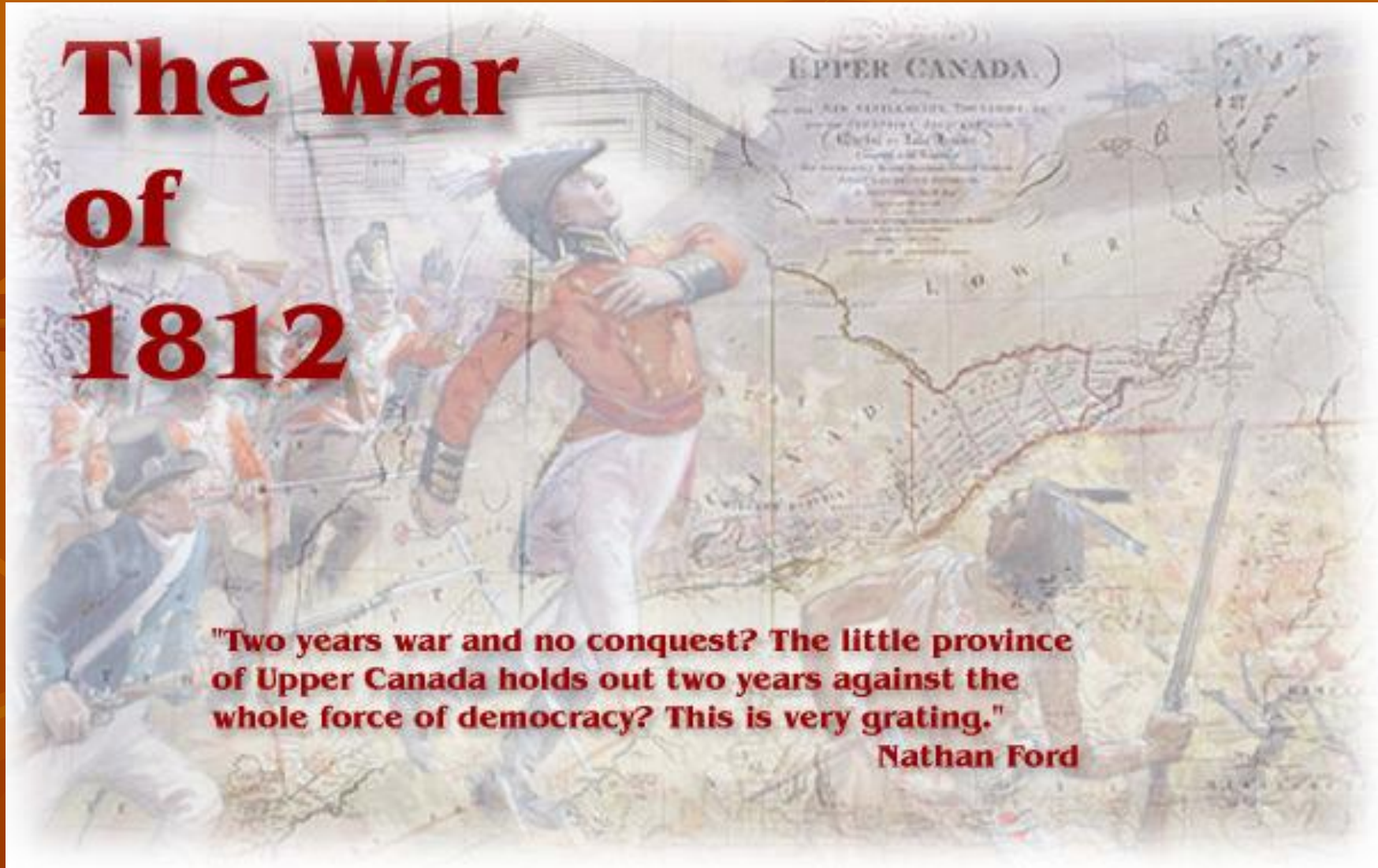
