

# The American Military Experience

## *The US Army, 1783-1715*



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# Emergence of Professionalism, 1783-1860



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# **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:** You might think about quickly setting the background within which the US military operated during the period.

**Relevance:** Is change occurring at a faster or slower rate now than then? What are the implications for the Army you will serve in? How do militaries adapt during rapidly changing times? Recent—Combined-ops to full-spectrum ops. How did the antebellum US Army adapt during its own period of rapid change? Are the officers then that different than you?



# 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  
2.2 million immigrant

Territory (land and water in square miles)

1790 888,811      .22 sq. miles per person

1850 2,992,747      .13 sq. miles per person

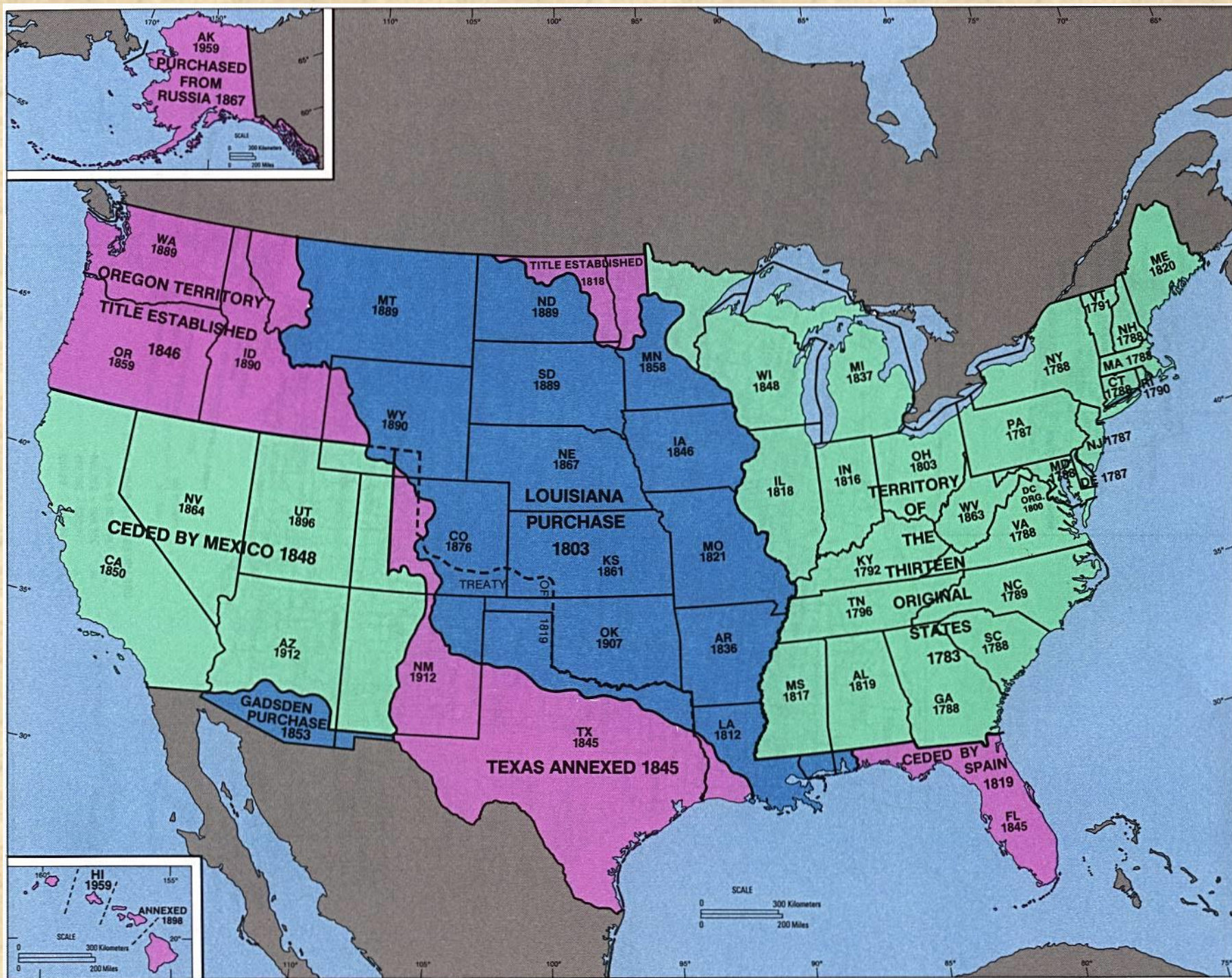
1851 13 states in 1790

30 states in 1850

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

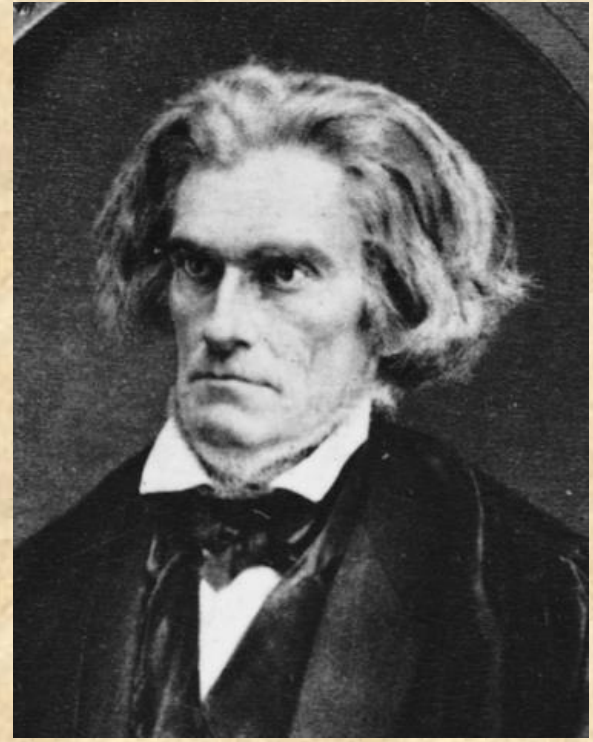
\$7.16 billion in national wealth      \$308 per capita





