Causes of the War of 1812

* U.S. tried to remain neutral b/w French & British conflicts
  + 1793 Proclamation of Neutrality
  + 1807 Embargo against British goods
  + U.S. could no longer tolerate British violations of commercial rights as a neutral nation
  + **Impressment**
  + Firing upon U.S. Navy vessels –’The Chesapeake’
  + GB Naval blockade preventing U.S. trade w/ Europe
  + GB assisted Native Americans in the west
* **‘War Hawks’** from western states (and often Dem –Republicans) saw war as an opportunity to seize more territory from Britain (Canada)
  + Most Federalists were anti-war

The War for Canada

* US invaded Canada in 1813, but never succeeded taking over the major cities like Montreal
* Succeeded on the water
  + better ships including the USS Constitution “old ironsides’
  + Gained control Lake Erie & Lake Ontario under Oliver Hazard Perry
* American forces burned Toronto
* Successful on the US side of the Great Lakes; **Battle of the Thames**

The Burning of the Capital

* British occupied the Chesapeake in 1814
  + Sent forces overland to capture Washington, DC
  + Set fire to the Capitol building & the White House
  + Much of the valuable art and founding documents were saved by First Lady, **Dolly Madison**
  + The second phase of the attack that went to capture Baltimore failed
  + The **Battle of Fort McHenry** is commemorated by Francis Scott Key in his poem “the Star Spangled Banner”

The Hero of New Orleans

* **General Andrew Jackson** had victories against the Creek Indians
  + **Battle of Horseshoe Bend** in Mississippi territory,
  + Later won victory in FL over the Spanish
* Final victory of the war will occur at the **Battle of New Orleans** (several weeks after the formal truce w/the **Treaty of Ghent**

**“Not one inch of territory ceded or lost”**

* **Treaty of Ghent**; Signed 12/24/1814
  + Armistice & restoration of lost territory
  + War Hawk claims for declaring war were never mentioned in the treaty
* **Treaty of Rush-Bagot** (1817)
  + granted the US commercial privileges
  + GB demilitarized the Great Lakes

End of the Federalists

* Federalists were upset with the war through its duration
  + **Hartford Convention** (1814) MA, CT, RI, NH & VT sent delegates to draw a list of grievances
    - Financial help from the federal gov’t to cover lost trade
    - Amendment for 2/3 vote for Congress to declare an embargo, admit new states or declare war
    - Abolition of the 3/5th Compromise
    - Limit president’s to one term
    - No two successive presidents from the same state
* Their lack of loyalty brought the end to the party