

1: French and Indian War - Ohio History Central

The Fight For Ohio. McCain will be taking the fight outside to suburbs like: Lake County, northeast of the city, which could be closely contested and a harbinger for other suburbs. In , Mr.

This story was written by Anthony Salvanto and Mark Gersh. Legendary Ohio State football coach Woody Hayes celebrated a game plan of "three yards and a cloud of dust" - moving the ball with straightforward and mistake-free, if incremental, steps. Ohio in will be won in much the same fashion. There is no one dominant area or swing town that will carry the state for a campaign if it fumbles badly elsewhere. For Barack Obama , the challenge will be to consistently win over white, working class voters in county after county, particularly across the central and northeast parts of the state. John McCain , for his part, must build vote margins by again rallying turnout and the conservative voters from the suburbs who came out in force for George W. In fact, the non-Hispanic white population in Ohio has actually declined, with modest growth in both the African-American and Hispanic communities. In an exceedingly tight election, that might be an important advantage for Barack Obama. Right off the bat, Barack Obama will probably start with an advantage over the Democratic vote because of his support from the African American electorate. Part of this was helped by the presence of a same-sex marriage ballot measure, which may have boosted turnout among culturally conservative voters; including some very religious African Americans. That translates into votes this way: Still, that is probably not enough to win. Bush won that income group handily. Nationwide, Kerry carried voters with post-graduate degrees by eleven points; in Ohio they went for him by the barest of margins. All of which puts the spotlight even more squarely on the working-class white vote. White men, in particular, may be pivotal. He ran about the same with white women. Bush strong support in the ten fastest-growing counties. The Ohio primary also left McCain with some challenges to address. The Republican nomination was all but settled by March 4th, but McCain ceded one-third of the Ohio primary vote to Mike Huckabee and lost white evangelicals narrowly to him. McCain will need strong turnout from evangelicals and religious, conservative voters in Ohio who were a quarter of the electorate in to win. Cleveland in the north, where Democrats do well; and Cincinnati in the south, a Republican bastion. That part of the equation will bear close watching. In the center of the state sits Columbus, and to the northeast of it the smaller cities of Akron and Canton. Stark County, which contains Canton - perhaps , voters turning out in a county that Kerry very narrowly won over Mr. About one in three here work in blue-collar jobs and its population skews a little older than the Cleveland suburbs - demographic trouble signs for Obama. Summit County around , votes which contains Akron, will tell a similar story. Obama may have a Democratic tailwind here: Similar blue-collar battles will play out in Lucas Toledo , and to the east, Trumbull and Mahoning near Youngstown, where Obama may win close contests over McCain. In the north, while Obama is winning Cleveland, McCain will be taking the fight outside to suburbs like: Lake County, northeast of the city, which could be closely contested and a harbinger for other suburbs. Bush won it by a mere 3, votes of the more than , cast. Lake County will be a key test of whether McCain can hold off Obama among upper-income professionals. Bush did in Then it is on to the central part of the state, where McCain will look to capitalize if Obama cannot meet the usual Democratic margins in the blue-collar areas. Bush won them by a decisive 2-to-1 margin; McCain will probably do well in them, too. Cincinnati and its environs are traditional Republican territory. Democrats could hold their own in the city itself - in fact, Mr. Bush did in ? In winning Butler, Clermont and Warren by crushing margins, Mr. Bush took away a , vote margin. Ohio has voted for the national presidential winner eleven consecutive times. The last time it backed a losing candidate was , when it went for Richard Nixon. This is not happenstance. Obama must win back many of the working-class white voters who rebuked him in the primaries, if he is to win statewide. For McCain, the question is whether he can generate the strong suburban support that rallied in to put George W. Bush over the top, and do it consistently in all areas of the state -- in the suburbs of Cleveland and Cincinnati and Columbus and Canton and elsewhere. When the dust clears, whoever meets their challenge most consistently will win.

2: Western theater of the American Revolutionary War - Wikipedia

The two candidates for Ohio's 15th Congressional District often agreed on issues such as rural broadband and climate change. The debate was hosted by the Columbus Metropolitan Club at The Boat.

