

Chapter 12: The Second War for Independence and the Upsurge of Nationalism (1812—1824)

On to Canada over Land and Lakes

Recall

Notes

- eve of the War of 1812, American army ill-trained, ill-disciplined, widely scattered
- British forces were weakest in Canada
 - America could have easily won by capturing Montreal, but they were stupid and did a three pronged attack elsewhere
- British and Canadians were prepared from the start
 - captured Michilimackinac in the upper Great Lakes, lead by General Isaac Brock assisted by "General Mud" and "General Confusion"
- land invasions deflected in 1813, Americans resorted to attacking on water
 - American crafts were more skillfully made, had better gunners, handled by crew members who knew what they were fighting for
 - American frigates had thicker sides, heavier firepower, larger crews of which 1 in 6 was a free black man
- important to control Great Lakes
 - American naval officer Oliver Hazard Perry built a fleet of ships and captured a British fleet in an engagement
 - redcoats forced to withdraw from Detroit and Fort Malden
- Americans barely holding off by late 1814
 - Napoleon had been defeated by European adversaries and exiled to Elba
 - United States left to face Britain alone
- British wanted to attack New York along lake-river route, but needed supplies, which had to be delivered over water
 - a weaker American fleet, commanded by Thomas Macdonough, challenged the British
 - Americans won after barely avoiding defeat and the invading British army was forced to retreat
 - saved at least upper New York and New England

Washington Burned and New Orleans Defended

Recall

Notes

- August 1812, British fleet of 4000 land in Chesapeake Bay
 - dispersed 6000 militiamen at Bladensburg, invaded the capitol, and set fire to the buildings
- Americans at Baltimore held firm
- British could not take Fort McHenry
- Francis Scott Key, detained American, watched bombardment from a British ship and wrote the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner"

- Andrew Jackson placed in charge of third British blow towards New Orleans
 - British made the mistake of launching a frontal attack January 8, 1815, and lost 2000 in half an hour
 - became known as the **Battle of New Orleans**
 - Andrew Jackson hailed a hero and defender of New Orleans
- a peace treaty had been signed at Ghent, Belgium, which technically ended the war two weeks before the battle
 - Battle of New Orleans restored honor to Americans
- Royal Navy blockaded America's coast, ruining American economic life
- near the end of the war, the Treasury was bankrupt and unable to meet more obligations

The Treaty of Ghent

Recall

Notes

- Tsar Alexander I of Russia didn't want to waste Britain's strength in America so he tried to get America and Britain to settle a little bit
 - eventually brought 5 American peacemakers to Ghent, Belgium, lead by John Quincy Adams, son of John Adams
 - British demanded neutralize Indian buffer state in Great Lakes region, control of Great Lakes and Maine
 - Americans said no, and they were at a stalemate
 - with British losses, they were more willing to cooperate
 - occupied with redrafting Napoleon's map of Europe at the **Congress of Vienna**
 - **Treaty of Ghent** basically had both sides agree to stop fighting and the war basically ended in a draw

Federalist Grievances and the Hartford Convention

Recall

Notes

- New England prospered from an illegal trade with Canada
- still bitterly opposed Federalists
- war brought out more vocal New England extremists
 - wanted to cede from the Union to form peace with Britain
 - "Blue Light" Federalists who smashed lanterns on the shores so the British would know when American ships were trying to escape
- **Hartford Convention** happened right when the New Orleans seemed like it was going to be captured
 - full delegates from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island; partial delegates from New Hampshire and Vermont
 - wanted financial assist from Washington to compensate for lost trade and proposed constitutional amendments
 - wanted to abolish 3/5 clause where the South could count slaves as people, limit presidents to a single term

- news of New England's requests came at the same time as news of the Ghent treaty and non-capture of New Orleans, complaints seemed petty or treasonous
- Hartford resolutions were the death of the Federalist party, they would never amount to another successful presidential campaign again

The Second War for American Independence

Recall

Notes

- War of 1812 only had around 6,000 American casualties
- conflict was mostly unimportant globally, but had huge consequences for the United States
- American envoys and emissaries were treated with a little more respect, taking the name of the Second War for American Independence in terms of diplomacy
- sectionalism took place, mostly in New England
 - casualty of war was the Federalist party
- heroes emerged like Andrew Jackson and William Henry Harrison
- Indians had to relinquish most of their territory north of the Ohio River
- industries less dependent on Europe and started to manufacture on their own
- Canadian nationalism swelled after they got thrown aside in the Ghent treaty
 - wanted mastery of the Great Lakes, instead just fought with Americans for a little bit
 - **Rush-Bagot agreement** between Britain and the United States limited naval armament on the lakes

Nascent Nationalism

Recall

Notes

- by-product of 1812 war was nationalism
- distinctly national literature
- Washington Irving and James Fenimore Cooper gained international attention in 1820s for using American scenes and themes
 - school textbooks were being written by Americans
 - *North American Review* magazine began
- Bank of United States was voted back in by Congress in 1816
- army expanded to 10,000 men
 - navy beat the pirates back
- "Our country! In her intercourse with foreign nations may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong!"