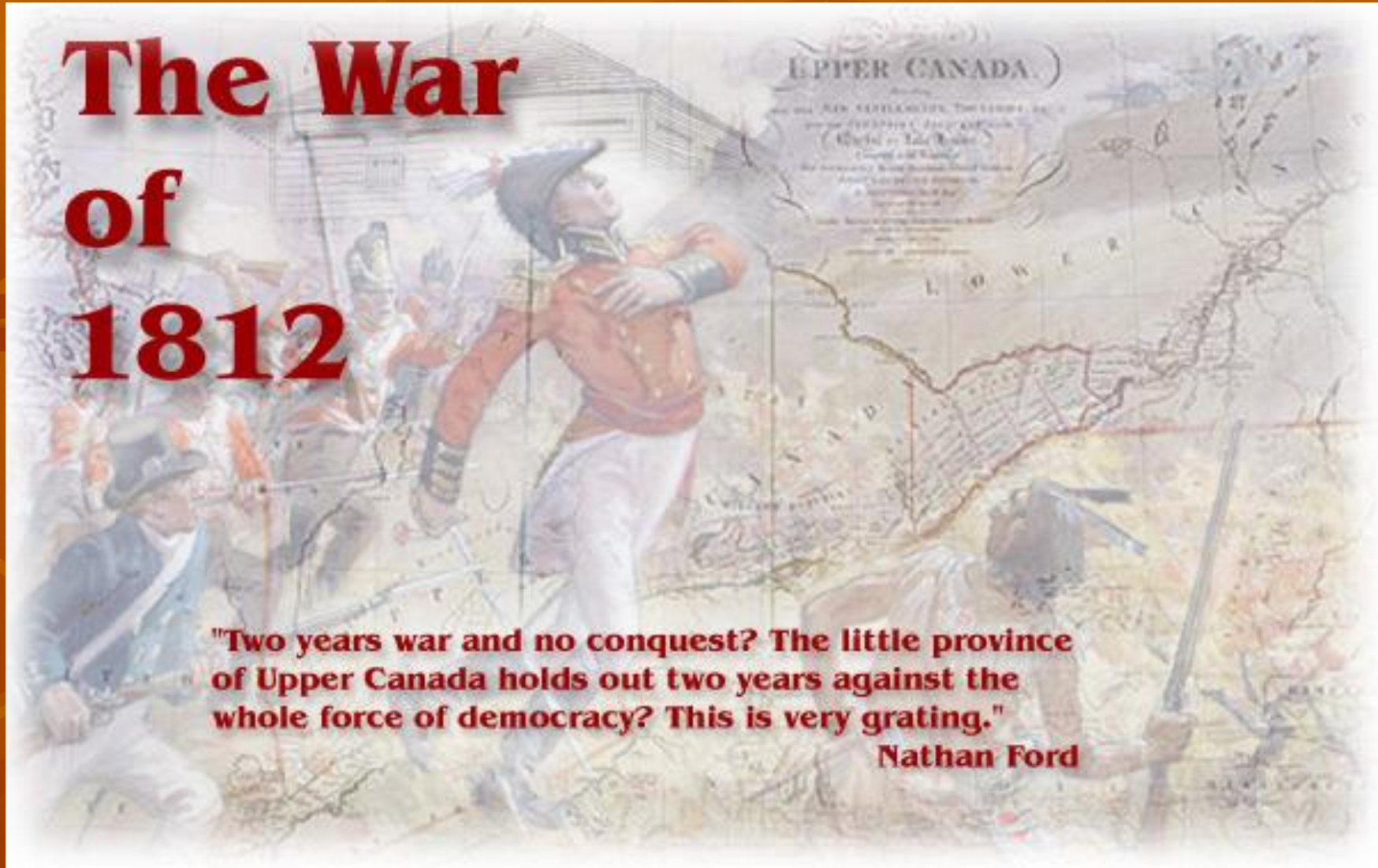




