

Debating War with Britain: For the War ^[1]

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The document here is an opinion piece in the Raleigh Star, published just after Congress declared war on Great Britain in 1812. Newspapers at that time were partisan, meaning that they openly supported one party or the other. The Star was a Democratic-Republican paper, and so it supported the policies of that party and of the President, James Madison — including the war.

War measures — an extract from the National Intelligencer

After such an examination and such a judgment in favour of [the measures proposed or taken](#), the duty to execute them is [imperative](#) ^[2]. Ruin and [execration](#) ^[3] would be the merited lot of any government that did not, [under such circumstances](#), persist in an honest and enlightened policy; for it would inevitably lose the respect, confidence and support of the people. All opposition to such measures, whether external or internal, must be [resolutely](#) ^[4] met. War, more especially, if called for, must be gone into with a [vigor](#) ^[5] that will give the nation but one arm. Whenever that step is taken, he that is not for us must be considered as against us and treated accordingly. When the will of the majority on this head is once fairly expressed through their representatives, [disaffection](#) ^[6] must be hushed. The happiness of the people, their liberties, their existence perhaps, and certainly their honor and that of the republican institutions, will all depend upon the undivided [exertions](#) ^[7] of the whole nation against a common enemy. Peace may be sought through legitimate channels, but until so obtained, war must be waged with union and vigor. We flatter ourselves that whenever that direful appeal is made, we shall [manifest](#) ^[8] a vigor and energy that will teach future [forbearance](#) ^[9] to violence and [rapine](#) ^[10].

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