

WHAT CAUSED THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION?

There were several factors that led to the Industrial Revolution, but two would become the most significant in a time of strife and conflict. The Embargo Act of 1807 and the War of 1812 were the springboard for the Industrial Revolution.



President Thomas Jefferson set the Embargo Act of 1807 during the Napoleonic Wars. During the Napoleonic Wars, Britain's navy had seized Americans and their cargo to help with their war. Americans on the ship faced impressment - the forced conscription of men into a military force through physical intimidation and coercion. Britain's navy even opened fire when they were not allowed to search one of America's ships in the Chesapeake Bay area.

The Embargo Act of 1807 forced the United States to manufacture their own goods because they would not be able to trade for foreign goods. At the time, America had been neutral. Despite protests, Britain continued these practices. President Jefferson issued the Embargo Act as a general embargo, restricting trade with all foreign countries, particularly Britain and France to devastate their

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economies because they would not receive American goods anymore. He had hoped this would persuade them to respect America's neutrality and stop impressment.

The Embargo Act had the opposite effect. Britain and France's economies continued without any problems. The United States, on the other hand, was devastated, and its economy suffered. There was high unemployment, bankruptcy, and loss of profits. Lack of trade with foreign countries limited their lives because they had to live without many foreign products. With no foreign goods, the people of the United States had to resort to other options - producing their own goods.

The War of 1812 took place for several reasons that included troubles with Native Americans, British aid to Native Americans, Impressment, War Hawks, and foreign nations not



respecting America. Native Americans continuously fought with the Americans because of American expansion. Tecumseh, a Shawnee warrior, worked to unite Native Americans in order to stop this encroachment into their ancestral territory. The British provided guns and ammunition to the Native Americans. At the same time, war Hawks began to take control of Congress. They favored going to war with Britain because of their lack of respect for America. They

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wanted British soldiers out of America. They wanted them to stop providing aid to the Native Americans and to stop the impressment of American sailors.

The War of 1812 revealed the necessity for a better transportation system, economic independence, and independent markets. After the Embargo Act of 1807 and the War of 1812, Americans began to think of innovative and efficient ways to improve the economy. They joined the Industrial Revolution.