The War of 1812

"Two years war and no conquest? The little province of Upper Canada holds out two years against the whole force of democracy? This is very grating."

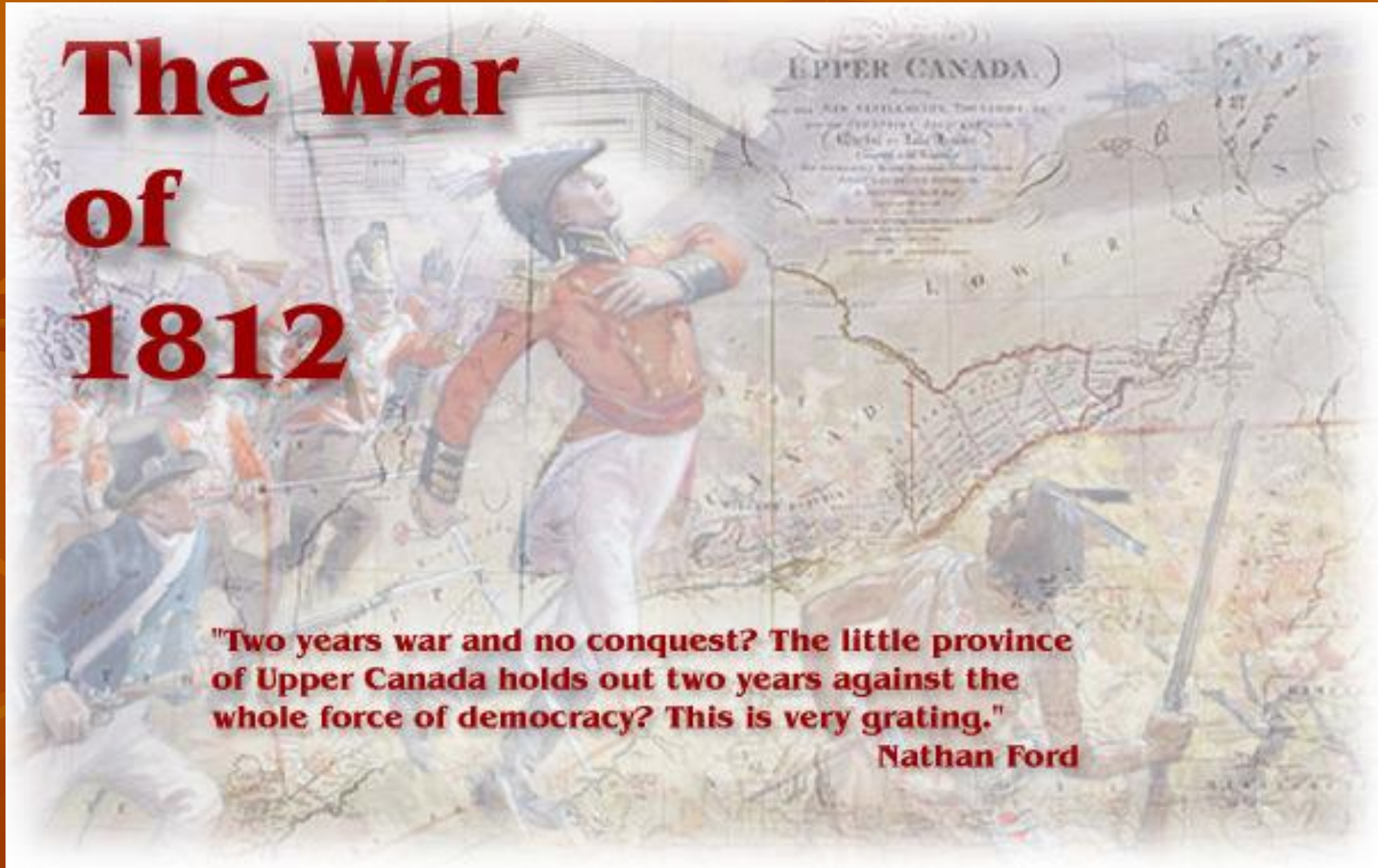
Nathan Ford



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Background

- the war was largely an extension of the Napoleonic wars in Europe, and the “Indian Wars” of the western areas of the new U.S.



- US purchased Louisiana from Napoleon in 1803, doubling the US in size
- new US settlers meet armed resistance from Shawnees who opposed settlement in their lands
- some evidence that the British supported first nations with weapons

The Gathering Storm

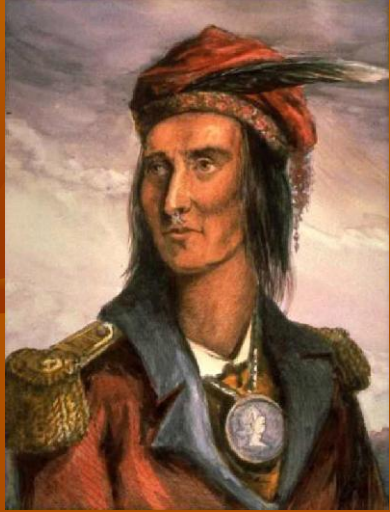
- Upper Canadian government courting American settlers
 - Americans soon outnumber Loyalists
- Britain is fighting a war with Napoleon and the French in Europe
 - Blockade French ports, prevent Americans from trading with them
 - Board American ships searching for British deserters
 - Force US sailors into Navy

American Points-of-View



- Some American politicians pushing for war with Britain (“War Hawks”)
 - Great, cheap farmland in British North America
 - Feel USA not respected by Britain, not treated like equals
- New England strongly against war
 - Want to trade with British, not fight
 - Would remain neutral, continue trading with Maritime colonies

First Nations Point-of-View



- Tecumseh's Alliance
 - Made of several American First Nations groups
 - Led by Shawnee chief Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa the Prophet
 - Want to stop American expansion into territory south of the Great Lakes and secure it for themselves

Let the Marching Begin!

