The Global Economy prior to the War of 1812

Lesson Materials

Colonial Williamsburg

Department of Education Outreach
French Ambassador’s Announcement

Due to the current war with England, the French government announces a ban on all trade with Great Britain. Any ships which stop at a British Port or pay British taxes on their goods will be seized and their goods confiscated by the French government.
British Ambassador’s Announcement

Due to the current war with France, the British navy will be blockading the French coast. All ships found to be trading with the French or her allies will be seized and the good confiscated for the British Crown.
Announcements by the U.S. Government

1. The Embargo Act
Due to the numerous violations of American neutrality by both the French and the British, American merchants will no longer be allowed to engage in trade with any foreign nations.

2. Non-Intercourse Act
American merchants will now be allowed to resume trade with all foreign nations except France and Great Britain.

3. Macon’s Bill #2
The United States will reinstitute trade with whichever nation, Britain or France, first promises to stop their interference with America’s trade as a neutral nation.
Orders for British Naval Captains 1

Stop all ships suspected of containing British sailors or deserters from the British Navy. These sailors are to be impressed back into the British Navy to help with the war effort.
Orders for British Naval Captains 2

Take up positions just off the coast of America and stop all ships suspected of containing British sailors. These sailors are to be impressed into the British Navy to help with the war with France. Also all ships suspected of sending goods to France or her allies are to be stopped and searched, if bound for France all goods are to be seized for use by the Crown. If the ship resists the ship is to be seized as well.
Orders for French Naval Captains

All ships thought to be attempting to land at a British port are to be stopped and their cargo seized for use by the French government. If they resist their ship is to be seized.
Orders for American Ship Captains

The French and British Navies may try to stop you from reaching your destination. You will need to negotiate with them and try to prove you should not have your cargo or sailors seized. Remember, the British Navy will try to impress your sailors, even if none of your sailors are British!
Choices for American Merchants

Round # 1

- Trade with the British ($1 profit)
- Trade with the French ($1 profit)
- Trade with nations not involved in the war. ($1 profit)

Round #2

- Trade only with Britain (Due to threat from the French navy, $2 profit)
- Trade only with France (Due to threat from the British navy, $3 profit)
- Trade with nations not involved in the war. ($1 profit)
Round # 3

- Stop all trade and abide by the new law (Will lose $1, as you must continue to pay expenses)

- Smuggle goods to Britain (Due to threat from the French navy, $2 profit)

- Smuggle goods to France (Due to threat from the British navy, $3 profit)

Round # 4

- Abide by the law and trade with all nations except Britain and France ($1 profit)

- Ignore the law and smuggle goods to Britain (Due to threat from the French navy, $2 profit)

- Ignore the law and smuggle goods to France (Due to threat from the British navy, $3 profit)
Loss of Goods

If a ship is stopped by a navy vessel and its sailors are impressed the loss is $1.

If a ship is stopped by a navy vessel and its cargo is taken the loss is $3.

If a ship is stopped by a navy vessel and its cargo is taken and the ship is seized, the merchant and ship’s captain are bankrupt (must hand over all their money). They are then out of the game.
Route A

Route B