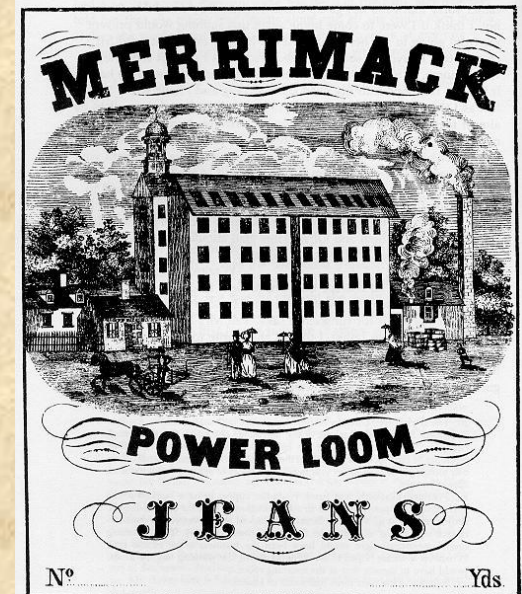
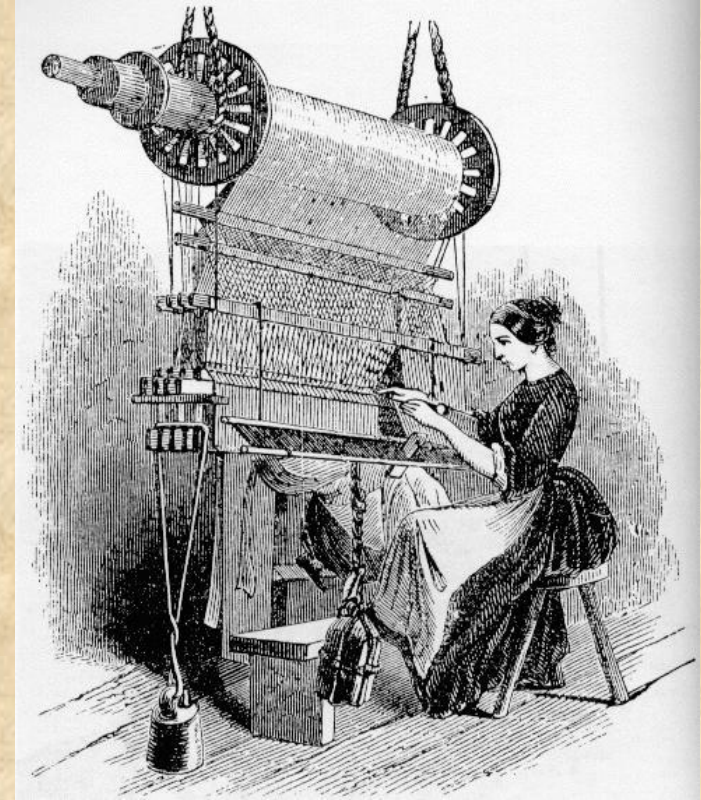


# Political Revolution



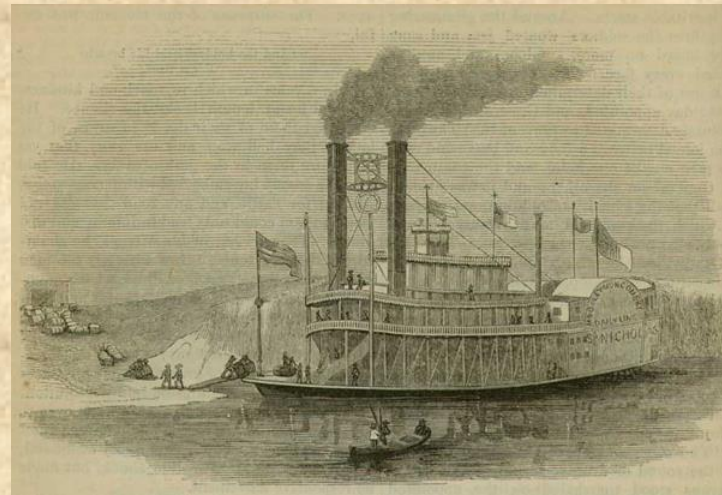
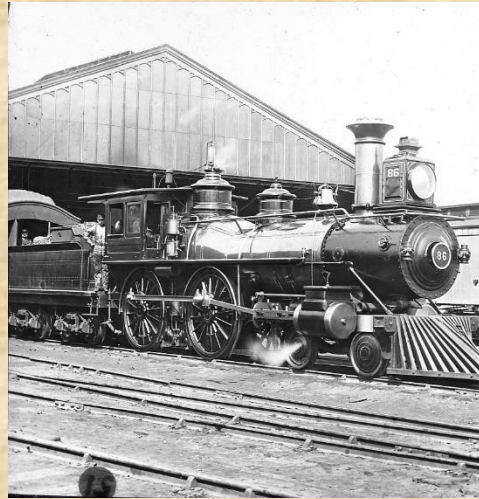
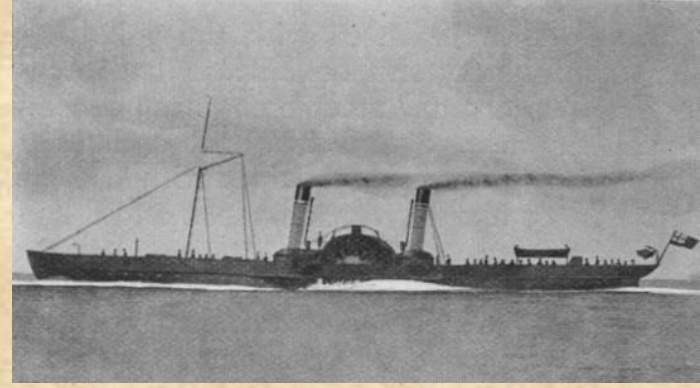