- June 1812: USA declare war on Britain
 - Jefferson: defeating Canada would be a “mere matter of marching”
 - Population: USA 8 mil., BNA 0.5 mil.
- July: 2500 Americans invade Upper Canada
 - Believe Upper Canadians (modern day Ontario) would help

First Blood

- British, Canadians, and First Nations claim first major victory of the war
 - Capture Detroit, led by team of Gen. Isaac Brock and Tecumseh
 - Brock in charge of Upper Canada military
 - “Most of the people have lost all confidence. I however speak loud and look big.”
 - Upper Canadians maybe convinced to stay loyal by initial victory



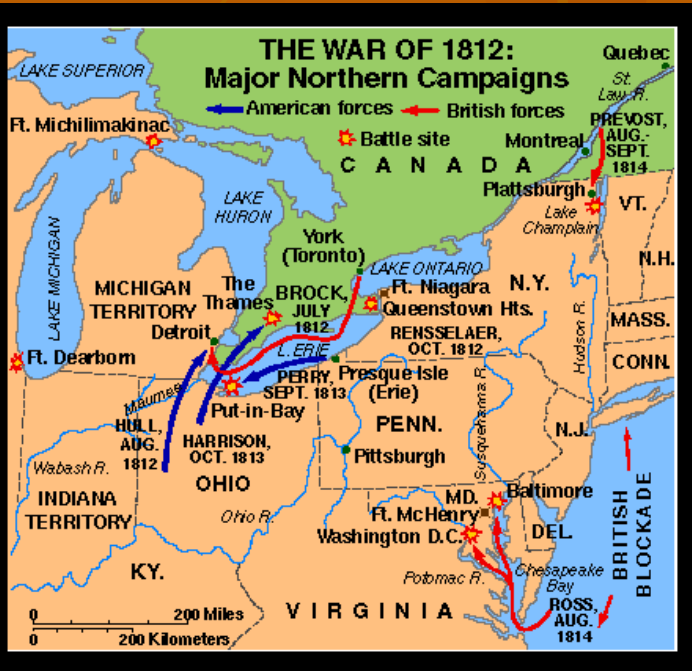
War Continues Past 1812...



- War goes back and forth
- 10/1812: Brock dies in victory
- 11/1812: Americans capture York (Toronto)
 - Burn legislative assembly building
- 06/1813: Canadian Laura Secord overhears American battle plans
 - hikes 23km and informs British
 - British ambush Americans, they surrender
- Heritage Minutes: Laura Secord

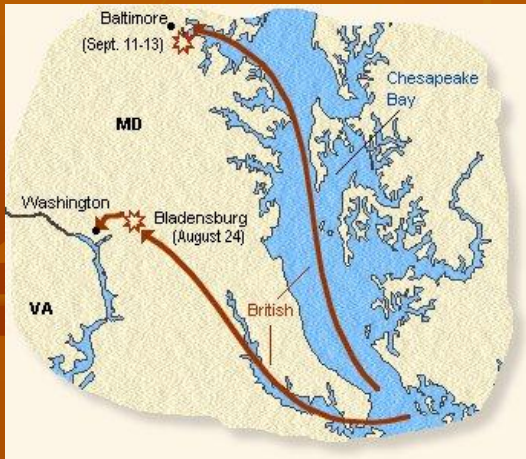


... And Goes On



- 06/1813: Invasion of Upper Canada stopped, then turned back
- 10/1813: Tecumseh killed in Battle of Thames River (American victory)
- Fall/1813: American invasion of Lower Canada (Montreal)
 - Fails miserably
- War keeps going back and forth

... And On



- 08/1814: British invade Washington, DC and burn many buildings
 - President's house burned
 - Quickly repaired and painted with whitewash, nicknamed "White House"
- 12/1814: Treaty of Ghent signed, ends the War of 1812, almost
 - 01/1815: Battle of New Orleans



CAPTURE AND BURNING OF WASHINGTON BY THE BRITISH, IN 1814.

The Conclusion of the War



- British Royal Navy key to outcome of war
- The Royal Navy was an unmatched threat on the Atlantic Coast

Impacts of the War of 1812

- showed British that it was difficult to defend Canada from US attacks
- Britain found cost of war very high
- a new insight on how culturally divided the two Canadas were (Most Upper Canadians fought as British subjects for the Empire. Lower Canadians fought as Canadiens, protecting their homeland) while demonstrating some unity during the war

- 
- Maritime provinces became more prosperous
 - American immigrants were now discouraged from coming to BNA

- stabilized border at 49th parallel to West to the Rocky Mountains (nearly)
- demilitarized the Great Lakes (Rush-Bagot Agreement of 1817)
- US gained more sovereign respect
- US directed their territorial expansion to the South and West