

## The Era of Good Feelings (1817 to 1825)



The War of 1812 is also known as the “second war for independence” but the war did not go very well for America. The attempted invasion of Canada failed. The British navy blockaded the Eastern coast and then captured Washington D.C., setting fire to government buildings including the Capitol and the President’s home.

America did win a naval victory on Lake Erie and Andrew Jackson led a military victory at New Orleans in 1815, despite being after the Treaty of Ghent was signed.

After the war, Great Britain ended its policy of seizing ships and cargo. The war did help the United States gain respect from other nations.

The War of 1812 greatly helped the spirit of nationalism within the nation. The poem by Francis Scott Key became the national anthem. Andrew Jackson, after his victory at New Orleans, became a national hero.

The peace treaty between the United States and Great Britain gave nothing to either side but Americans felt proud to have fought the mighty British Empire in a war that ended with a draw. The country became united as never before. Political change came as the Federalist Party stopped being a major force and the Democratic-Republican candidate for president, James Monroe, was almost unopposed in his two campaigns for president.

Times were so good during the eight years of James Monroe (1817 to 1825) that it became known as the Era of Good Feelings.