# Market Revolution



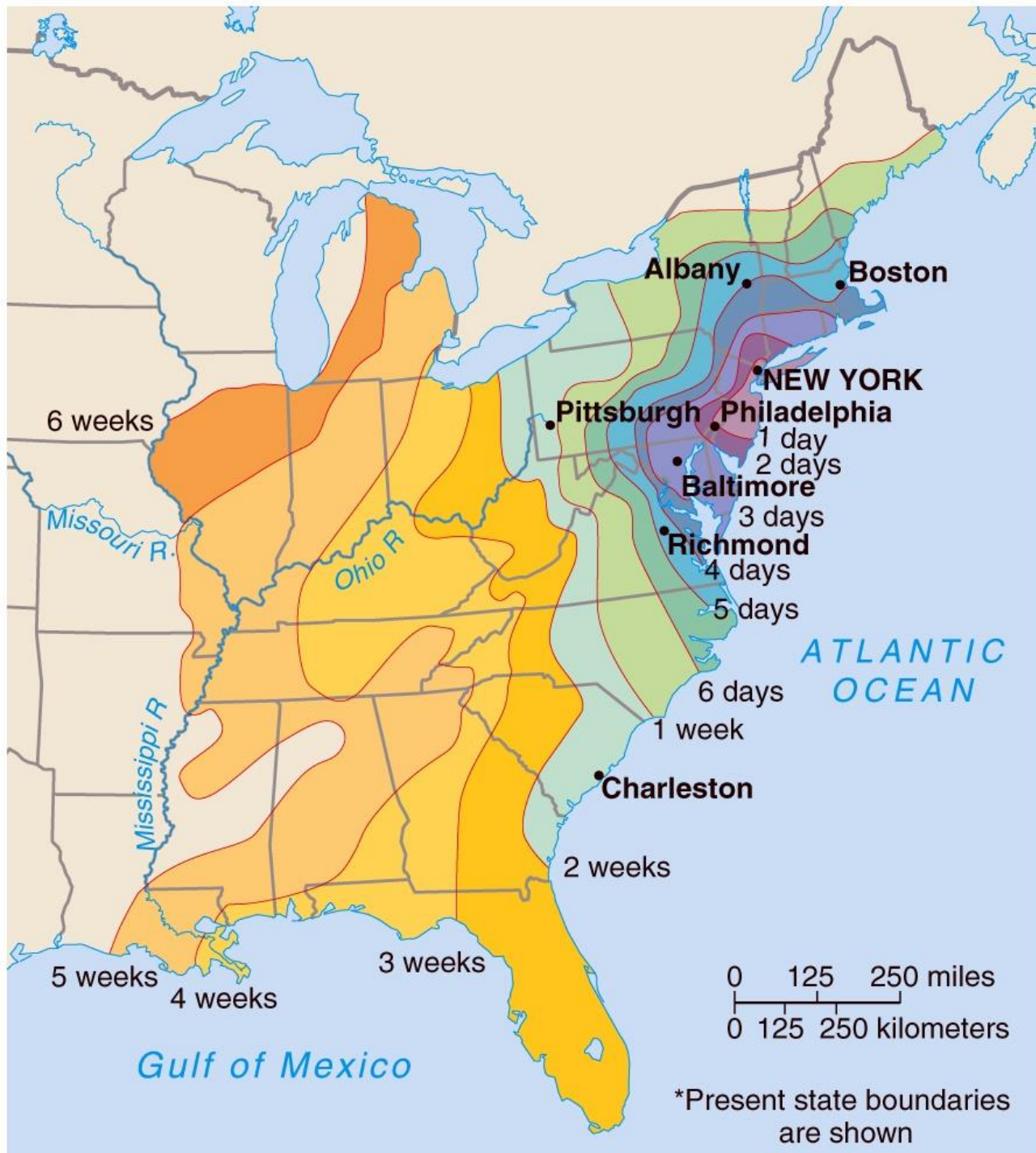


# Transportation Revolution





1800







# Communication Revolution



## PONY EXPRESS!

CHANGE OF  
**TIME!**

REDUCED  
**RATES!**

**10 Days to San Francisco!**

## LETTERS

WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE

## OFFICE, 84 BROADWAY,

NEW YORK,

Up to 4 P. M. every TUESDAY,

AND

Up to 2½ P. M. every SATURDAY,

Which will be forwarded to connect with the PONY EXPRESS leaving  
ST. JOSEPH, Missouri,

**Every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 11 P. M.**

## TELEGRAMS

Sent to Fort Kearney on the mornings of MONDAY and FRIDAY, will connect with **PONY** leaving St. Joseph, WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS.

### EXPRESS CHARGES.

LETTERS weighing half ounce or under..... \$1 00

For every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce 1 00

In all cases to be enclosed in 10 cent Government Stamped Envelopes,

And all Express **CHARGES** Pre-paid.

**PONY EXPRESS ENVELOPES** For Sale at our Office.

**WELLS, FARGO & CO., Ag'ts.**

New York, July 1, 1861.

SLAYE & JAMES, STATIONERS AND PRINTERS, 40 FULTON STREET, NEW YORK

## New York Transcript

Vol. 11, No. 20. NEW YORK, TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 24, 1862.

### WATKINS A. BROOKHUISSEN.

From the London Standard, August 10, 1861. (Continued from page 1.)

The London Standard, August 10, 1861. (Continued from page 1.)

The London Standard, August 10, 1861. (Continued from page 1.)

### THE GREENWICH INSURANCE CO.

The London Standard, August 10, 1861. (Continued from page 1.)

The London Standard, August 10, 1861. (Continued from page 1.)

The London Standard, August 10, 1861. (Continued from page 1.)



**HEY,  
AMERICAN  
ARMY.....**

**Y**ou'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.

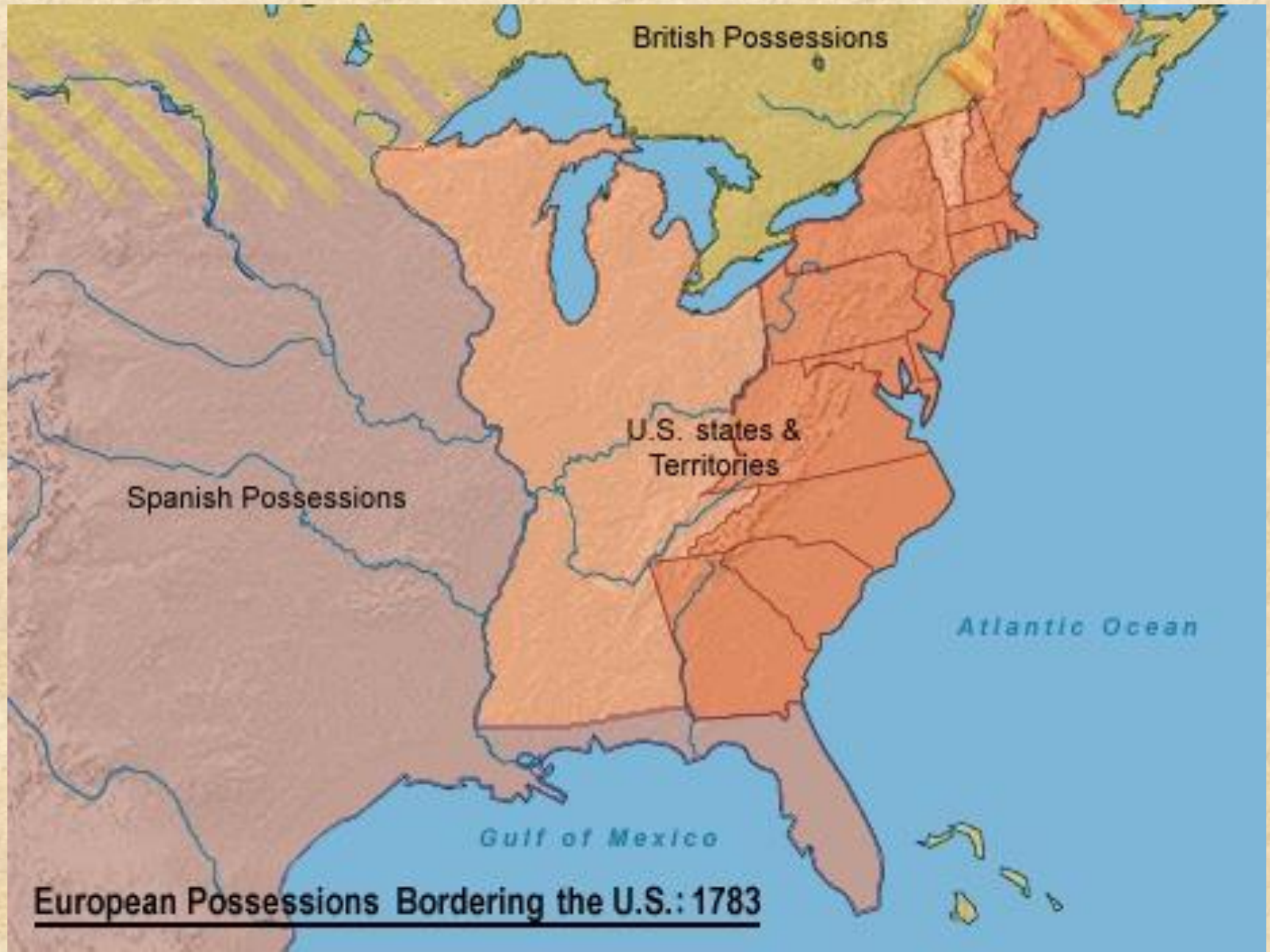
Now you can wait patiently for the next British  
Invasion (in 1964)

