

History 201 & 202—Assignment One Mini-Lecture

History is Change Over Time!

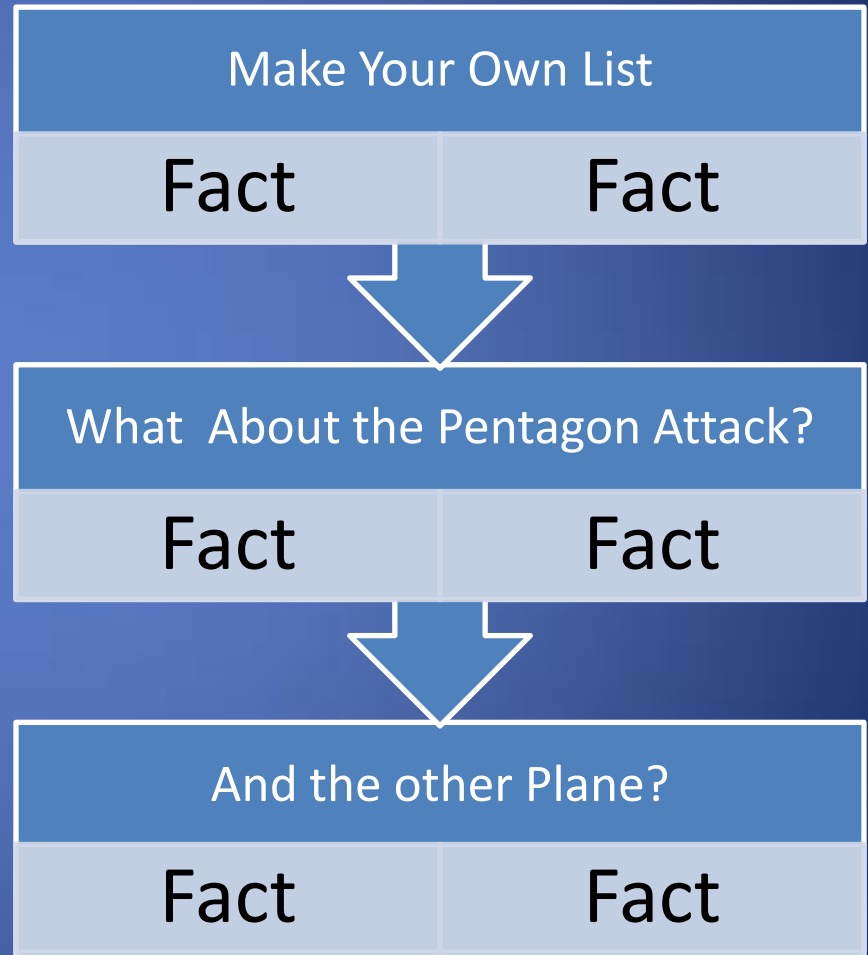
Change, Effects, Results



- Most of us think of history as facts, dates, deeds, people, issues of the past.
- These facts are important...
- But perhaps more important are the causes & results of these past events.
- Consider the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Towers September 11, 2001 as an example.

