The Problems

Foreign & Domestic

African Pirates

- American merchant ships attacked off the coast of North Africa
- Jefferson passed a law requiring all ships to be escorted through the Mediterranean Sea by the American Navy
- Jefferson advised Americans to keep friendships with nations but avoid their entanglements
  - Who first had this idea?
- Difficult for Americans to stay out of foreign affairs when involved heavily with overseas trade

- Britain & France still at war in 1804
- American ships had neutral rights & traded with both countries
  - France seized & searched ships trading with Britain
  - Britain blocked French coasts
- Britain impressed, or kidnapped, American sailors to work on British ships
  - British attacked an American ship, Chesapeake, in 1807
- Many Americans demanded war

Impacting Trade

- Jefferson did not push for war
  - "Peaceable coercion" was his terminology
- Congress passed the Embargo Act
  - American ships not allowed to trade to European nations
- The act was a disaster
  - American farmers and merchants lost important markets for their products
  - Shippers lost income
  - Many violated the embargo
- Congress eventually repealed the act
Britain was interfering with shipping, impressing sailors, and resisting in the west Indian lands in the west.

From 1801-1810 white settlers attacked American Indians.


Their nationalism led to a new patriotism not seen since the Revolution. War Hawks pushed the president to declare war on Great Britain. Led by Henry Clay of K.Y. & John Calhoun of S.C. Many wanted British aid to Natives to be stopped...others wanted war because of what happened at sea.

June 1, 1812 – President Madison asks Congress for declaration of war.

In 1812, America officially declares war on Great Britain.