

Module 4: Creating a New Nation - 1788 to the 1840s

Topic 3 Content: The War of 1812 Notes

War of 1812



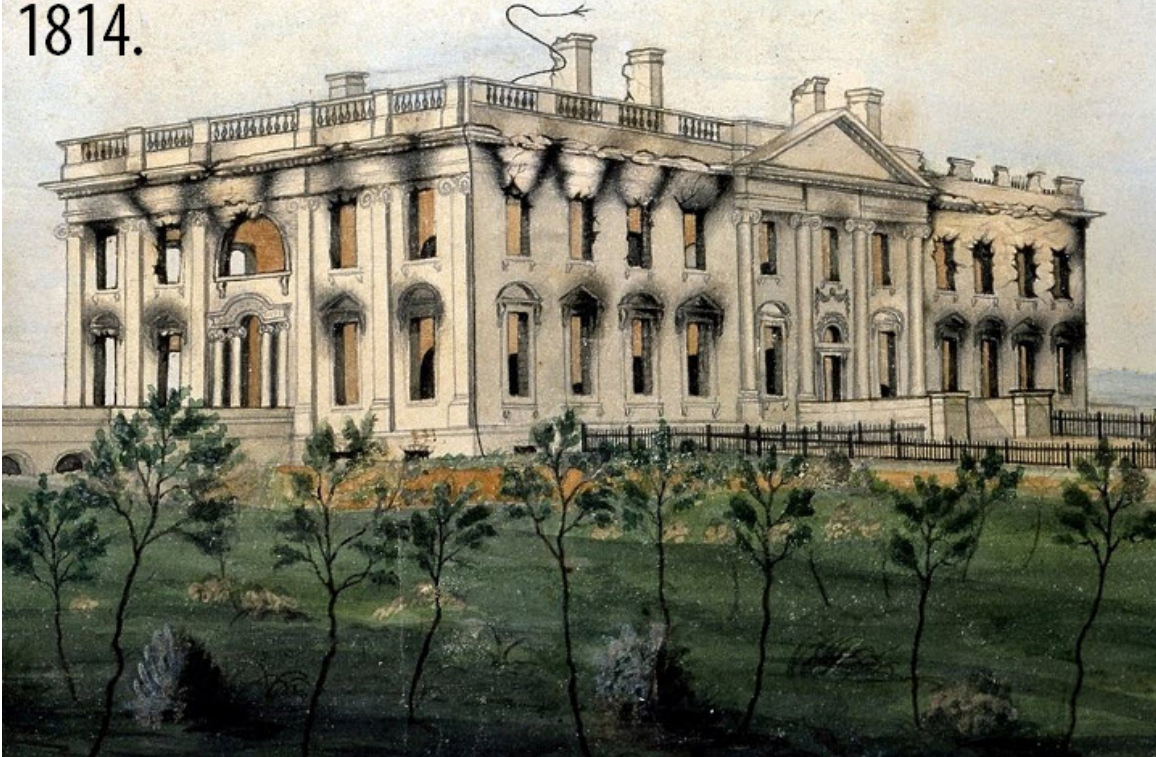
The War of 1812 began on June 18, 1812, and ended on December 24, 1814 with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent. During the war, both sides won and lost key battles. In this interactivity, investigate the War of 1812 and its impact on America. Click **Start** to begin.

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Key Battles

The White House burned down on August 14, 1814.



The War of 1812 was fought both on land and at sea. At sea, the British Navy outnumbered the young United States Navy. The British Navy set up a blockade along most of the eastern seaboard, captured Washington DC, and burned the White House. The British could not capture a fort protecting Baltimore, which inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner, when he saw the tattered American flag still flying after a night of heavy battle. American forces were more successful on the western frontier in battles around Lake Erie.

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War Support



Not all Americans supported the war. The Federalist political party had many members who opposed the war. After a series of setbacks to the Americans during the war, a convention was called and met in Hartford, Connecticut to address concerns. At the convention, the Federalist members discussed their disagreements with the war, whether or not the New England states should secede (or leave the United States), as well as a number of Constitutional amendments, including a change to the three-fifths rule, an increase in the number of votes required to admit new states to the Union, and limit to the length of trade embargoes. None of these items were acted upon, because news of end of the war and a great American victory by an army under the command of General Andrew Jackson at New Orleans changed the mood of the people against the Federalists.

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End of the War



The War of 1812 ended in 1814 with the Treaty of Ghent. This treaty with England set everything back to the way it was at the start of the war. Captured lands were returned to either side. For the Americans, this was considered a victory because they had once again forced a more powerful country to stop fighting against them. One of the significant outcomes of the war was a rise in American nationalism or patriotic feeling towards one's country.