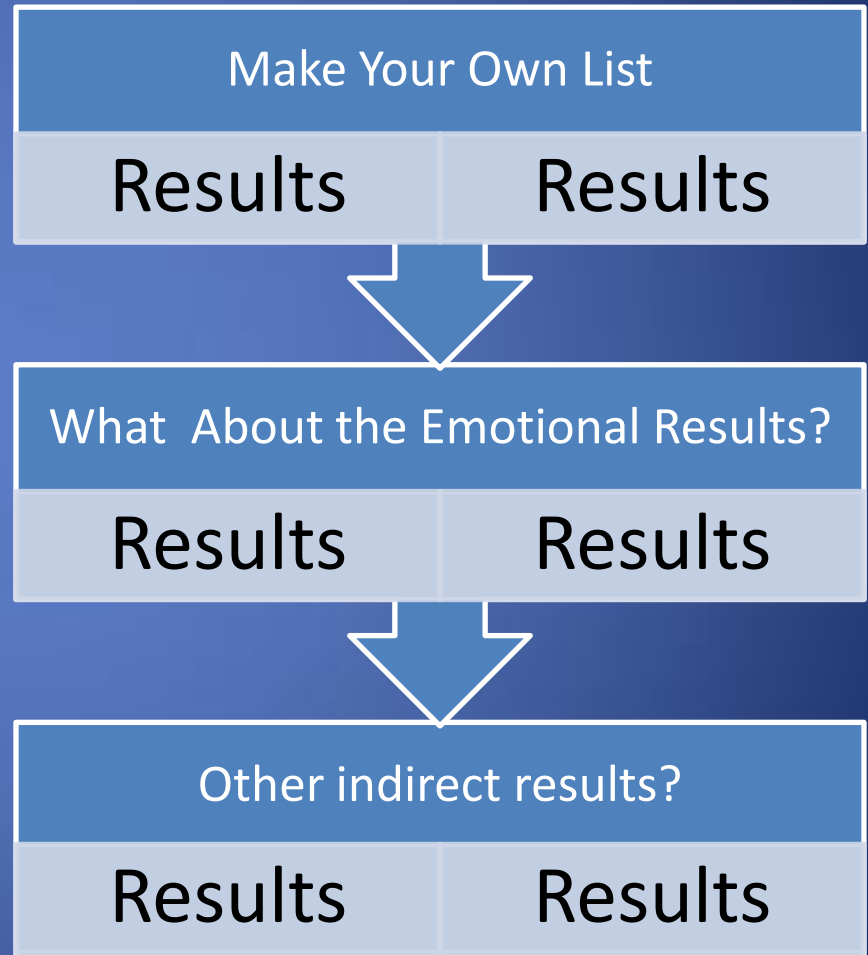
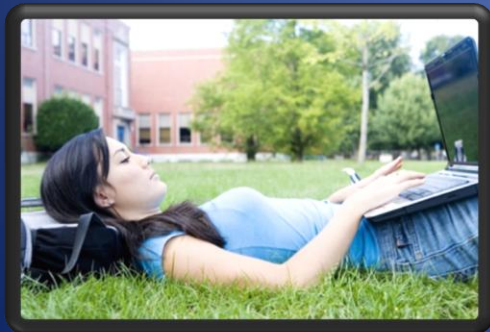
Make a Mental List of What Happened—the facts...

- Two planes attacked the Towers early morning
- Thousands died
- The attacks were covered live on TV
- The buildings soon collapsed
- People ran from the scene as rescue workers tried to help



Now Make a List of What Happened as a Result of these Attacks...

- Increased airport security
- Higher gas prices
- War on Terrorism
- Invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan
- U.S. Patriot Act passed



History is Change Over Time

- Historians study change.
- Facts are critical events.
- But the results are change.
- So we have to understand both.

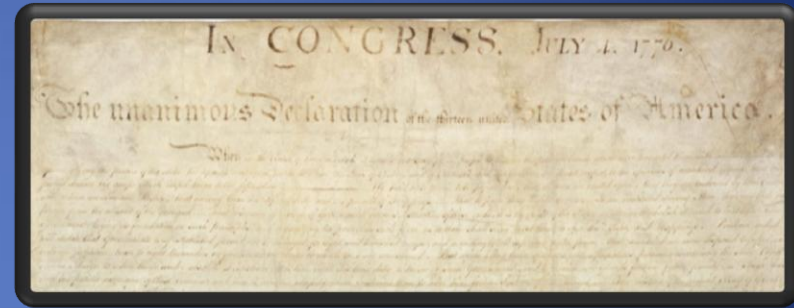


History Depends on Good Sources


Historians use two types of sources. The most important is called a primary source, also called a primary document. [HINT: what you need in your field trips]

A primary source is something created at the time under study. A study of the American War for Independence, reveals that Congress drafted, revised and approved a Declaration of Independence. An example is represented by the image at right—an online copy of the top of the original actual parchment Declaration of Independence, from the National Archives. Primary sources can be anything—a piece of furniture, an arrowhead, the text of a law, the decision of a court, a painting, or photo, or map.

Historians also use secondary sources, for example on this subject, “The American Revolution” by Gordon Wood. Usually these are from historians writing about the subject.