**Now comes  
Miller time...**



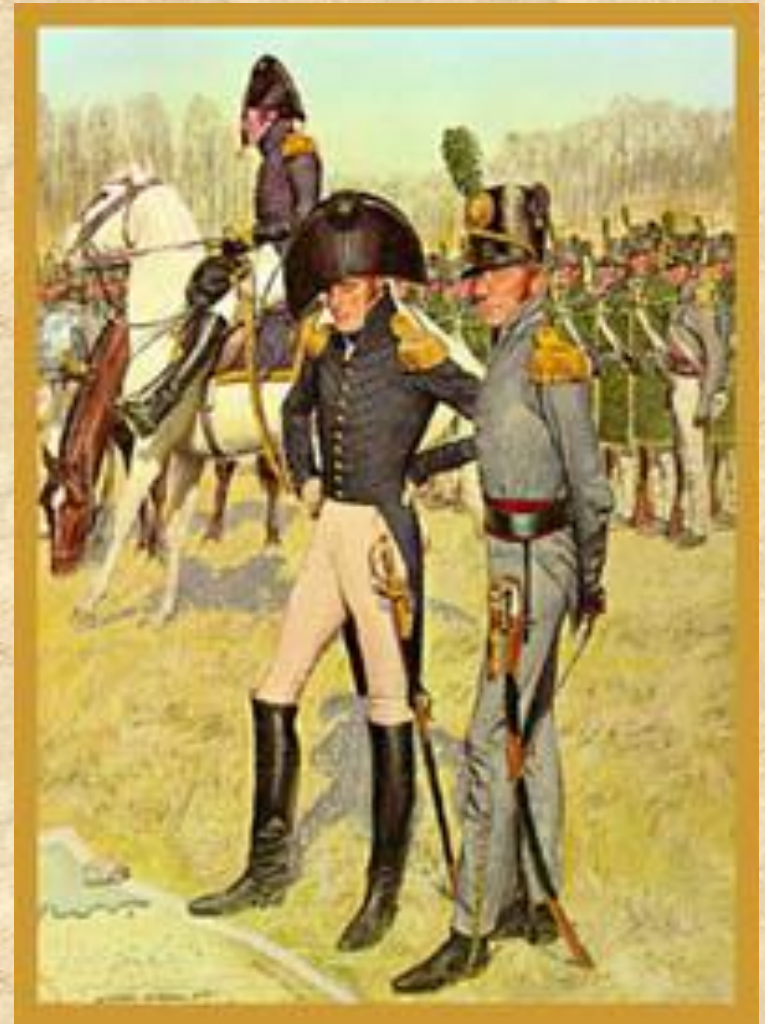


It's 1783. What should the military strategy of the young United States be?



# 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:

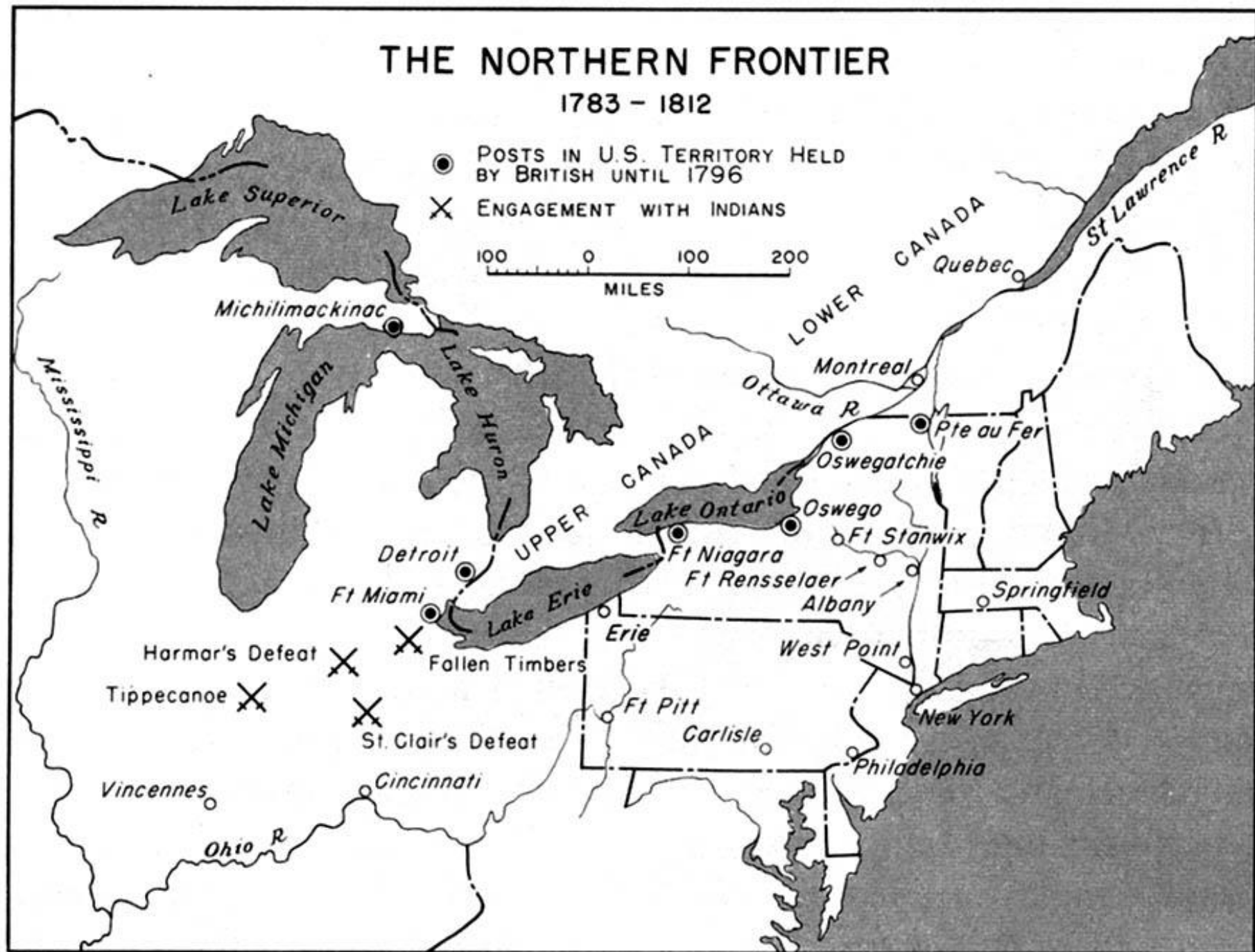
- 1.Newburgh Conspiracy (winter 1782-1783) a great story with tons of leadership potential
- 2.Society of the Cincinnati (1783) membership hereditary
- 3.Philadelphia Riots (1783)
- 4.Whiskey Rebellion (1794)
- 5.Alien and Sedition Acts (1798) Quasi-War with France
- 6.Political Ideology and Party Politics: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

