

The Jefferson Era

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

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

Key Terms and People

USS *Constitution* a large U.S. warship sent to end attacks by Mediterranean pirates on American merchant ships

impressment the practice of forcing people to serve in the army or navy

embargo the banning of trade

Embargo Act a U.S. law that essentially banned trade with all foreign countries

Non-Intercourse Act a new law banning only trade with Great Britain, France, and their colonies

Tecumseh a brilliant speaker who warned other Native Americans that settlers wanted their lands

Battle of Tippecanoe the battle between the U.S. forces and Tecumseh's followers that ended with the U.S. forces winning

War Hawks several members of Congress who called for war against Great Britain

James Madison a Republican who was elected president in 1808

Section Summary

VIOLATIONS OF NEUTRALITY

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, American merchant ships sailed the oceans. The profitable overseas trade was dangerous. Pirates seized cargo and held crews for ransom. The United States sent the **USS *Constitution*** and other ships to end the attacks.

When Great Britain and France declared war in 1803, each tried to stop the United States from selling goods to the other. The British and French searched many American ships for war goods. Then Britain started searching American ships for sailors who had deserted the British navy. At times U.S. citizens were seized by accident.

Why did Britain and France try to stop the United States from selling goods to the other?

Section 3, continued

Impressment continued over U.S. protests. Thomas Jefferson, who had been re-elected in 1804, favored an **embargo** rather than war with Britain. In late 1807 Congress passed the **Embargo Act** to punish Britain and France. American merchants lost huge amounts of money because of the act. In 1809 Congress replaced the embargo with the **Non-Intercourse Act**. That law did not work either.

How was an embargo an alternative to war?

CONFLICT IN THE WEST

In the West, Native Americans, the United States, and Great Britain clashed. As settlers poured into the West, Native Americans lost land that they believed was taken unfairly. British agents from Canada armed Native Americans in the West. **Tecumseh**, a Shawnee chief, united his forces with the Creek nation. William Henry Harrison, the governor of the Indiana Territory, raised an army to battle Tecumseh. At the day-long **Battle of Tippecanoe**, Harrison's forces defeated the Native Americans.

How did British agents aid Native Americans in the West?

CALL FOR WAR

War Hawks in Congress led in demanding war against Britain. The leaders wanted to end British influence on Native Americans. They resented British restraints on U.S. trade. Others opposed war against Britain. They believed America lacked the military strength to win.

In 1808 Republican **James Madison** was elected president. He had difficulty carrying on the unpopular trade policy. In 1812 he asked Congress to vote on whether to wage war against Britain. Congress voted to declare war. Madison was again elected. He became commander in chief in the War of 1812.

Describe the problem that Madison faced in 1808.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Predicting What difficulties might the United States face in the War of 1812? List them.