Few realized that possession of this huge territory would determine much about the fate of their empires and the legal and political institutions that would govern America. Starting in 1607, the English established 13 colonies along the Atlantic coastline of North America. As the population of these colonies increased, colonists pushed westward seeking more land. French explorers claimed Canada and almost everything else west of the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River and beyond. By the 1750s, the British and French were clashing over their claims for North America. On the night of February 29, 1764, several hundred French Canadians and their Native American allies attacked the tiny English settlement of Deerfield on the western frontier of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Commanded by a French army officer, the raiders killed 38 Deerfield inhabitants and burned most of their houses. The raiders forced more than a hundred men, women, and children to march back to Montreal, Canada, a distance of 300 miles. During the march, the raiders killed 16 of their captives and two more starved to death. Eventually, Massachusetts ransomed most of the Deerfield survivors, and they returned home. Attacks like the one against Deerfield occurred repeatedly in North America during a series of wars between the French and English that lasted about 60 years. Throughout this period, France and England fought each other in many parts of the world seeking to create their colonial empires. In 1754, when war erupted between Britain and France in North America for the fourth time, the clash soon led to the first world-wide war in history. Three Peoples in Conflict In addition to the English and French, a third group of people fought for possession of the North America in the 1700s. This group was made up of Native American tribes, which had occupied North America for thousands of years. After the Europeans began to arrive, six tribes in what is now mostly the state of New York joined into the powerful Iroquois Confederacy. The Iroquois tribes sometimes sided with the French, sometimes with the English, and sometimes with neither. Because the Iroquois relied on trading with the English for manufactured goods, including firearms, the six tribes generally became English allies in wartime. In 1724, the Iroquois signed a treaty with several English colonies, including Virginia. In exchange for gifts and money, the Iroquois gave up rights to any lands claimed by Virginia. What the Indians did not know was that the colonial charter of Virginia claimed that its western boundary extended to the Pacific Ocean. Westward beyond the Iroquois territory, in what became known as the Ohio Country, many other tribes traded with and became allies of the French. Unlike the English colonists, who were mainly farmers, French fur trappers and traders did not desire Indian land. In 1763, the French created the royal province of New France. It eventually extended in a great arc from the St. Lawrence River to the Gulf of Mexico. Except for widely separated Indian tribes and French fur traders, this region was vast and underpopulated, a tempting prize for land-hungry American settlers. Duquesne was following orders from the French government "to make every possible effort to drive the English from our lands. When the French arrived, however, Ohio Company workers were already building their own fortified trading post. The French quickly drove the workers away, destroyed their buildings, and erected a strong bastion that they named Fort Duquesne. In the meantime, the British government instructed the governors of the 13 colonies "to prevent by Force" any attempts by the French or their Indian allies to occupy British lands. Robert Dinwiddie was the royal governor of Virginia and also a shareholder in the Ohio Company. He commissioned year-old George Washington to command this expedition. Washington led about 1,000 poorly trained colonial soldiers into the Ohio Country. He was not aware, however, that the French had built Fort Duquesne and manned it with a large force of regular French soldiers. Finally, they made contact with a French scouting party and defeated it in a brief battle. After the battle, the wounded French commanding officer insisted on reading an order for Washington to leave French territory. Suddenly, the Iroquois leader attacked the French officer and split his head open with a war hatchet. In the chaos that followed, other Iroquois warriors scalped the French dead and wounded in full view of the appalled young Washington. When the French at Fort Duquesne heard about the defeat, they sent a large number of soldiers and Indians to attack Washington. Washington had retreated and hastily built a crude fort called Fort Necessity. Washington then

