8th Notes: Chapter 8.4

I. Defeats and Victories

- In beginning of War the War Hawks were confident that the U.S. would quickly gain victory.
  - However, Americans were unprepared for war
  - The American force was small and unprepared.
    - Regular army had less than 12,000 soldiers and 5,000 of them were newly recruited.
    - State militias had poorly trained soldiers from between 50,000 and 100,000 men. Commanders from the American Revolution were now too old to fight and not everyone supported the conflict. Not every person and every state supported ‘Mr. Madison’s War.” In addition, American forces underestimated the British and Native American strength.
- On July 1812, the war began and General William Hull led the American army from Detroit to Canada. They met Tecumseh and his warriors. However, Hull feared a defeat by the natives and surrendered Detroit to the British and Native Americans. Other attempts to invade Canada by the Americans failed. General Henry Harrison led one unsuccessful attempt and decided Americans could not successfully invade Canada while British controlled Lake Erie.

A. U.S Naval Strength

1. The U.S Navy had three of the fastest warships afloat.
2. When The Constitution took down some British ships, Americans rejoiced.
3. Soon after, privates captured many other British ships, making their morale better.
4. Oliver Hazard Perry had orders to assemble a fleet of ships to seize the British controlled Lake Erie.
5. They met on September 10, 1813 when the British came to fight the Americans.
6. After the bloody battle, the Americans won and Perry sent the message, “We have met the enemy and they are ours,” to General Harrison.
7. With the Erie Lake in the American hands, the British forces and the Native American allies tried to flee, but they were cut off by Harrison and his troops.
8. In the Battle of Thames, the Native American leader Tecumseh was killed.
9. The Americans tried to attack Canada, winning a couple of key battles.
10. However, in 1813, Canada remained under British rule.

B. Defeat of the Creeks
1. Before Tecumseh’s death, he talked with the Creeks to make a Confederacy to fight the United States.
2. With his death, it ended that Confederacy with the Creeks and terminated the British and the Native American friendship.
3. In March of 1814, Andrew Jackson led U.S forces to attack the Creeks which became known as the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.
4. More than 550 Creeks died in this battle and the Creeks were forced to give up most of their lands.

II. The British Offensive:
• Before the United States went down the British was already at war with the French. To the British, fighting two wars was difficult. After Britain won the war against Napoleon, they sent more ships to fight the United States.
• British soldiers went to Washington D.C. and set a blaze in the city, and fortunately the thunderstorm put out the fires before it went bad. Then the soldiers started to go to Baltimore but the people of Baltimore were ready and prevented the British from entering the city.

A. Turning Point at Plattsburgh
1. While British forces were attacking Washington and Baltimore, British General Sir George Prevost was moving into New York from Canada. Leading more the 10,000 British soldiers, his goal was to capture Plattsburgh, a key city on the shore of Lake Champlain. An American naval force on the lake defeated the British fleet in the September of 1814. Fearing the Americans would surround them, the British retreated.
2. The Battle of Lake Champlain convinced the British that the war in North America was too costly and unnecessary. They had defeated Napoleon in Europe. To keep fighting the United States would result in little gain and was not worth the effort.
B. **The End of the War**

1. American representatives and British representatives met in Belgium to sign a peace agreement.
2. The Treaty of Ghent did not change the existing borders, there was no mention of impressment of sailors.
3. One final ferocious battle occurred before word of the treaty reached the United States.
4. On January 8, 1815, the British advanced on New Orleans.
5. Waiting for them was Andrew Jackson and his troops, the redcoats were no match for Jackson’s soldiers, who hid behind thick cotton bales.
6. The bales absorbed the British bullets, while the British advancing in the open provided easy targets for American troops.
7. In a short but gruesome battle, hundreds of British soldiers were killed.
8. At the Battle of New Orleans, Americans achieved a decisive victory, Andrew Jackson became a hero whose fame would help him win presidency in 1828.

C. **Nationalism and New Respect**

1. Federalists had opposed “Mr. Madison’s War.”
2. These unhappy Federalists gathered in December 1814 at the Hartford Convention in Connecticut.
3. A few favored secession, but most wanted to remain in the Union.
4. To protect their interest, they made a list of proposed amendments to the Constitution.
5. The Federalists’ grievances seemed unpatriotic in the triumph following the war, the party lost the public’s respect and disappeared as a political force, leaving only one significant political party.
6. The War Hawks took over leadership of the Republican Party and carried on a Federalist belief in a strong national government.
7. The War Hawks favored trade, western expansion, economic development, and a strong army and navy.
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8. Americans felt a new sense of patriotism and a strong national identity after the War of 1812.

9. The young nation also gained new respect from other nations around the world.