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**Barbary Wars**

    The Barbary states consist of the independent nation of  Morocco, and Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli, city states who owed their allegiance to the Ottoman Empire. These states participated in state sanctioned piracy, this did not pose a problem for the nations of England and France who had well established trade routes and therefore had developed navies, this paired with the fact that they payed a tribute to the Barbary states helped to ensure that they were unaffected, and even helped them prosper due to the lack of competition. The United States enjoyed these same privileges while it was a colony of England, but once they declared independence, they forfeited these protections, and in 1785 Algiers declared war on the United States.This conflict proposed a severe problem to the fledgling United States due to the fact that it could neither afford to pay tribute, or develop a navy. In 1786 a treaty was signed between Morocco and the United States, but this did little to aid in the conflict with Algiers. The war between Algiers and Portugal ensured the safety of Atlantic trade done by the United States, but in 1793 a peace between these two nations exposed Atlantic trade to the Barbary states. In 1795 the United States sent diplomats to the Barbary states and negotiated a treaty in exchange for tribute, this resulted in the release of 83 American sailors. In 1794 the United States constructed six ships as part of the United States Navy. In 1801 in response to a late tribute payment, Tripoli declared war on the United States, a joint land and sea assault defeated Tripoli’s forces resulting in a peace in 1805 with no tribute included in the peace treaty.

While there are many actions that could resolve a conflict between the United States and the Barbary states, only one option is preferable and eternal. While one solution to this problem would be the continuous payment of the tribute demanded by the Barbary states, and this could be achieved by greatly reducing the budget of the government and largely increasing the taxes on the people of the United States, this option is in no way in the best interests of the United States or her people. It is infantile to believe that a navy is not an integral part in the defense and ensured prosperity of a nation, and while the United States differs in our form of government, this fact still remains, and it would be in the best interest of the nation to ensure that our navy expands in order to battle our current enemies and enemies that are to come. Another facet that is necessary for the continued existence and prosperity of a nation is the ability of that nation to participate in trade with other nations, and these events have shown that we are not able to protect our trade adequately, jeopardizing our economy and causing us to set a precedent of weakness. The development of a naval force would also allow the United States to further display itself as a nation equal to the various powers of Europe and allow the world to not only respect us as a powerful nation, but perhaps even possess some fear of the brand new world power known as the United States. This nation was conceived after achieving victory over the most powerful nation in the world and we must show the world that this bastion of freedom will endure.

**Bibliography**

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