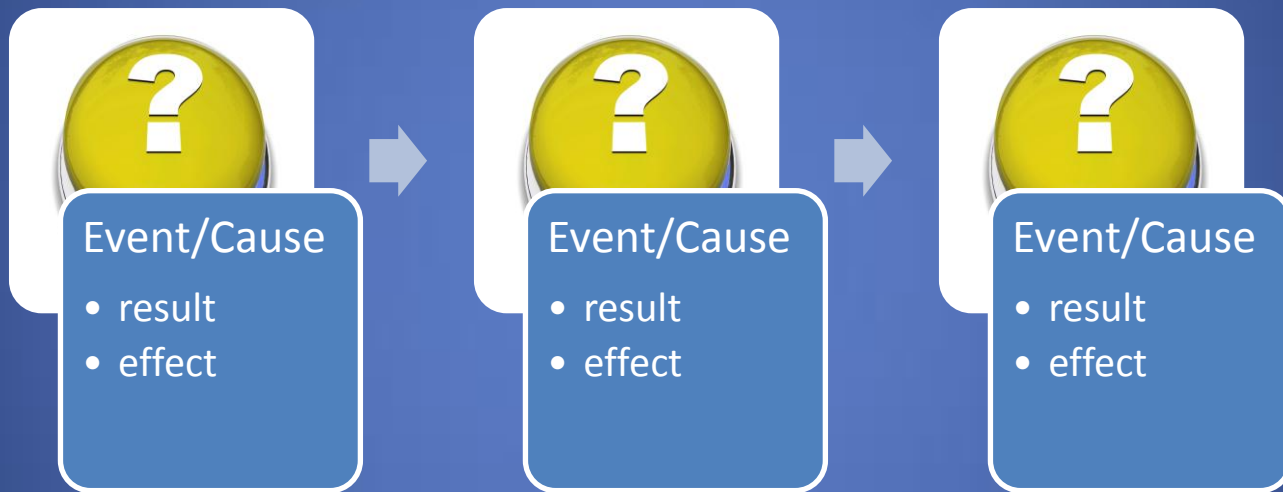
United States Congress. The Declaration of Independence. July 1776. National Archives, Charters of Freedom Exhibit Online. May 2010. < http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/charters_downloads.html >



Of course we cannot all go to the National Archives and visit the Declaration in person; but through the Internet we can see virtual online copies!!

Note the MLA citation, something you will need in your field trips!!

The relationship between sources & the facts/results is a “cause-effect” cycle.



Primary sources are almost never as clear as the Declaration of Independence! Some sources are biased—for example politically biased newspapers of the Revolutionary era expressed biased opinions about the Constitution. Such biased documents must be used carefully. Other primary sources are missing in part or whole. In your field trips you must search out the best primary source you can find.

Consider the Barbary Wars, 1803

- Some of the events
- U.S. Sailors imprisoned by local clans near North Africa
- Pirates demand ransom
- President Jefferson fails to get allied help
- Jefferson commits U.S. troops without Congressional approval
- Vigorous debate at home
- After 12 years, war inconclusive



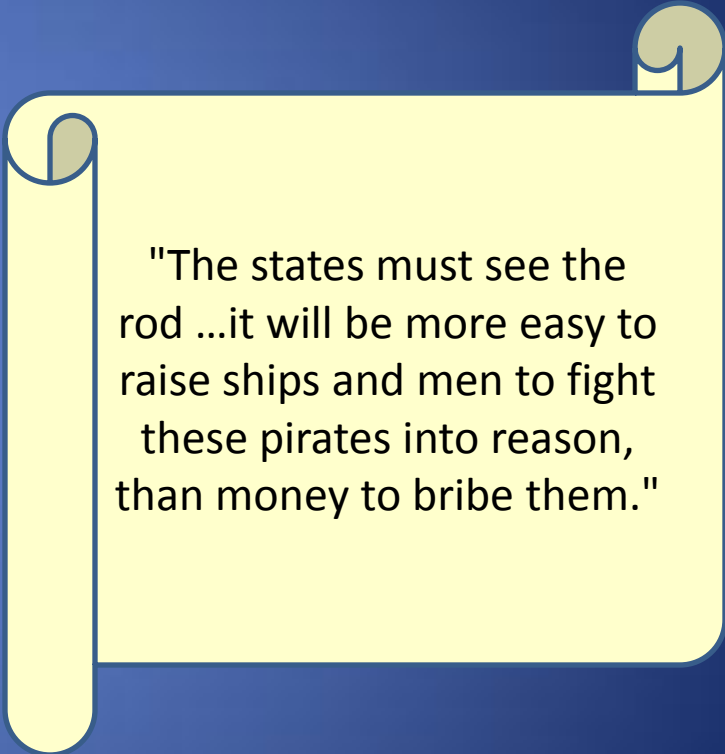
Naval Historical Center, Online Library. "The U.S. Frigate Philadelphia on the Rocks off Tripoli" . Lithograph by E.J. Pinkerton. C. 1930. Photo #: NH 50458.
<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/barb-war/capt-phl.htm>

This original painting was done 130 years after the event, but is a primary source because it was done to celebrate American armed forces. By the way—The “Philadelphia’s” crew remained imprisoned for two years!

