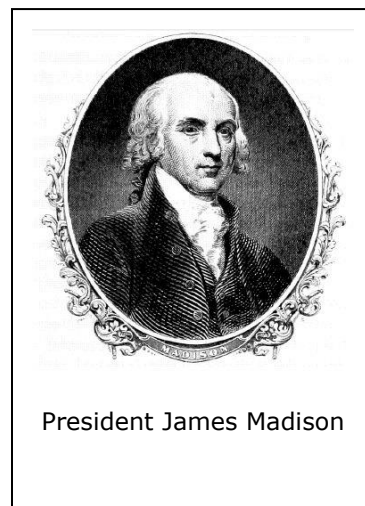


Fourteenth Congress

Dec. 4, 1815-Mar. 3, 1817

Second Administration of James Madison

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Historical Background

During the 14th Congress the Federal Government was faced with rebounding from the War of 1812. It also dealt with ending the possibility of making payments to the Barbary powers of North Africa in order to avoid war with those States, negotiating more treaties of amenity and trade, and strengthening the United States' economy.

The War of 1812 ended when American and British representatives signed the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium on Dec. 24, 1814, nearly a year before Madison delivered his message to at the commencement of the 14th Congress on the treaty's contents. During his address, delivered Dec. 5, 1815, Madison informed Congress that he had reviewed the Treaty of Ghent, along with other recent peace treaties the U.S. had negotiated. He went on to state that in some cases the terms of a treaty needed to be adhered to, while in others changing circumstances made it necessary to considering amending the agreement. Madison then left it up to Congress to determine how to proceed, and how quickly to act, stating "Congress will decide on the expediency of promoting such a sequel."

While some treaties required a review, Madison did not believe the Treaty of Ghent to be one of those, calling that treaty a "source of satisfaction." Once the war ended and peaceful relations were established between the United States and Great Britain, Madison expected the U.S. economy would improve, saying the end of the war would be "succeeded by a convention on the subject of commerce."

Another treaty that held Madison's attention was the treaty between the United States and Algiers, one of the North African Barbary powers, the others being Morocco, Tripoli and Tunis. During the late 18th and early 19th

House	Senate
Majority Party: Jeffersonian Republican (119 seats)	Majority Party: Republican (26 seats)
Minority Party: Federalist (64 seats)	Minority Party: Federalist (12 seats)
Other Parties: None	Other Parties: None
Speaker of the House: Henry Clay	President Pro Tempore: John Gaillard Byrd

centuries, the United States engaged those nations in its first foreign war (known as the First Barbary War) following by the seizure of U.S. merchant ships sailing the Mediterranean Sea. Madison wanted peace with Algiers because it provided “a reasonable prospect of future security of the valuable portion of our commerce” that sailed the Mediterranean, however, was insistent the peace would be under the terms of the treaty agreed to at the end of the previous conflict.

Additional policies pursued by Madison during the 14th Congress included ending the continued importation of slaves into the United States. While the importation of new slaves had been outlawed in 1808, the trade had been continued through smuggling. Laws enacted to punish U.S. citizens who smuggled slaves into the country had proven ineffective in eliminating the trade and the President urged Congress to extend those laws to apply to U.S. citizens involved in that trade while on foreign soil.