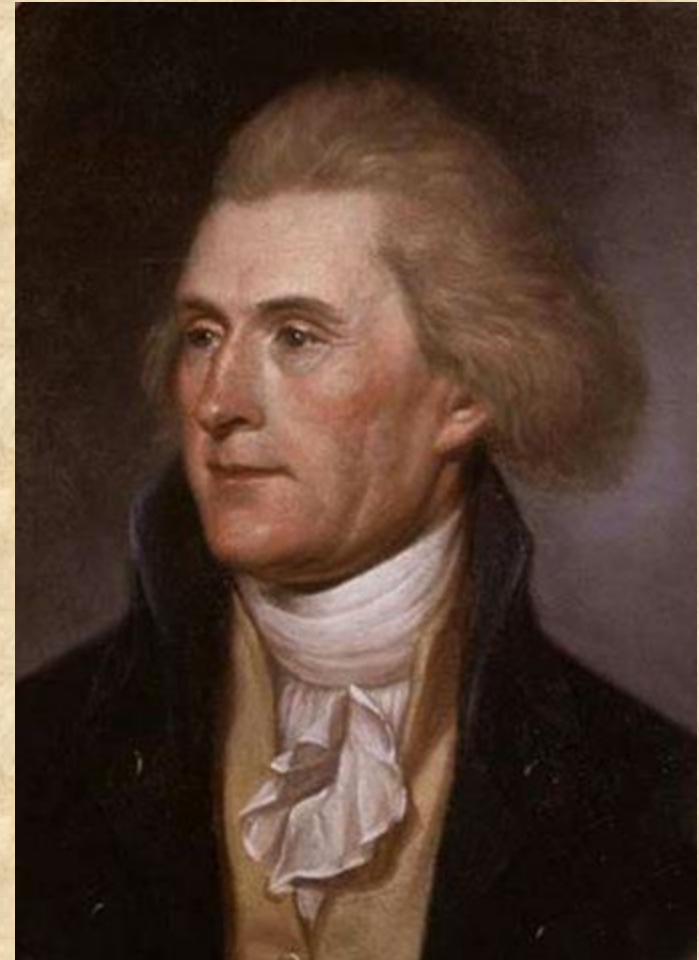


# **Republican Defense Policy:**

## **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**

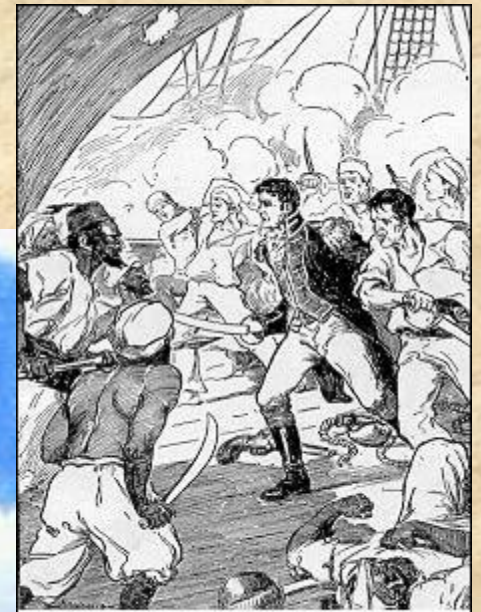


**Ft. Monroe, VA**



# 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.**



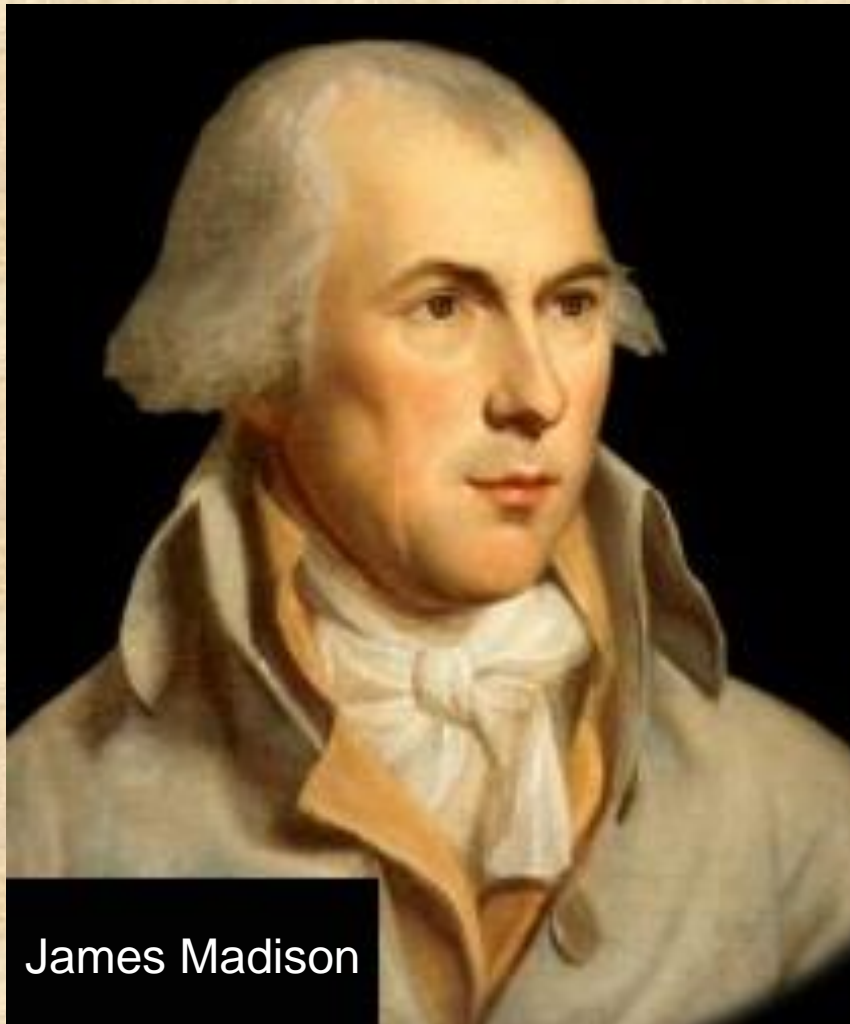


**Jefferson, like Washington, caught between two European super-powers. He decides that the U.S. will trade with neither France nor Britain, until either or both recognize U.S. neutrality.**

