



A Time of Conflict

Objectives

1. Discuss how the United States defeated the Barbary pirates.
2. Explain how war in Europe hurt American trade.
3. Discuss the causes and effects of the Embargo Act.
4. Identify the events leading up to the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Prepare to Read

Reading Skill

Explain How Events Are Related in Time Many events that occur in sequence have cause-and-effect relationships. Explaining how events are related in time will help you find these cause-and-effect links. As you read this section, look for events that have this relationship.

Vocabulary Builder

High-Use Words

decline, p. 324

restore, p. 326

Key Terms and People

tribute, p. 322

Stephen Decatur, p. 322

embargo, p. 324

smuggle, p. 324

Tecumseh, p. 326

William Henry Harrison, p. 326

★ **Background Knowledge** In the previous chapter, you learned how the United States under Washington and Adams became entangled in the dispute between France and Britain. That dispute did not go away. As you will learn, it rose again with added fury during the administration of Thomas Jefferson.

Main Idea

Threats to American shipping led the United States to capture Tripoli, stronghold of the Barbary pirates.

Defeating the Barbary States

Trade with Europe was critical to the U.S. economy. Americans sold crops and natural resources to customers in Europe. They purchased manufactured goods made in Europe.

After the American Revolution, pirates began attacking American ships in the Mediterranean Sea. The pirates came from four small countries on the North African coast—Morocco, Algiers, Tunisia, and Tripoli. Together, these countries were known as the Barbary States.

Barbary pirates raided European and American ships, taking property and enslaving sailors and holding them for ransom. European governments stopped such raids by paying the Barbary States tribute—money paid by one country to another in return for protection. In exchange, their rulers agreed to leave European ships alone.

For a time, the United States also paid tribute. But Jefferson stopped this practice and sent warships to the Mediterranean Sea to protect American merchant ships. At first, these military patrols went badly. The warship *Philadelphia* ran aground near the Tripoli coast and its 300-man crew was imprisoned. To keep the pirates from using the ship, 60 American sailors led by Stephen Decatur raided Tripoli harbor and burned the *Philadelphia* down to the waterline.



Explain How Events Are Related in Time

Explain why the United States stopped paying tribute to the Barbary States.

The next year, a small force of American marines marched 600 miles across the Sahara and captured Tripoli. A line in the U.S. Marine Corps anthem—"To the shores of Tripoli"—recalls that victory. It inspired a wave of confidence in the ability of the United States to deal forcefully with foreign powers that threatened American security and prosperity.

Checkpoint How did European nations protect themselves against raids by the Barbary pirates?

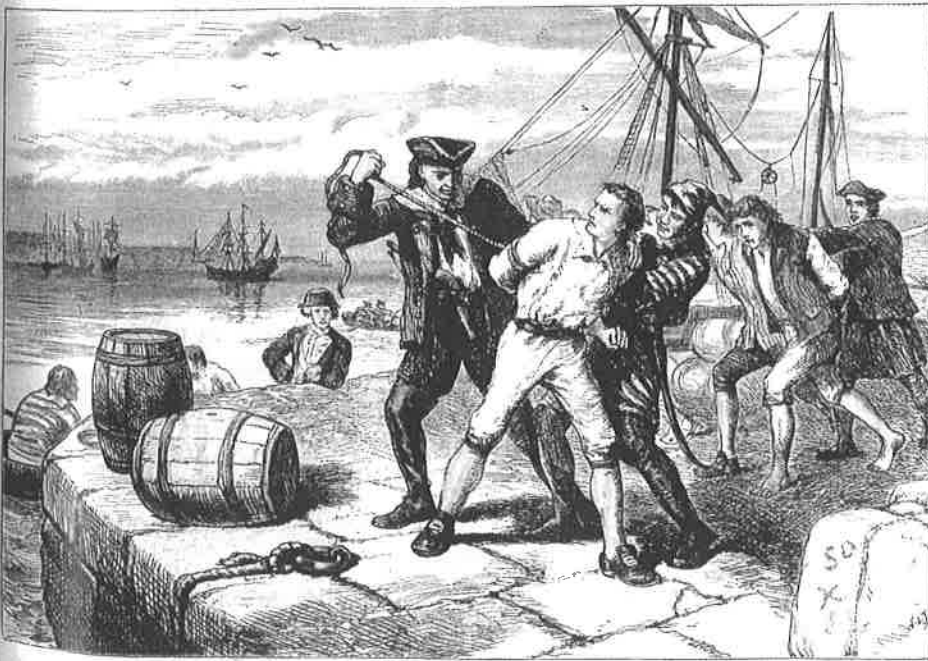
American Neutrality Is Challenged

A more serious threat to American overseas trade came from two much more powerful countries, Britain and France. By 1803, the two nations once again were at war. The United States remained neutral.

Because it was neutral, the United States continued trading with both Britain and France. The war in Europe had created opportunities for Americans to sell their products there.

Meanwhile, Britain and France looked for ways to weaken each other. One method was to cut off the other country's foreign trade. British warships started seizing American ships trading with France. French warships did the same to American ships trading with Britain. Between 1803 and 1807, France seized 500 American ships and Britain seized more than 1,000.

Britain badly needed sailors for its war against France. So it turned again to impressment. As a result, thousands of American sailors were forced to serve in the British navy.



Main Idea

Britain and France interfered with American shipping, increasing tensions between the United States and the two European nations.

Impressment

A nineteenth-century woodprint shows unfortunate American sailors being impressed by British gangs. Conditions on board British warships were harsh.

Critical Thinking: Draw Conclusions What impact do you think impressment had on the performance of the British navy?

Carving Up the World



George III

Napoleon

Reading Political Cartoons

Skills Activity

Britain's King George III and French leader Napoleon Bonaparte are shown dividing the world in this American cartoon. Their rivalry drew the United States into a conflict it did not want to enter.

(a) Identify Main Ideas

What portion of the globe is Napoleon taking? What portion is King George taking?

(b) Detect Points of View

What do you think the cartoonist's opinion is of the two European leaders?

Beginning in 1805, Britain and France increased their efforts to attack trade with their foes. No matter what American merchant ships did, they risked being seized by either Britain or France.

✓Checkpoint What was impressive, and why did it anger Americans?

Main Idea

The Embargo Act hurt the United States far more than it hurt Britain or France.

Vocabulary Builder

decline (dee KLĪN) *v.* to gradually lose strength or power

Jefferson Responds With an Embargo

The President looked for peaceful methods to force Britain and France to respect American neutrality. He decided to use an **embargo**—a government order that forbids foreign trade. In 1807, Congress passed the Embargo Act. It imposed a total embargo on American ships sailing to any foreign port. Jefferson predicted that both countries would soon cease attacking American ships.

Things did not turn out as Jefferson expected. Indeed, the big loser proved to be the United States. In just one year, American exports fell from \$109 million to \$25 million. Prices of American crops **declined**, hurting farmers and planters. Tens of thousands of Americans lost their jobs.

Many Americans were outraged by the embargo. Anger was greatest in New England, where merchants depended heavily on foreign trade. Thousands of Americans turned to **smuggling**—the act of illegally importing or exporting goods—in order to evade the embargo.