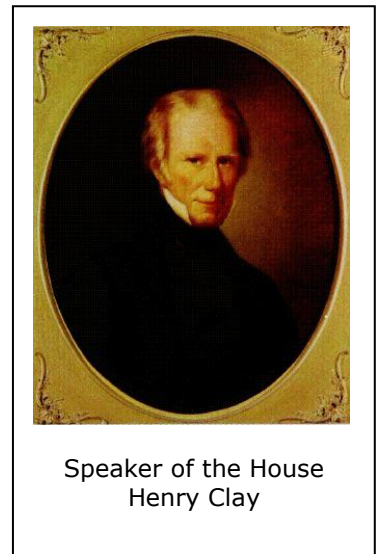
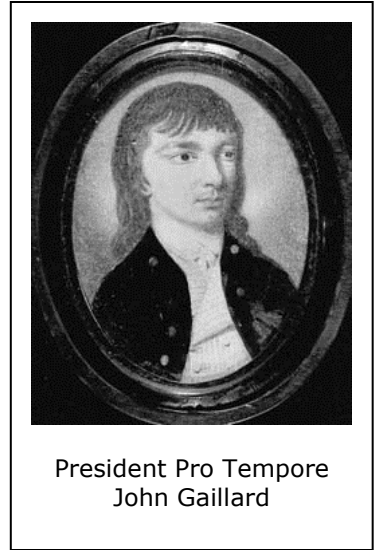
In addition to seeking to curb further U.S. involvement in the slave trade, there was an effort to halt U.S. citizens from conducting private military adventures into Mexico. Madison issued a general warning to citizens engaged in such adventurism to cease, and for military and civil officials in the States bordering Mexico to remain alert about such activities in their regions.

Furthermore, during Madison’s last two annual addresses to Congress he urged the lawmakers to pursue the construction of roads and canals. In his 1815 address he said, “the occasion is a proper one for recalling the attention of Congress to the great importance of establishing throughout our country the roads and canals which can best be executed under the national authority.” Madison continued to pursue that proposal and during his last annual message delivered on Dec. 3, 1816, he recommended Congress enact a constitutional amendment that increases Congress’ power to effectuate a comprehensive, federally subsidized, system of roads and canals which would “have the effect of drawing more closely together every part” of the country. However, to Madison's dismay, Congress ignored enacting a constitutional amendment and, the following February, approved a bill creating a permanent fund of internal improvements. In his last act as President, Madison vetoed the Bonus Bill as being unconstitutional.

Sources:

Madison, James. [Message at the Commencement of the 14th Congress, First Session](#). Dec. 5, 1815. 14th Congress, 1st Session, For.rel.278. ProQuest Congressional, ASP04 For.rel.278

Madison, James. [Message of the President at the Commencement of the Second Session of the 14th Congress](#). Dec. 3, 1816. 14th Congress, 2nd Session, For.rel.283. ProQuest Congressional, ASP04 For.rel.283



War or Peace?

War of 1812 and Second Barbary War

Maintaining friendly relations with foreign powers was a priority for President Madison, who, during the 1816 message to Congress said, “I have

the satisfaction to state, generally, that we remain in amity with foreign powers.” However, an incident occurred in the Gulf of Mexico in which a U.S. Navy ship was attacked by “an overpowering force” in service to Spain which could have ignited general hostilities between the United States and Spain. Madison claimed the attack “insulted” the U.S. ship and required “prompt reparation” by Spain and added he has discussed the matter with Spain’s representative, and assurances were provided “that no hostile order” was issued by Spain, and that Spain’s Government would act to maintain “the friendly relations of the two countries.” Nonetheless, Madison ordered a frigate and smaller war ship to the Gulf to protect U.S. commerce.

While the incident involving Spanish war ships was an isolated occurrence, in June 1815 the U.S. engaged and defeat of the naval forces of Algiers that threatened to attack U.S. merchant ships sailing the Mediterranean. The naval action, known as the Second Barbary War, was sparked by a letter from Omar Bashaw, the Dey of Algiers, to the United States informing the U.S. that the existing treaty—concluded Sept. 5, 1795—between the U.S. and Algiers was nullified, and payment of tributes to the Dey would be required. The letter was considered to be a declaration of war, and Madison informed Congress that in his response to the Dey he said, “the United States preferred war to tribute,” and the way to avoid war would be for Algiers to observe the existing treaty. By the date Madison delivered the 1816 message to Congress, a response from the Dey had not arrived, but the President said should the Dey “renew his warfare on our commerce, we rely on the protection it will find on our naval force actually in the Mediterranean.” The U.S. victory resulted in a new treaty with Algiers that was concluded on June 30 and July 6, 1815, and signed by the Dey who agreed to relinquish all further claims for tribute.