This should sound familiar, right? 😊

And Here are Some Results of the War

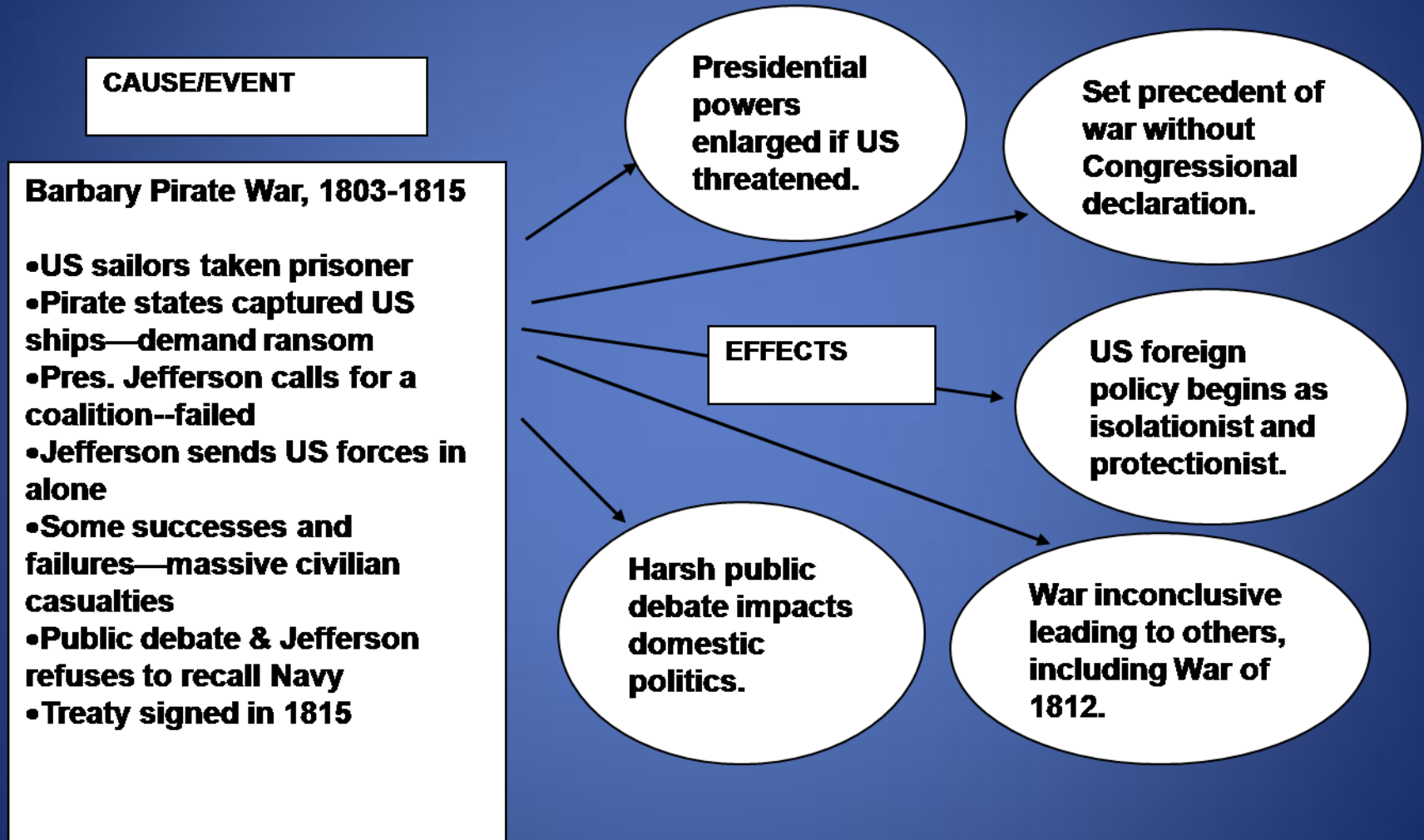
- President's war powers increased, even without Congress
- Many criticized & debated the war's goals thus legitimizing opposition
- Early foreign policy becomes protectionist



"The states must see the rod ...it will be more easy to raise ships and men to fight these pirates into reason, than money to bribe them."

President Jefferson wrote to his friends James Madison and Ezra Stiles that he felt war would be preferable to payment of ransom, although some ransoms were paid. Jefferson's comments are a primary source, or primary document. They are biased with his beliefs, but still give us useful information. Gawalt, Gerald. The United States and the Barbary Pirates. Library of Congress. Unknown Date. May 2010. Library of Congress. The Thomas Jefferson Papers.
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/jefferson_papers/mtjprece.html>

Summary of “cause-effect” cycle.



Why Is This Important?

- In this course your basic task is to understand assigned events and their results & and to complete your field trip discussions.
- Along with each assigned reading is a list of terms.
- Be sure you can identify each term factually and that you can analyze the term's impact over time.
- This is also the best approach to your field trips—find interesting stuff, but think about the change!!!



Change is inevitable in a
progressive country,
Change is constant.

-- Benjamin Disraeli
Source: *at Edinburgh*