

The Coming of the War 8-3 Notes

The Big Idea

Challenges at home and abroad led the United States to declare war on Great Britain.

Main Ideas

- Violations of U.S. neutrality led Congress to enact a ban on trade.
- Native Americans, Great Britain, and the United States came into conflict in the West.
- The War Hawks led a growing call for war with Great Britain.

Main Idea 1: Violations of U.S. neutrality led Congress to enact a ban on trade.

- Overseas trade was profitable but risky.
 - Barbary pirates, along the coast of Africa, would capture ships.
 - Attacks continued until the United States sent the **USS *Constitution*** and other warships to stop the pirates.
- British and French tried to stop the United States from aiding the other while they were at war in 1803.
- British stopped American merchant ships to search for British sailors who had run away from British navy.
 - British sailors were forced to return and sometimes U.S. citizens were taken by accident.
 - British ship *Leopard* stopped U.S. Navy ship *Chesapeake* and took sailors by force.
 - Attack on *Chesapeake* stunned Americans.

The United States' Response

Embargo Act

- **Embargo Act** passed in 1807, banning trade with all foreign countries to punish Britain and France
- Devastated American merchants, who lost much money without trade
- Damaged Jefferson and strengthened Federalists
- Had little effect on Britain and France

Non-Intercourse Act

- Congress replaced unpopular Embargo Act with **Non-Intercourse Act** in 1809.
- Banned trade only with Britain, France, and their colonies
- U.S. trade would resume with first side to stop violating American neutrality
- Law was no more successful than Embargo Act

Main Idea 2: Native Americans, Great Britain, and the United States came into conflict in the West.

Conflict Over Land

- British and Native Americans clashed with American settlers over land in the West.
- British agents armed Native Americans along western frontier.

Tecumseh Resists U.S. Settlers

- **Tecumseh**, a Shawnee chief, emerged as leader.
- Hoped to unite Native Americans of northwestern frontier, the South, and the eastern Mississippi Valley.

The Battle of Tippecanoe

- Tecumseh founded village near Tippecanoe and Wabash rivers in Indiana Territory.
 - Tecumseh was a brilliant speaker and leader.
 - He wanted to unite the Native Americans to resist settlers.
- Governor William Henry Harrison warned Tecumseh not to resist power of the United States.
- Harrison led army in attack on village in 1811.
 - He was worried that with British backing, Tecumseh could be a serious threat to U.S. power in the West.
- U.S. forces won **Battle of Tippecanoe**, and Tecumseh fled to Canada.

Main Idea 3: The War Hawks led a growing call for war with Great Britain.

War Hawks

- Evidence of British support for Tecumseh inflamed Americans.
- Some young members of Congress from the South and West, called **War Hawks**, demanded war against Britain.
- They were angered by British trade restrictions and wanted to invade Canada for more land to settle.

The Opposition

- New England Federalists opposed war.
- British trade restrictions hurt New England's economy.
- Others argued that the United States was not ready to fight.

War Declared

- Republican **James Madison** was elected president in 1808.
 - Felt growing pressure from War Hawks
 - Decided Congress must vote on war in 1812
- Congress voted, and the War Hawks won.
 - Congress had declared war for the first time in the nation's history.
- Madison was reelected in 1812.
 - Would serve as commander in chief during War of 1812