With the end of the War of 1812 and the Second Barbary War, Madison was of two minds on the condition of the U.S. military. On one hand, during the 1815 message to Congress, Madison said that since the end of hostilities with Great Britain, troop reductions within the Army had been underway “as circumstances would permit, and as far as it has been practicable.” However, while reporting on troop reductions, Madison also recommended the Army be enlarged, and that funding be allocated to extend or complete “fixed and floating” defense facilities. The reason for the appropriation was because “the lesson” of past events showed that “to prevent or repel danger, we ought not to be unprepared for it.” In addition, he recommended that the U.S. Military Academy at West Point be enlarged and more military academies be established around the United States. He also urged that more funding and resources be allocated to the militias so they could be expanded and established in areas where militia units were not present.

Sources:

Madison, James. [*Message at the Commencement of the 14th Congress, First Session*](#). Dec. 5, 1815. 14th Congress, 1st Session, For.rel.278. ProQuest Congressional, ASP04 For.rel.278

Economic Trends and Conditions

The War of 1812 depleted the Federal treasury and virtual financial chaos followed. Nonetheless, President Madison expected that the nearly year-old peace would alleviate “the burdens” war imposed on the Federal budget. However, while Madison said the end of the war would reduce Federal spending, during his December 1815 message he urged Congress to enact a protective tariff that would increase revenues. He argued the tariff would prevent America from becoming a British economic colony, for “in adjusting the duties on imports to the object of revenue, the influence of the tariff on manufactures will necessarily present itself for consideration.” A few months later, on April 27, 1816, Congress approved the First Protective Tariff, which placed heavy duties on certain foreign manufactured goods, wares, and merchandise imported into the United States. However, eight months later during his message to Congress, Madison said the country was experiencing an economic depression, placing the blame on imported goods.

In addition to causing an economic depression among manufacturers, the imports were also indirectly responsible for causing an economic decline among shippers, according to Madison. However, the economic decline that affected shipping was not caused by the import of goods, but because U.S. ships were being blocked from conducting trade with Great Britain’s West Indies colonies. “The depressed state of our navigation is to be ascribed, in a material degree, to its exclusion from the colonial ports of the nation most exclusively connected with us in commerce, and from the indirect operation of that exclusion,” he said during his 1816 message of Congress. Madison sought to return to the “rule of reciprocity” in conducting trade with the West Indies colonies - rule that was in effect throughout Europe. Madison sought the counsel of Congress on what policy to pursue on that matter.

Among the economic programs pursued by Madison was included was the establishment a “uniform national currency” which he said was “essential” to the economy, but which might require the creation of a national bank. During his 1815 message to Congress he stated, “the absence of precious metals will, it is believed, be a temporary evil; but, until they can again be rendered the general medium of exchange, it develops on the wisdom of Congress to provide a substitute, which shall equally engage the confidence and accommodate the wants of the citizens throughout the Union.” He continued by saying that “if the operation of the State banks cannot produce this result, the probably operation of a national bank will merit consideration.” Seeking to stem inflation four months later, on April 10, 1816, Congress approved creating the Second National Bank of the United States.

In the fiscal reports for 1815 and 1816, Madison included all Federal transactions as revenue, including the issuance of Treasury notes, loans and surplus funds from the previous year. In addition, during the State of the Union address for 1815 Madison credited the period of peace the United States had entered into as the reason for an increase in the amount of

revenues collected. He reported that the United States' revenues for 1815—which were only reported up to September 30—totaled \$37 million. Madison also included the payment of loans and notes as expenditures, which for 1815 was \$33.5 million, leaving a surplus of \$3.5 million. During the fiscal report for 1816, Madison included the same information for revenues and expenditures saying the United States collected \$47 million in revenues through September 30 of that year, and that expenditures, also recorded up to September 30, were \$38 million, which left a surplus in the Treasury of \$9 million.