"The American System"

Recall

Notes

- British competitors wanted to regain lost ground in 1815

- sold more to the United States and tried to choke out smaller warehouses and factories
- British could not defeat the Yankees on the battlefield, so they go and try to defeat them economically
- Congress, hoping to out-Federalize the Federalists, passed the **Tariff of 1816**
 - first tariff for protection and not revenue, 20 to 25 %
- Henry Clay, warhawk, created an elaborate scheme called the **American System**
 - strong bank system where eastern manufacturing would flourish
 - revenues from tariffs provide funds for infrastructure and transportation
 - bring foodstuffs from the West and South into the North and East, manufactured goods flow in opposite direction
 - brings country together economically and politically
- Henry Clay wanted transportation and so did the public
 - invasion of Canada had failed due to lack of roads
 - President Madison vetoed the \$1.5 million to build roads
 - states forced to build their own roads
- Jeffersonian Republicans choked on direct federal support of infrastructure
 - strong opposition in New England of federally built roads and canals, draining away population to the mountains

The So-Called Era of Good Feelings

Recall

Notes

- James Monroe nominated for presidency by the Republicans in 1816
- Federalists nominated a candidate and lost 183:34 left Republicans with their one party
- James Monroe straddled age of Founding Fathers and new age of nationalism
 - levelheaded executive who was pretty popular, even more so after touring around the country and getting well received in New England
- Boston newspaper called it the "Era of Good Feelings" and that phrase has been used to describe the Monroe administration
- the **Era of Good Feelings** was not that accurate, early years were ok but then it was not
 - issues with tariffs, bank, internal improvement, and sale of public land
 - sectionalism with New England and everyone else was becoming more clear
 - split nation on slavery is starting to crack

The Panic of 1819 and the Curse of Hard Times

Recall

Notes

- economic panic descended in 1819
 - deflation, depression, bankruptcies, bank failures, unemployment, soup kitchens, debtors' prisons

- Bank of the United States started to get really involved with outdoor gambling and looking too far into the frontier lands
- West was hit particularly hard
 - closed farms and pressed banks
 - from the western debtor's perspective, the Bank was a financial devil
- **panic of 1819** also created setbacks in the political and social world
 - poorer families were screwed
 - attention gathered on the inhumanity of imprisoning debtors
 - in extreme cases, mothers were torn from their infants for not paying back a few dollars

Growing Pains of the West

Recall

Notes

- nine frontier states joined the original 13
 - alternately admitted free or slave state
- "the Ohio fever" appealed to European immigrants who began coming in droves to take part in the land westward
 - defeat of Indians opened up territory in the West
 - economic stress from the embargo led many to go West
 - highways and infrastructure to the Ohio Valley improved
- West was still weak in population and influence
 - forced to ally itself with the other major sections
 - demanded cheap acreage and partially got that in the **Land Act of 1820**
 - purchase 80 virgin acres of land for \$1.25 per acre in cash
 - demanded cheap transportation and got it
 - wanted to issue their own currency

Slavery and the Sectional Balance

Recall

Notes

- slave South and free North gained tension between each other
- Missouri was to be admitted as a slave state in 1819 but Congress passed the **Tallmadge amendment** which said that Missouri should not get to import any more slaves and slowly freed the children of slaves
 - slaveholding southerners angry, along with depression-cursed pioneers
 - Southerners saw a threat to sectional balance
 - with every decade, the North was becoming more wealthy and thickly settled, increasing representation in the House, but not the Senate
- Missouri was the first state from the Louisiana Purchase and was made into a free state, which meant Congress could do the same for the rest of the states
 - **peculiar institution**
 - Congress could try to abolish slavery in the South, which they didn't want to do

- it was mainly political and economic issues, but a small group of antislavery agitators in the North took the chance and ran with it, paving a shaky path into the abolitionist movement

The Uneasy Missouri Compromise

Recall

Notes

- Missouri was admitted as a slave state but Maine, which had been a part of Massachusetts, was separated and brought in as a free state
- slavery was not permitted in the Louisiana Purchase above the 36 degree 30' line
 - denounced by both sides as a "dirty bargain"
- both North and South gained something from the compromise
 - majority of southern congressmen still voted against it
- **Missouri Compromise** lasted for 34 years and allowed the states to stay in tact
 - eventually led to the Civil War
- Missouri Compromise should have made Monroe less popular, but it didn't
 - he won his next election all votes except for one, because the Federalists were so weak