surrendered and was allowed by the French to march with his men back to Virginia. The following year, the British army sent 2,000 redcoats to force the French out of the Ohio Valley. Commanded by Major General Edward Braddock, the British fought in the traditional European style while the French and their Indian allies picked off their enemy one at a time from the cover of the woods. After taking heavy losses, the wounded Braddock ordered a retreat. Shortly afterward he died. Prime Minister William Pitt led the British government during most of the conflict. He devised a strategy of spending enormous sums of money to finance British and colonial troops to drive France out of North America, thus crippling its empire. Unlike previous British leaders, Pitt treated the American colonists as allies rather than servants. As a result, American troops fought alongside British redcoats in almost every battle of the war in North America. At first, the French and their Indian allies dominated the fighting. But by 1758, British generals and admirals were planning a major invasion of Canada. Fort Duquesne fell in November. The next year, the French surrendered or abandoned more forts. Also, the Iroquois changed from being neutral to becoming allies of the British. After a fierce battle, the British forces led by General James Wolfe, defeated the French army and went on to attack Montreal a few months later. The French, lacking food and supplies because of a British blockade, finally surrendered not only Montreal but all of New France. But as the war lingered on in Europe, negotiations for a peace treaty began. Previous peace treaties that ended European wars had sometimes returned conquered territories to a defeated nation. Thus, it was not unthinkable that France would keep Canada or all of New France. Canada made up the northern part of New France, controlling the valuable Indian fur trade as well as water transportation into the heart of North America. But many businessmen in London opposed annexing Canada to the British Empire. They were much more interested in holding onto Guadeloupe, a major French sugar-producing island that had been captured in the war. Guadeloupe, they argued, was more valuable than Canada with its harsh climate, lack of agriculture, and seeming lack of resources except for furs. The London businessmen saw a danger in driving the French entirely out of North America. This would end the need for British protection of the American colonies. No longer fearing a French threat, the colonies might break away from the mother country. Others in Britain argued in favor of annexing Canada. Among them was Benjamin Franklin. He was in London in 1754 during the debate over Canada. Franklin downplayed any revolt of the American colonies from the empire, unless Britain developed a "hostile attitude toward her children in the New World. France held on to Guadeloupe, two tiny islands in the St. Lawrence Gulf, some trading posts in India, and a slave port in West Africa. Curiously, the French made little effort in the treaty negotiations to keep New France. Thus, the British acquired Canada and all the land from the Appalachians to the Mississippi River, an area 12 times the size of England. The British also took Florida from Spain, which had been an ally of France in the war. The Fate of Empires In the end, the British commanded the greatest empire in the world, at least until the American Revolution. After handing over North America to Britain, France and its empire began a long decline as a world power. Some Native American tribes, especially those that had been allies of the French, revolted for a short time against British rule. To quell the danger of warfare between Indians and white settlers, the British drew the so-called Proclamation Line. No whites were permitted to settle west of this line, which ran from Canada to Florida along the crest of the Appalachians. The Proclamation Line proved to be a failure as thousands of American settlers seeking land poured into the territory. The flood of American immigration to the West had begun. This doomed the great inland empire of Native American tribes as America expanded west. What role did the Native American tribes play in the fight for North America? Do you think the French and Indian War and its outcome speeded up or held back the American Revolution?

3: Relive: French and Indian War History

Start studying The Fight for Ohio. Learn vocabulary, terms, and more with flashcards, games, and other study tools.

The negotiations took place near modern day Bolivar, Ohio. Conflicts were not just isolated to European boundaries but were on a global scale with hostilities expanding into territories surrounding India and North America. The struggle occurring within the colonies, centered on Great Britain against France, was known as the French and Indian War. North American territory was dominated by the British on the eastern coast, the French down in Louisiana up through Canada following the Mississippi Valley, and the Spanish in Florida. Each European power was vying for dominance within North America and all were aiming to claim the most land possible. There were no clear dividing lines that separated New France from the British colonies so constant disagreements arose about who could claim what land. Specifically, regions around the Ohio Valley into the Ohio River and up near the Great Lakes produced the largest controversy. France, who first discovered the Ohio country, claimed control because they had not only arrived in that area first but also established trading centers to ensure a lasting hold on the region. In contradiction, Great Britain demanded ownership because the land grants issued by the monarchy allotted the colonies with claim to all areas expanding from the east coast to the not-yet-settled west coast. The French and many Native American nations were frustrated with these imperialistic actions of the British. Tensions escalated when the French built a trading fort, known as Fort Duquesne, in what would become Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Great Britain felt that this was strictly within their colonial territory. The British government sent over a representative, year-old George Washington, to demand that the French relinquish their fort and return back to their own settlements. New France refused to accommodate the terms which provoked Washington and the small number of soldiers accompanying him to attack, thus stimulating the French and Indian War in 1754. The first physical conflicts between the two countries occurred at Fort Duquesne where the French were pitted against Washington and the newly-arrived General Edward Braddock. The British outnumbered the French. However, they were attempting to fight in the typical European style of open battlefield, marching toward the enemy lines and shooting at the opponent; whereas the French opted for a more guerilla warfare style of concealing themselves from the British while surprise attacking them. The bulk of the fighting occurred along Lake George and Lake Champlain, which allowed both sides to move supplies and troops relatively efficiently. Great Britain began the war with a series of unsuccessful attempts to take French forts. However, momentum shifted in favor of Great Britain when the British military was able to claim Fort Carillon, later named Fort Ticonderoga, and take Quebec. With the main fortress of Canada seized, India lost, and a weak showing in Europe, France realized that victory over Britain was nearly unattainable. In response, France attempted to organize a peace agreement with Great Britain but the demands of the British were too great to accept. This arrangement was known as the Family Compact. This alliance was meant to provide an incentive for the British to end the war, however, France saw the alignment as an option for victory. Overall, this was not strategically beneficial as the British Navy completely overpowered the Spanish navy and was able to gain the French Caribbean Islands, the Philippines, and Spanish Cuba. With this loss of territory and a failed invasion of England, the French diplomats sought peace. Great Britain received the main rewards from the agreement as France and Spain both gave up the territories they held within North America. However, Great Britain paid a heavy price to execute the expensive multi-war front and was left with heavy debts. In order to pay these debts, the British government began to issue high taxes upon the citizens and the products they bought. Also, in order to keep compatible relations with American Indians in the region, the monarchy issued the Proclamation of 1763 to reduce the amount of westward expansion of Anglo-American settlers into the freshly-obtained territory to the west of the Appalachian Mountains. With higher living expenses and reduced abilities to expand settlements, colonists became disheartened with the British government, a sentiment that would eventually develop into the American Revolution.