Sources:

Crawford, William Harris. [Annual report of Secretary of Treasury on state of finances. Dec. 20, 1816](#). 14th Congress, 2nd Session, Serial ASP011, No. Fin.490. ProQuest Congressional, ASP011 Fin.490

Dallas, Alexander. [Annual report of Secretary of Treasury on state of finances. Dec. 8, 1815](#). 14th Congress, 1st Session, Serial ASP011, No. Fin.454. ProQuest Congressional, ASP011 Fin.454

Madison, James. [Message at the Commencement of the 14th Congress, First Session](#). Dec. 5, 1815. 14th Congress, 1st Session, For.rel.278. ProQuest Congressional, ASP04 For.rel.278

Madison, James. [Message of the President at the Commencement of the Second Session of the 14th Congress](#). Dec. 3, 1816. 14th Congress, 2nd Session, For.rel.283. ProQuest Congressional, ASP04 For.rel.283

Major Treaties

Treaty of Peace with Algiers. Terminated the Algerian War; also ended American subsidies to the governments of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli. Concluded June 30 and July 6, 1815. Approved by the Senate Dec. 21, 1815. ([8 Stat. 224](#))

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Madison, James. [Message at the Commencement of the 14th Congress, First Session](#). Dec. 5, 1815. 14th Congress, 1st Session, For.rel.278. ProQuest Congressional, ASP04 For.rel.278

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Martin v. Hunter's Lessee, concluded that under the Supremacy Clause, interpretations of federal law surpass state interpretations, adding that states and the national government are not equal sovereigns, 14 U.S. 304 (1816)

Source:

1815 Events

- **Jan. 8:** *War of 1812* - [Battle of New Orleans occurs. Despite the War of 1812 ending on Dec. 24, the combatants did not know the peace treaty had been signed](#)
- **Jan. 30:** Former President Thomas Jefferson sells 7,000 books to the U.S. Library of Congress; the volumes reestablish the library, which had been burned by the British during the War of 1812
- **Feb. 6:** New Jersey issues the first railroad charter within the United States to the United New Jersey Railroad and Canal Company
- **Feb. 26:** *Napoleonic Wars* - Napoleon Bonaparte, exiled to the island Elba in the Mediterranean Sea, leads 1,200 followers off the island in an effort to regain control of France
- **Mar. 3:** *Second Barbary War* - [The U.S. declares war on Algiers for taking U.S. prisoners and demanding tribute to Algiers](#)
- **Mar. 16:** Willem I is proclaimed king of the Netherlands, including Belgium
- **Mar. 26:** *Napoleonic Wars* - Napoleon Bonaparte enters Paris as Emperor thus beginning a 100-day rule
- **May 3:** Austria defeats King Joachim of Naples at the Battle at Tolentino
- **June 8:** The German Confederation is formed when 39 German states unite under the Act of Confederation
- **June 9:** The Congress of Vienna concludes after setting Europe's national boundaries and political situations
- **June 16:** *Napoleonic Wars* - Napoleon Bonaparte leads the French Army to victory over Prussia at the Battle at Ligny, but later the same day allied forces attack the French in the Battle at Quatre-Bras
- **June 17:** *Second Barbary War* - [U.S. Commodore Stephen Decatur defeats the Algerian frigate *Mashouda* in the Mediterranean Second Barbary War](#)
- **June 18:** *Napoleonic Wars* - British forces under Field Marshal Arthur Wellesley, the 1st Duke of Wellington, and Prussian troops defeat Napoleon Bonaparte at the Battle of Waterloo
- **June 22:** *Napoleonic Wars* - Napoleon abdicates for the second time
- **June 30:** *Second Barbary War* - [The Second Barbary War comes to an end when a treaty of peace is signed in Algiers](#)
- **July 9:** The first natural gas well in the United States is discovered
- **July 9:** Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, Prince de Benevente becomes Prime Minister of France
- **Oct. 15:** *Napoleonic Wars* - Napoleon Bonaparte begins his second exile on the island of St Helena, off the west coast of Africa
- **Nov. 20:** Austria, England, Prussia and Russia sign an alliance "for the maintenance of peace in Europe"

- **Nov. 27:** The Congress of Vienna declares the city of Kraków, Poland to be a free republic state
- **Nov. 27:** The Kingdom of Poland adopts a Constitution