**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

**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.**

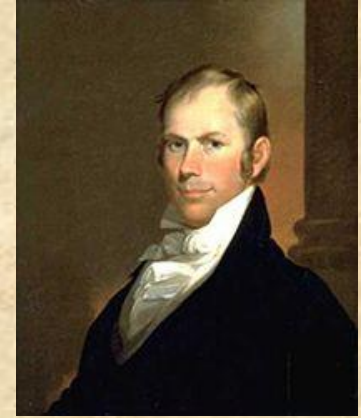
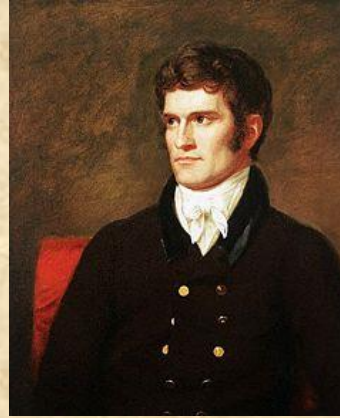
**With Madison's approval, Congress passes Macon's Bill no.2 (1810). The bill says that U.S. will trade with whichever side is nice to us.**

**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





Endstate?

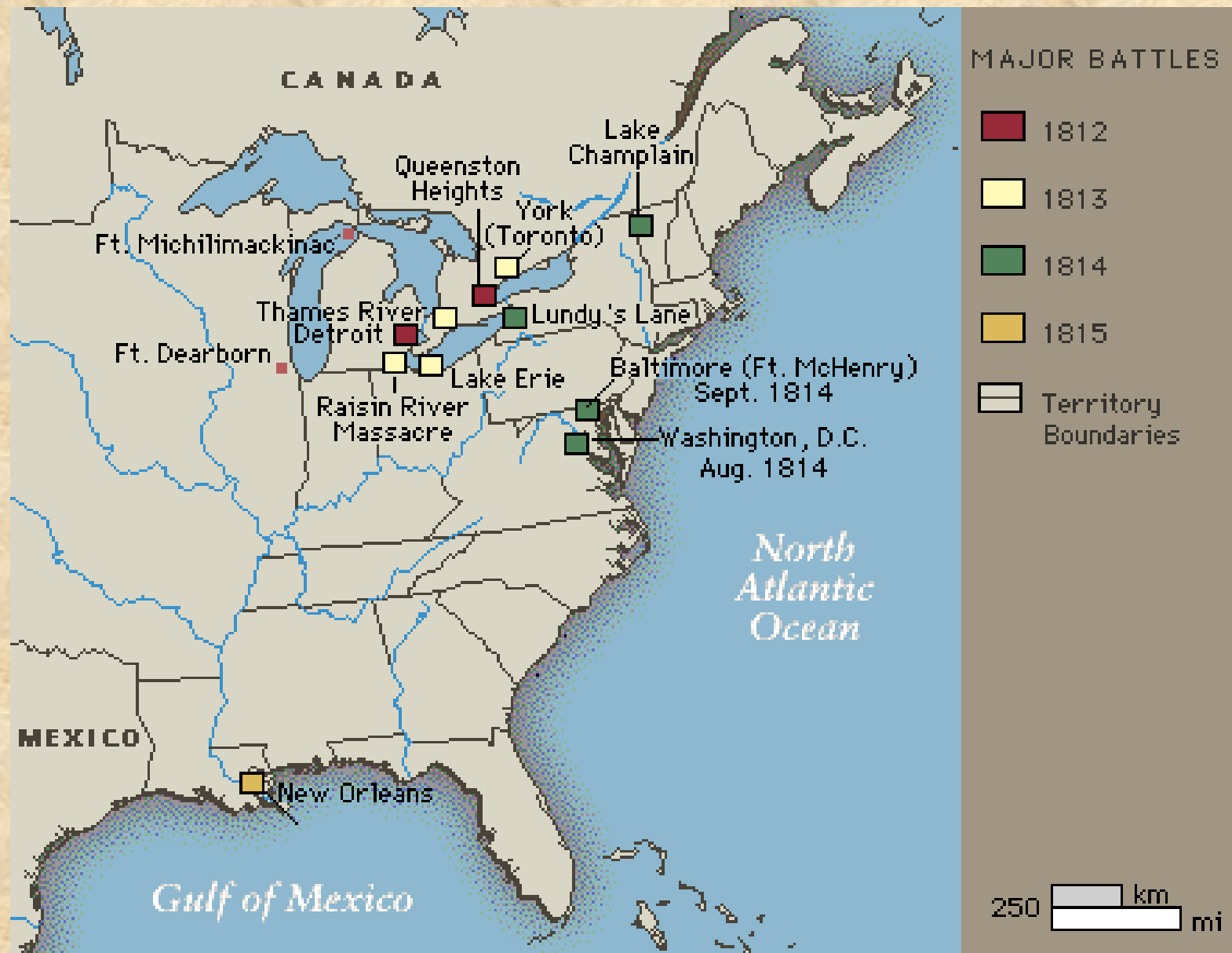
Strategy?

# Why Canada???





# The War of 1812





# Battle of Chippewa, July 5, 1814

“Those are regulars, by God!”





