

The First Phase of the War The War of 1812 had two main phases. From 1812 to 1814, Britain concentrated on its war with France. It spent little energy on its conflict in North America, although it did send ships to blockade the American coast.

The American military was weak at the beginning of the war. Democratic-Republicans had reduced the size of the American armed forces. The U.S. Navy had only 16 warships. In spite of its small size, the U.S. Navy rose to the challenge. Ships such as the *Constitution* and the *United States* won stirring victories that boosted American confidence.

Triumph on Lake Erie The most important U.S. naval victory took place on Lake Erie. In September 1813, a small British force on the lake set out to attack a new fleet of American ships. Commodore **Oliver Hazard Perry**, who had taken charge of the fleet, sailed out to meet the enemy. Perry's ship, the *Lawrence*, flew a banner reading, "Don't give up the ship."

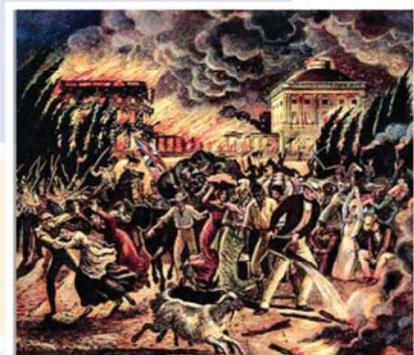
For two hours, the British and Americans exchanged cannon shots. Perry's ship was demolished and the guns put out of action. Under British fire, Perry grabbed the banner as he and four companions escaped and rowed to another ship. Commanding the second ship, Perry soon forced the British to surrender. In a message to General William Henry Harrison, commander



CONNECT to the Essential Question

How did the events of the Jefferson Era strengthen the nation?

EVENT	EFFECTS
<p>1801 ▼ 1804</p> <p>Jefferson takes office; Democratic-Republicans in power</p> <p>Jefferson purchases Louisiana Territory</p> <p>Lewis and Clark expedition charts important information about the West</p>	<p>Many Federalist policies end, though Federalists retain control of Judiciary</p> <p>Doubles size of the United States</p> <p>Western settlement fever begins</p>
<p>1807 ▼ 1812</p> <p>Congress passes Embargo Act of 1807</p> <p>Shawnee defeated at the Battle of Tippecanoe</p> <p>Congress declares war on Britain</p>	<p>American shipping and trade suffer</p> <p>Shawnee chief Tecumseh sides with British in Canada</p> <p>Britain and the United States are at war</p>
<p>1814 ▼ 1815</p> <p>British defeat Napoleon, turn focus to war with the United States</p> <p>Treaty of Ghent is signed</p> <p>At Battle of New Orleans, Jackson's forces defeat British</p>	<p>British burn Capitol building, White House; attack Fort Mchenry</p> <p>War ends, but news reaches the United States too late to prevent further hostilities</p> <p>Increases American patriotism; weakens Native American resistance; strengthens American manufacturing</p>



CRITICAL THINKING Synthesize How would you describe the characteristics of the Jefferson Era?