1816 Events

- **Mar. 20:** The U.S. Supreme Court affirms its right to review state court decisions
- **Apr. 10:** The Second National Bank of the United States is chartered
- **June 11:** The Gas-light Company of Baltimore is founded and given the mission of lighting the streets of Baltimore
- **June 19:** The rivalry between the Canadian fur-trading firms the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company turns deadly as employees of those businesses engage in a gunfight near Winnipeg, Manitoba
- **July 9:** Argentina declares its independence from Spain
- **July 27:** [To punish the Seminole tribe for harboring runaway slaves, U.S. troops attack Fort Apalachicola, a fort housing more than 300 blacks; the attack ignites the fort's powder magazine killing most of the residents](#)
- **Aug. 24:** [The Ojibwa, Ottawa and Potawatomi tribes cede their lands to the United States in one of 14 treaties signed around St. Louis, Mo. that are all known as the Treaty of St. Louis](#)
- **Aug. 27:** Leading an Anglo-Dutch fleet, British Admiral Edward Pellew, the 1st Viscount of Exmouth orders a bombardment of Algiers, securing the release of 1,200 Christian slaves
- **Sep. 5:** France's King Louis XVIII dissolves the Chamber of Deputies, the lower chamber of the French Parliament, because it was dominated by ultra-royalists who refused to accept the results of the French Revolution
- **Dec. 2:** The Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, the first savings bank in the United States, opens
- **Dec. 11:** [Indiana is admitted to the Union as the 19th State](#)

Sources:

Calhoun, John C. [Letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting, pursuant to a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 26th ult. information in relation to the destruction of the Negro fort in east Florida, in the month of July, 1816.](#) House, Feb. 1, 1819. 15th Congress, 2nd Session, H. Doc. 15-122. ProQuest Congressional, 22 H.doc.122

Emmons, George F. [Navy of U.S., from commencement, 1775-1853: with brief history of each vessel's service and fate as appears upon record.](#) Department of Navy, Jan. 1853. N1.2:N22/4. ProQuest Congressional, N102-38

Madison, James. [Algiers: treaty of peace and amity, 1815.](#) American State Papers, Dec. 6, 1815. 14th Congress, 1st Session, For.rel.279. ProQuest Congressional, ASP04 For.rel.279

[National Military Park to Commemorate Battle of New Orleans.](#) Committee on Military Affairs. House, Mar. 27, 1924. 68th Congress, 1st Session, (Y4.M59/1:N42o). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1924-MAH-0006

[*Alphabetical list of battles 1754-1900. War of Rebellion, Spanish-American war, Philippine insurrection, and all old wars, with dates: Summary of events of War of Rebellion, 1860-1865; Spanish-American War. Philippine Insurrection, 1898-1900: troubles in China, 1900: with other valuable information in regard to various wars.*](#) Department of Interior, Jan. 1, 1900. (I24.2:B32/3). ProQuest Congressional, I2402-3

Sheridan, Peter B. [*Admission of States into the Union After the Original Thirteen: A Brief History and Analysis of the Statehood Process*](#), Government Division (CRS), Apr. 2, 1985. 99th Congress, 1st Session, 85-765 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1985-GOV-0026

[*Treaties between U.S.A. and the several Indian tribes, from 1778 to 1837; with copious table of contents, new edition, carefully compared with originals in Department of State.*](#) Department of War, Jan. 1, 1837. (W1.2:In2/3). ProQuest Congressional, W102-25

Major Acts

Second National Bank of the United States. Created the Second National Bank of the United States for 20 years, with an authorized capital of \$35 million, of which the Government was to subscribe 20 percent that would serve as a non-interest-paying depository for Federal funds. In return for its charter privileges, the Bank was to pay the Government an annual bonus of \$1.5 million. Approved Apr. 10, 1816. ([3 Stat. 266, Chap. 44](#))

First Protective Tariff. Placed heavy duties on certain foreign manufactured goods, wares, and merchandise imported into the United States from any foreign port or place, as a means of protecting America's domestic manufactures and eventually to lessen the need for foreign goods. Approved Apr. 27, 1816. ([3 Stat. 310, Chap. 107](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [*Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980*](#), Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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