4: Tecumseh - Wikipedia

Hillary Clinton's campaign manager was tired of the fretting and the second-guessing. Donors were spooked, supporters were nervous and allies were asking what the high command of the campaign.

This border had its origins in the Proclamation of 1763, which forbade British colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains. The British Crown had issued the Proclamation after the French and Indian War in order to prevent conflict between Indians and colonists in the vast territory newly acquired from France. Settlers and land speculators in Britain and America objected to this restriction, however, and so British officials negotiated two treaties with American Indians in 1768—the Treaty of Fort Stanwix and the Treaty of Hard Labour—which opened up land for settlement south of the Ohio River. Thereafter, tensions between British officials and colonists over western land policy diminished. Angry with the Iroquois for selling their lands to the British, Shawnees began to organize a confederacy of western Indians with the intention of preventing the loss of their lands. Shawnee and Mingo leaders who did not agree with these terms renewed the struggle soon after the American Revolutionary War began in 1775. Nevertheless, Shawnees and Delawares became increasingly divided over whether or not to take part in the war. In Kentucky, isolated settlers and hunters became the frequent target of attacks, compelling many to return to the East. Dunquat, the Wyandot "Half King", besieged the fort in May 1781. In 1781, the British launched a major offensive from Canada. In order to provide a strategic diversion for operations in the Northeast, officials in Detroit began recruiting and arming Indian war parties to raid American settlements. The intensity of the conflict increased after enraged American militiamen murdered Cornstalk, the leading advocate of Shawnee neutrality, in November 1781. Despite the violence, many Ohio Indians still hoped to stay out of the war. This was a difficult task because they were located directly between the British in Detroit and the Americans along the Ohio River. Defending such a long border proved to be futile, however, because American Indians simply bypassed the forts during their raids. In 1782, the Americans decided that offensive operations were necessary to secure their western border. In February 1782, General Edward Braddock led Pennsylvania militiamen from Fort Pitt on a surprise winter march towards Mingo towns on the Cuyahoga River, where the British stored military supplies which they distributed to Indian raiding parties. Adverse weather conditions prevented the expedition from reaching its objective, however. Because only non-combatants had been killed, the expedition became derisively known as the "squaw campaign". In March 1782, three men with close ties to the British and American Indians left Pittsburgh, defecting to the British and Indian side. Amid much criticism, and facing a congressional investigation for allowing the men to defect, Braddock resigned in May 1782. After an investigation, a Congressional commission recommended in early 1783 that two regiments of the Continental Army be stationed in the West. Furthermore, because a defensive line of forts had little effect on Indian raids into the American settlements, the commissioners called for a fort to be built on the Indian side of the Ohio River, the first in a line of forts which would enable the Americans, it was hoped, to mount an expedition against Detroit. In 1783, over 28 militia were garrisoned at Hollidays Cove. Two years earlier, Colonel Van Swearingen led a dozen soldiers by longboat down the Ohio to help rescue the inhabitants of Ft. Henry in Wheeling in a siege by the British and Indian tribes in 1781. The mural features Col. John Bilderback, who later gained infamy as the leader of the massacre of the Moravian Indians in Gnadenhütten in 1782. American plans soon went awry, however. White Eyes, the Delaware leader who had negotiated the treaty, was apparently murdered in 1782 by American militiamen. His rival, Captain Pipe, eventually abandoned the American alliance and moved west to the Sandusky River, where he began receiving support from the British in Detroit. Fort Laurens was abandoned in 1781. Illinois campaign In late 1781, George Rogers Clark, a young Virginia militia officer, launched a campaign to seize the sparsely garrisoned Illinois Country from the British. With a company of volunteers, Clark captured Kaskaskia, the chief post in the Illinois Country, on July 4, 1781, and later secured the submission of Vincennes. In February 1782, Clark marched to Vincennes in a surprise winter march and captured Hamilton himself. To American frontiersmen, Hamilton was known as "the Hair-buyer General" because, they believed, he encouraged Indians to kill and scalp American civilians. For this reason, Governor Thomas Jefferson brought Hamilton to Williamsburg, Virginia, to be tried as a war

