

# Madison's Special Message to Congress (1812)

Read the excerpt of Madison's message below and answer the questions that follow.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States: "I communicate to Congress certain documents, being a continuation of those heretofore laid before them on the subject of our affairs with Great Britain. British cruisers have been in the continued practice of violating the American flag on the great highway of nations, and of seizing and carrying off persons sailing. ..Thousands of American citizens, under the safeguard of public law and of their national flag, have been torn from their country and from everything dear to them; have been dragged on board ships ... of a foreign nation and exposed, under the severities of their discipline."

James Madison Special Message to Congress on the Foreign Policy Crisis War Message (June 1, 1812)

1. Based on the excerpt above, what grievances against Great Britain is President Madison expressing to Congress?

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2. Based on your knowledge of James Madison's presidency, what might he ask of Congress toward the end of this message?

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3. Is this excerpt about foreign or domestic issues? Explain your thinking.

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