

# The Treaty of Ghent (1814)

The War of 1812 produced a string of American military disasters. The most shocking of these was the British Army's burning of the Capitol, the President's house, and other public buildings in Washington on August 24 and 25, 1814. (Americans had previously burned public buildings in Canada.)

In 1814, both sides were working to come to a resolution and agreed to discuss peace terms. A meeting in Belgium of American delegates and British commissioners ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent on December 24, 1814.<sup>1</sup>

The treaty restored the border to its pre-war location, returning property and territory that have been seized by either side. The British were committed to establish an Indigenous buffer-state between their British North American colonies and the United States.

The United States of America in 1812



Let's see what actually happened (turn over):

<sup>1</sup> Ourdocuments.gov. (2018). Our Documents - Treaty of Ghent (1814). [online] Available at: <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=20> [Accessed 11 Apr. 2018].

## **ARTICLE THE NINTH.**

The United States of America engage to put an end immediately after the Ratification of the present Treaty to hostilities with all the Tribes or Nations of Indians with whom they may be at war at the time of such Ratification, and forthwith to restore to such Tribes or Nations respectively all the possessions, rights, and privileges which they may have enjoyed or been entitled to in one thousand eight hundred and eleven previous to such hostilities. Provided always that such Tribes or Nations shall agree to desist from all hostilities against the United States of America, their Citizens, and Subjects upon the Ratification of the present Treaty being notified to such Tribes or Nations, and shall so desist accordingly. And His Britannic Majesty engages on his part to put an end immediately after the Ratification of the present Treaty to hostilities with all the Tribes or Nations of Indians with whom He may be at war at the time of such Ratification, and forthwith to restore to such Tribes or Nations respectively all the possessions, rights, and privileges, which they may have enjoyed or been entitled to in one thousand eight hundred and eleven previous to such hostilities. Provided always that such Tribes or Nations shall agree to desist from all hostilities against His Britannic Majesty and His Subjects upon the Ratification of the present Treaty being notified to such Tribes or Nations, and shall so desist accordingly.

## **ARTICLE THE TENTH.**

Whereas the Traffic in Slaves is irreconcilable with the principles of humanity and Justice, and whereas both His Majesty and the United States are desirous of continuing their efforts to promote its entire abolition, it is hereby agreed that both the contracting parties shall use their best endeavours to accomplish so desirable an object.<sup>2</sup>

**What does this mean in practice (Hint: Article 10)?**

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<sup>2</sup> Treaty of Ghent, 1814; International Treaties and Related Records, 1778-1974; General Records of the United States Government; Record Group 11; National Archives.