

The War of 1812 is sometimes called the second war for independence. The Americans fought for their rights; for the rights to neutral trade, which British government suspended because of the continental system of the French emperor Napoleon. United States were irritated by the British Orders in Council, which forbade Americans to trade with continental ports. Moreover they were angered by the practice of impressments. Royal Navy boarded and searched American ships for British seamen, who served on those ships because of better payment. The British navy was in a high need of men, so it took away from American vessels also American citizens without proper papers. Another cause of the War of 1812 was the British connection with Native Americans.

The War started with President Madison's War message to the 12th Congress on June 1. Subsequently Congress declared war on Great Britain, and military forces invaded Canada - a British province. All American attempts for conquering British forts have failed during the first year of the war. Canada stayed strong just because of the fine leadership of Sir Isaac Brock and because of the help of Tecumseh's Indians. Americans gained just few naval victories. The next two years Canada witnessed other American invasions; some of them were successful, e.g. the capture of York.

In 1814 British forces got the replacements of veterans from Europe; and they started attacking American inland. In August British squadrons captured and ransacked the American capitol - the city of Washington. It was the biggest American disgrace. However the Americans managed to advert British attack on Baltimore, which subsequently led to the creation of the American anthem. British also failed to capture New Orleans; General Jackson with a fewer men defeated the British and killed their commander.