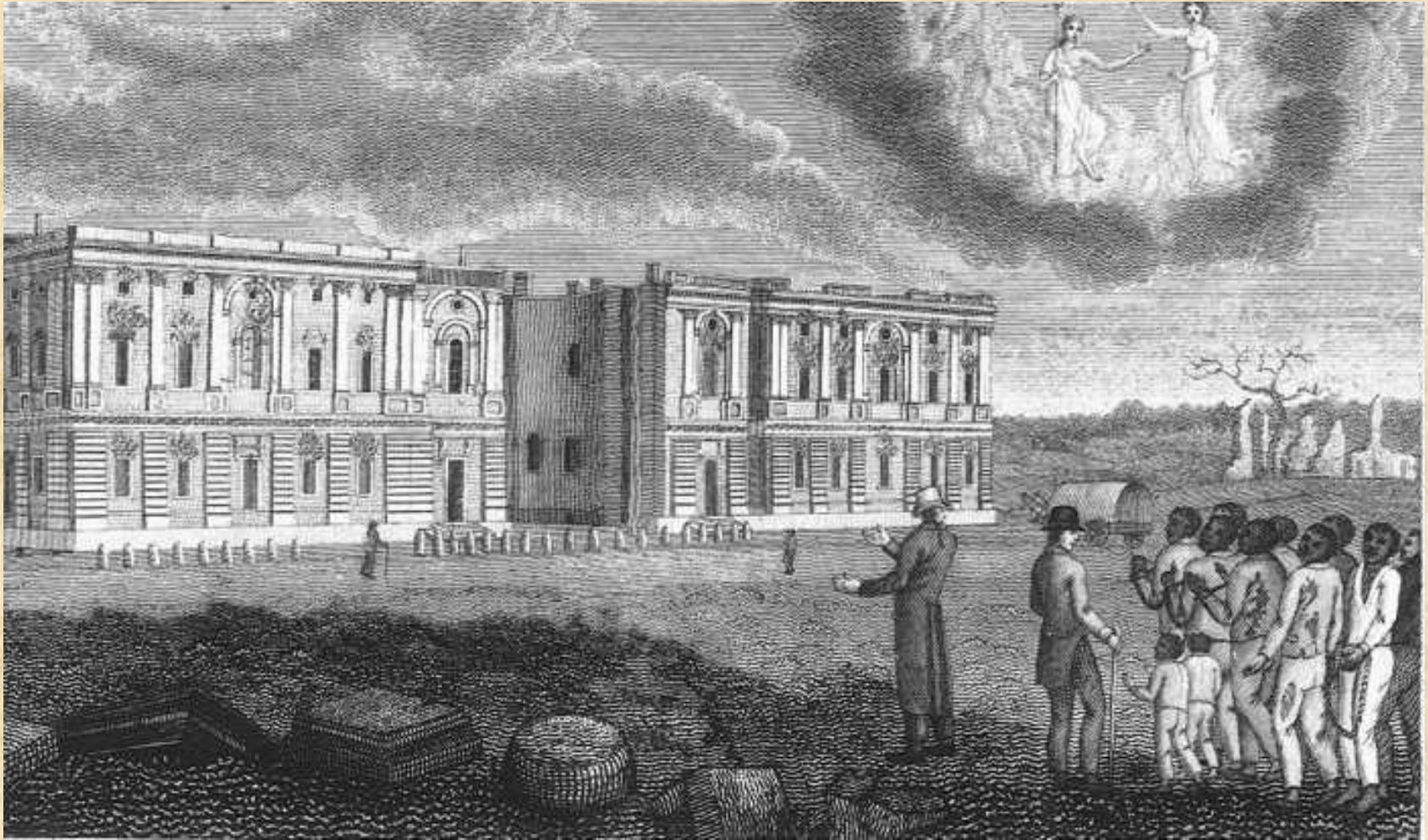
# The White House



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



# British Burn Washington



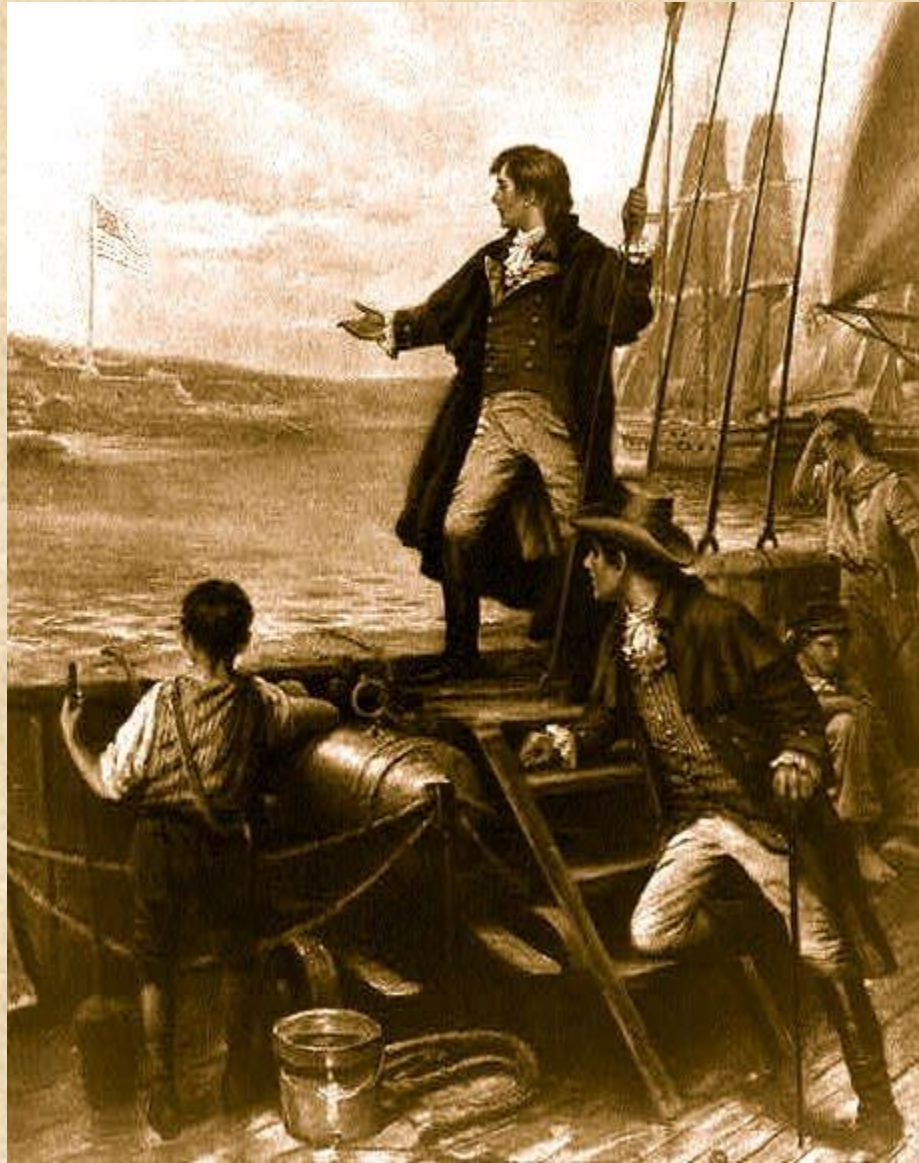
Above is a print of the Capitol after British burn it. The engraver, an early abolitionist, shows angels above and slaves right, implying that the destruction is divine vengeance for slavery.

