



# *The War of* 1812

2 X 53 HD



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From 1812 to 1815, Americans battled against the British, Canadian colonists, and Native warriors; the outcomes shaped the geography and the identity of North America. This two-hour HD documentary uses stunning re-enactments, evocative animation, and the incisive commentary of key experts to reveal little-known sides of an important war—one that some only recognize for the “Star-Spangled Banner.”

*The War of 1812* explores the events leading up to the conflict, the multi-fold causes of the war, and the questions that emerged about the way a new democracy should conduct war. It was a surprisingly wide war. Dozens of battles were fought on land in Canada and in the northern, western, southern and eastern parts of the United States—in the present-day states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, New York, Maryland, Louisiana, and Alabama. There were crucial naval battles on Lakes Erie and Champlain, and a wide-ranging maritime struggle with many episodes off Virginia, Massachusetts, Nova Scotia, Cuba, Ireland, the Azores, the Canaries, British Guyana, and Brazil. The U.S. proved surprisingly successful against the great British navy, but the War of 1812 also saw American armies surrender en masse and the American capital burned.

Great characters emerge in the film, including **Tecumseh** of the Shawnee nation, who attempted to form a confederation of Native nations, and died in battle; his adversary, **William Henry Harrison**, Governor of the Indiana Territory, whose debatable success at Tippecanoe, Indiana eventually helped him become President of the United States; **James Madison**, Father of the U.S. Constitution, a brilliant thinker and writer who was not a great President; and such storied Canadian figures as **Canadian Governor-General George Prévost**, who led the largest army ever to invade the Continental United States; **Laura Secord**, a Canadian woman who walked many miles to warn the British of an impending American attack; and **Major General Isaac Brock**, a brave and audacious British general who captured a large American army at Detroit without a fight. The film also recounts dramatic human stories of ordinary citizens, the political alliances of the various Native Americans nations, and the African-American slaves who reached for their freedom by fighting for the British.

*The War of 1812* recollects defining moments that are more familiar: the burning of Washington, D.C., and First Lady Dolley Madison’s rescue of a portrait of George Washington from the White House; Andrew Jackson’s total victory at the Battle of New Orleans; and the birth of the American national anthem, penned by Francis Scott Key during the Battle of Baltimore at Fort McHenry. Yet *The War of 1812* pierces the heroic mythology that has grown up around the war to reveal a brutal, spiteful conflict dominated by fiascos and blunders.

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## CREDITS

*Executive producers:* John Grant, David Rotterman, Dalton Delan, and Karen Kenton

*Producers:* Lawrence Hott and Diane Garey

*Directors:* Lawrence Hott

*Writer:* Ken Chowder

*Photo Credit:* Courtesy of WNED-TV, Buffalo/Toronto and Florentine Films/Hott Productions Inc.



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