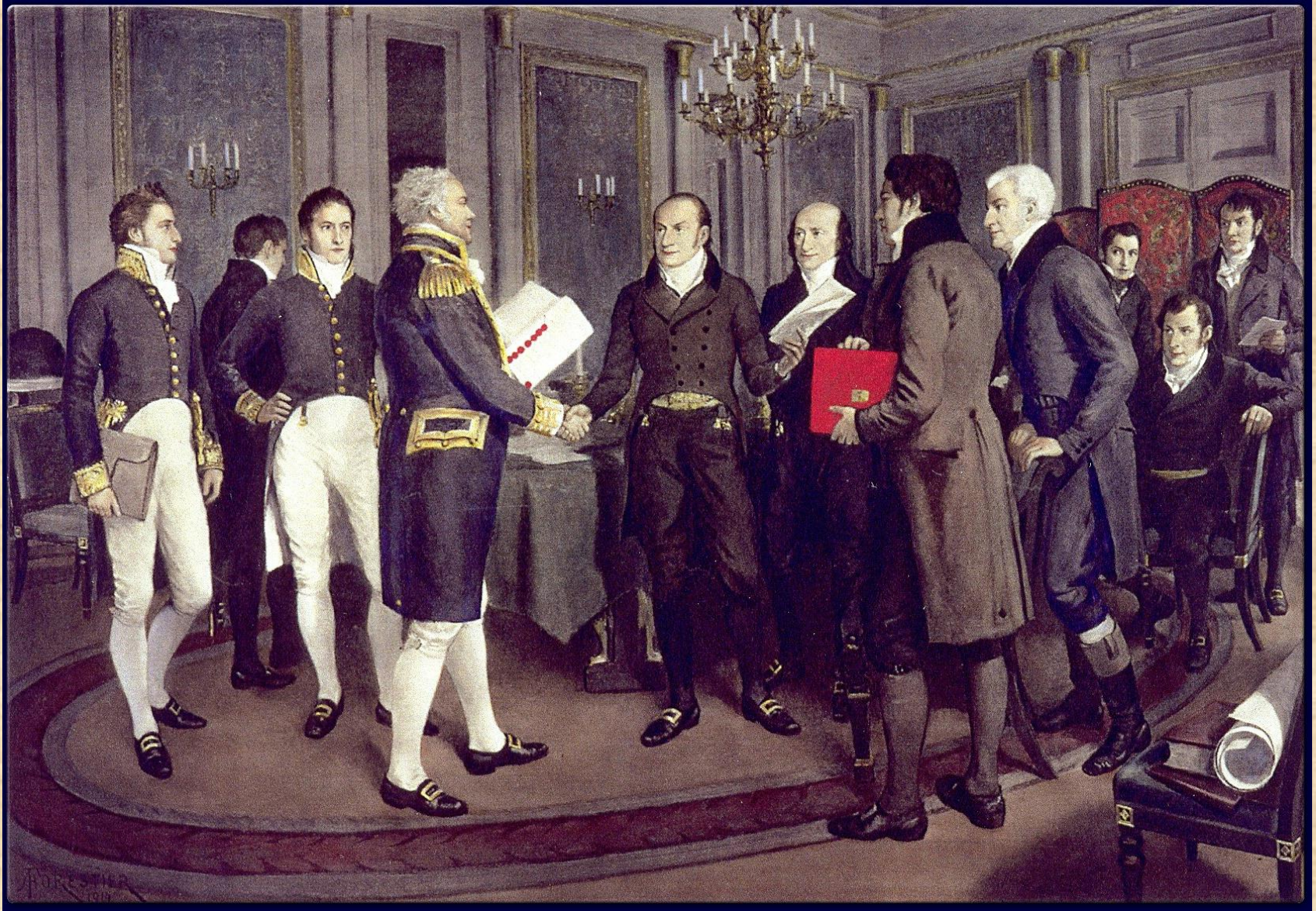
Andrew Jackson

British
Americans

385 killed / 1,186 wounded / 484 captured /
13 killed / 58 wounded / 30 captured /

Total: 2,055
Total: 101

Treaty of Ghent



Review

- U.S. Constitution
 - President v. Congress
 - Federal v. State
- “Sentiments on a Peace Establishment”
 - Small regular army
 - Regulated militia
 - Military academies
 - Arsenals and factories
- Quasi-war of 1798
 - Federalist Army and Navy
- West Point established
- Embargo of 1808
- War of 1812
 - Detroit
 - Queenstown Heights
 - Thames
 - Lake Erie
 - Plattsburgh Bay
 - Niagara
 - Chesapeake Bay
 - Horseshoe Bend
 - New Orleans