John Marshall and Judicial Nationalism

Recall

Notes

- Supreme Court still dominated by John Marshall
- **McCulloch v. Maryland** was the State of Maryland trying to destroy a branch of the Bank of the United States by imposing a tax on its bank notes
 - John Marshall declared the bank constitutional and then told Maryland they couldn't tax the bank
- Marshall showed definition of **loose construction**
- **Cohens v. Virginia** allowed Marshall to defend his federal power
 - Marshall asserted Supreme Court rights to make all decisions regarding powers of federal government
- "steamboat case" **Gibbons v. Ogden** was an attempt by New York to grant a private monopoly on waterborne commerce between New York and New Jersey
 - Marshall said that Congress alone determined interstate commerce laws

Judicial Dikes Against Democratic Excesses

Recall

Notes

- **Fletcher v. Peck** consisted of Georgia's state legislature, swayed through bribery, gave 35 million acres of land to private speculators
 - next legislature reversed the transaction
 - Marshall ruled that the legislative grant was a contract, although it was fraudulently secured, and that the Constitution forbid "impairing" contracts

- protected property rights against public peer pressure
- earliest case of Supreme Court invalidating state laws
- **Dartmouth College v. Woodward** where the college had been granted a charter by King George III in 1769, but New Hampshire state legislature tried to change it
 - Marshall ruled original charter stand
 - safeguarding businesses from being taken over by state governments
- Daniel Webster, one of the first graduates of Dartmouth, was an Expounding Father
 - left his seat in the Senate, went into the Supreme Court chamber, and then expounded his Federalistic and nationalistic philosophy
 - Marshall listened really closely
- Marshall helped create a stable, nationally uniform environment for business
 - checked the excesses of popular state legislatures

Sharing Oregon and Acquiring Florida

Recall

Notes

- President Monroe teamed up with John Quincy Adams
- Monroe administration negotiated the **Anglo-American Convention** of 1818 with Britain
 - permitted Americans to share Newfoundland fisheries with Canada
 - fixed northern Louisiana borders
 - ten-year joint occupation of Oregon Country, which neither Britain or America officially owned
- many Americans believed Florida was destined to become a part of the United States
 - Americans had already taken West Florida and uninvited settlers had torn down the Spanish flag in 1810
 - small American army seized the Mobile region during the War of 1812 against Britain, Spain's ally
- revolutions started breaking out in South America; Chile, Venezuela, Argentina
 - Americans cheered for these republics but then Latin democracies started to disappoint
 - Andrew Jackson saw it as an opportunity to take Florida and he did
 - hanged Indian chiefs and executed British officials
- **Florida Purchase Treaty** of 1819, **Adams-Onís Treaty** Spain ceded Florida and Oregon for America's Texas

The Menace of Monarchy in America

Recall

Notes

- Europe went to believe that the world must be safe *from* democracy
- smothered rebellions in Italy and Spain, looking across the Atlantic
- Russia, Austria, Prussia, France, wanted to restore the Spanish king to the revolted Spanish America
 - Americans feared irreparable harm if the Europeans intervened

- 1821 tsar of Russia allowed Russians to extend always the way down to the 51 degree line, establishing trading posts all the way down to SF Bay
 - United States afraid Russians were trying to cut the Republic off
- Britain did not want to stop the rebellions because the new Spanish countries were opening trade to Britain, and they made a lot of money from it
- British foreign secretary George Canning asked the United States to join powers with Britain and warn other European countries to keep their hands off
 - referred scheme to superiors in Washington

Monroe and His Doctrine

Recall

Notes

- Secretary Adams was skeptical - why would Britain need the US as an ally?
 - thought the British were trying to force the US to support territorial integrity in the New World, America wouldn't be able to restrict Britain as much
 - said it was unnecessary and Europeans hadn't actually created plan to attack the Americas
- Adams convinced Monroe and Monroe gave a speech and warning to the European countries about noncolonization and nonintervention
 - era of colonization in the United States has ended
 - told Europeans to keep their monarchy out of his hemisphere of the world

Monroe's Doctrine Appraised

Recall

Notes

- monarchs of Europe angered at Monroe's doctrine, deeply offended
 - ideas were way bigger than America's military strength
 - still had their hands tied because the British still ruled over the seas
- everyone kind of knew that America only defended the South Americans because they didn't want to be invaded
 - Latin Americans thought it was the British navy who was protecting them
- Monroe's doctrine did not have very much significance until 1845 when President Polk revived it
- tsar of Russia retreated in the **Russo-American Treaty** of 1824
 - fixed Russian settlements at 54 degrees line instead of 51
- Monroe Doctrine could have been called the Self-Defense Doctrine and was never official law
 - it was just a statement of policy by President Monroe
 - expression of post-1812 nationalism