# Ft. McHenry

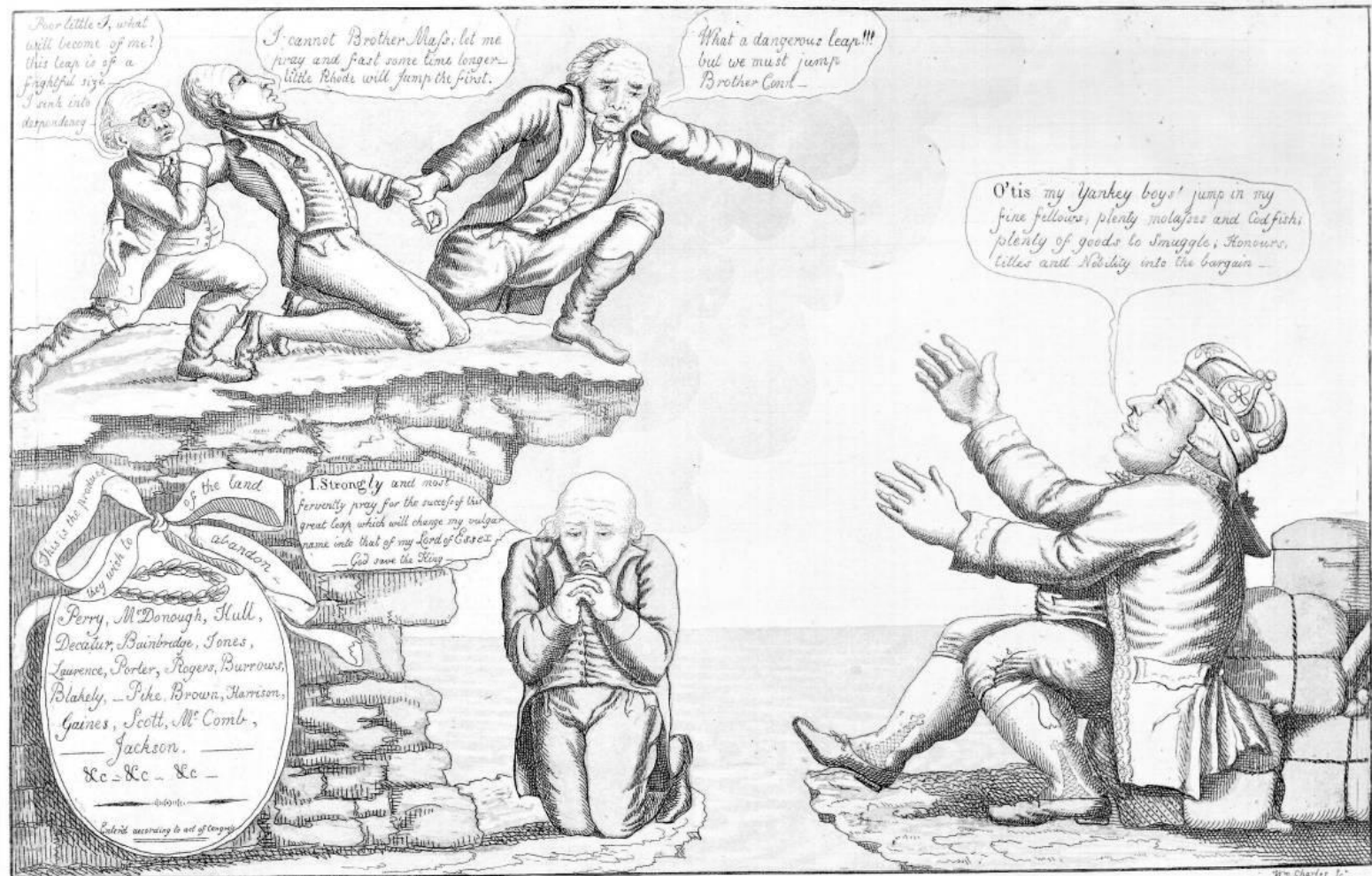




# Francis Scott Key



# Hartford Convention, 1814



The Hartford Convention or *LEAP NO LEAP*.



# The Battle of New Orleans—8 January 1815



**Andrew Jackson**



**BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS.**

JANUARY 8th 1815.

ENGRAVED EXPRESSLY FOR AMBROT'S LEADS OF THE PRESIDENTS

**British  
Americans**

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

**Total: 2,055  
Total: 101**

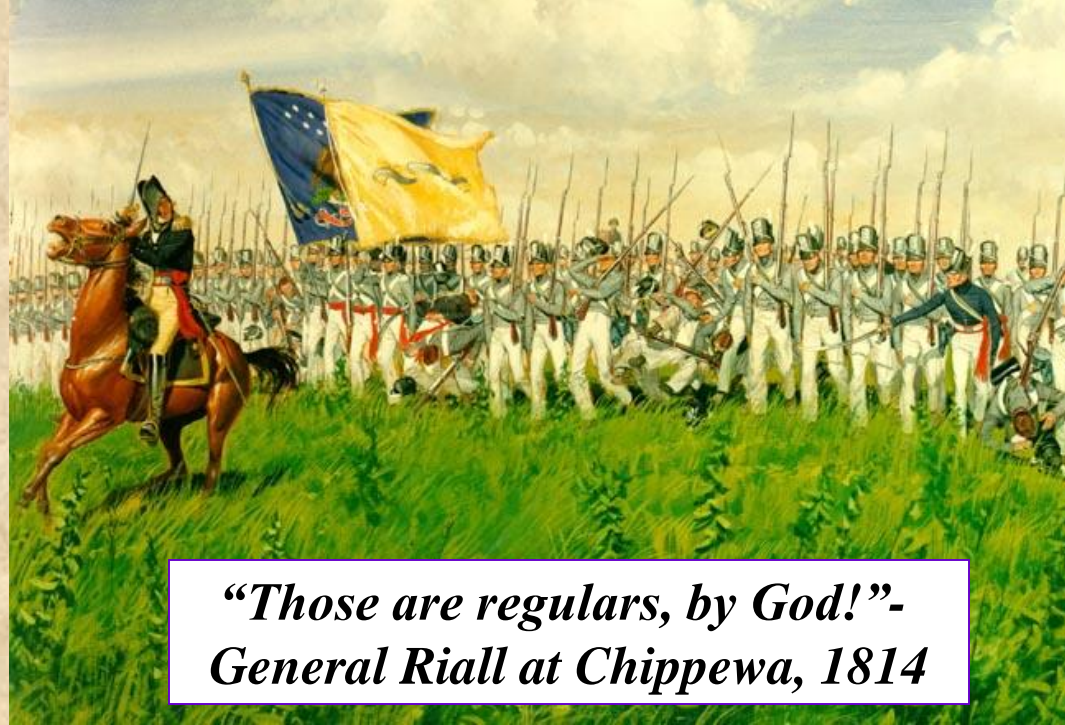


# Treaty of Ghent





Why did the U.S.  
encounter  
problems yet still  
triumph in the War  
of 1812?  
Lessons learned??



*“Those are regulars, by God!”-  
General Riall at Chippewa, 1814*



BATTLE OF

NEW ORLEANS

NEW ORLEANS

RENDERED POWERLESS

# 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