**Manifest Destiny (1818-1848):**

*The Canadian Border, Florida and the Monroe Doctrine*

**The War of 1812** (1812-1814)

In 1812, President James Madison signed a declaration of war against Great Britain. War Hawks in Congress wrote the declaration of war for a variety of reasons: the impressment of American sailors, the British sale of guns and ammunition to hostile Native Americans in the west, and the hope that the United States might expand into parts of British Canada and Spanish Florida.

The war itself did not go particularly well for either side, and very little was accomplished during the fighting. In 1814, the British and the Americans signed the Treaty of Ghent, ending the war. The United States had battled the world’s greatest superpower and had not been conquered, which was a huge boost to American national pride. Additionally, because Americans could not get manufactured goods from England during the war, more Americans started buying products manufactured in America. The increase in American manufacturing was important in establishing America as a world economic power.

**The Canadian Border** (1817-1818)

At the end of the War of 1812, there were still disagreements over the border between the United States and British Canada. One issue revolved around warships on the Great Lakes. Both the British and the Americans wanted to keep the other from using the Great Lakes as a way to invade the other. In 1817 the two nations signed the **Rush-Bagot Agreement**, which said that both sides could only keep a few naval vessels in the Great Lakes.

The following year, the United States signed another treaty with the British. This one, the **Convention of 1818**, set a clear border between the United States and Canada. The border was put at 49° N latitude from the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains. This line is also known as the 49th parallel, and is still our border with Canada today. Britain and America agreed to share influence in the Oregon territory.

**Florida** (1819)

In 1818, General Andrew Jackson invaded Florida. At the time, this territory was controlled by the Spanish, but they only had a handful of forts and soldiers there and very little meaningful control. Jackson entered Florida to battle Native Americans of the Seminole tribe. Many slaves who escaped from southern plantations found refuge with the Seminole Indians, and this was one of the primary reasons Andrew Jackson went into Florida.

Once Jackson was in Florida, however, he attacked Spanish forts and essentially took over Florida. Although he did not have orders to do this, the American president, James Monroe, did not immediately return the territory to the Spanish. It became very clear that there was no way the Spanish could take back the territory by force, so instead they signed the **Adams-Onis Treaty**. This treaty gave Florida to the United States for $5 million, and the United States gave up any claim to what is now Texas.

**The Monroe Doctrine** (1823)

When President James Monroe was elected president in 1818, many Central and South American countries were fighting for their independence. Just like the United States in 1776, the people in these countries were tired of being the colonies of a European country thousands of miles away. Once countries like Colombia and Mexico had their independence, Monroe did not like the idea of European powers trying to reconquer this territory.

In 1823, President Monroe gave a speech to Congress that included his feelings about European intervention in the Western Hemisphere (North and South America). This speech is known as the **Monroe Doctrine**. The Monroe Doctrine makes several points, but the most important is that European nations like England, France, Spain and Russia should not interfere with what happens in American countries. In return, Monroe, like Washington, stated that it was best for the United States to stay out of European affairs.

*For each of the following ideas, circle either* ***like*** *or* ***dislike****. Explain your decision.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| American Policy or Decision | Like  👍 | Dislike  👎 | Explain (“I like this because…”, or “I dislike this because…”) |
| **War of 1812** | 👍 | 👎 |  |
| **Rush-Bagot Agreement** | 👍 | 👎 |  |
| **Convention of 1818** | 👍 | 👎 |  |
| **Adams-Onis Treaty** | 👍 | 👎 |  |
| **Monroe Doctrine** | 👍 | 👎 |  |