criminal. After British officials threatened to retaliate against American prisoners of war, Jefferson relented, and Hamilton was exchanged for an American prisoner in . In , hundreds of Kentucky settlers were killed or captured in a British-Indian expedition into Kentucky. Louis was attacked by a British force mostly made up of Indians and was successfully defended by the mixed Spanish and French creole force. Fort San Carlos, a stone tower in modern downtown St Louis, was the center of this defense. At the same time, the nearly abandoned Fort St. Joseph was raided by Americans from Cahokia. On their return trip, however, they were overtaken by British loyalists and Indians near Petit fort. In late , Clark traveled east to consult with Thomas Jefferson , the governor of Virginia, about an expedition in . Jefferson devised a plan which called for Clark to lead 2, men against Detroit. Recruiting enough men was a problem, however. In time of war, most militiamen preferred to stay close to their homes rather than go on extended campaigns. Furthermore, Colonel Daniel Brodhead refused to detach the men because he was staging his own expedition against the Delawares, who had recently entered the war against the Americans. On August 24, , a detachment of one hundred of his men was ambushed near the Ohio River by Indians led by Joseph Brant , a Mohawk leader temporarily in the west. Although non-combatants, the missionaries favored the American cause and kept American officials at Fort Pitt informed about hostile British and Indian activity. Accusing the Christian Indians of having aided Indian raiding parties, the Pennsylvanians killed the Christian Indians "mostly women and children" with hammer blows to the head. The Indians and their British allies from Detroit had learned about the expedition in advance, however, and brought about men to the Sandusky to oppose the Americans. After a day of indecisive fighting, the Americans found themselves surrounded and attempted to retreat. The retreat turned into a rout, but most of the Americans managed to find their way back to Pennsylvania. About 70 Americans were killed; Indian and British losses were minimal. During the retreat, Colonel Crawford and an unknown number of his men were captured. The failure of the Crawford expedition caused alarm along the American frontier, as many Americans feared that the Indians would be emboldened by their victory and launch a new series of raids. Fort Estill was attacked by Wyandot Indians in March . As soon as the Indians retreated, Samuel South and Peter Hackett , both young men, were dispatched to take the trail of the men and inform them of the news. The remainder crossed the Kentucky river and found the Indian trail. In July , more than 1, Indians gathered at Wapatomica, but the expedition was called off after scouts reported that George Rogers Clark was preparing to invade the Ohio Country from Kentucky. The reports turned out to be false, but Caldwell still managed to lead Indians into Kentucky and deliver a devastating blow at the Battle of Blue Licks in August. With peace negotiations between the United States and Great Britain making progress, Caldwell was ordered to cease further operations. In November, George Rogers Clark delivered the final blow in the Ohio Country, destroying several Shawnee towns, but inflicting little damage on the inhabitants. For the Shawnees, the war was a loss: In the final treaty, the Ohio Country was signed away by Great Britain to the United States, even though "not a single American soldier was north of the Ohio River when the treaty was signed". Ohio in the American Revolution, 5. Grenier argues that "The slaughter the Indians and rangers perpetrated was unprecedented.

5: BRIA 17 4 a Clash of Empires: The Fight for North America - Constitutional Rights Foundation

"Ohio true to form is probably going to be a very close election," said Jonathan Kreger, a political science professor at Columbus State. Kreger said voters shouldn't put too much stock into any.

How Did the Conflict End? What Were the Consequences? Who Were the People Involved? As the conflict spread European powers began to fight in their colonies throughout the world. It became a war fought on four continents. In the s, the area west of the Allegheny Mountains was a vast forest. There were about 3, to 4, American Indians living there. Their economy was based upon hunting, fishing and agriculture. With enough land they were self-sufficient. They hunted beaver and other animals for trade. A few French and British traders traveled through the area. The American Indians traded furs and food for metal products, cloth, firearms and other products. The American Indians were excellent warriors and scouts. During battles in the French and Indian War their presence often made the difference between winning and losing. To form the confederacy six nations had come together to coordinate their actions, policy and trade. The confederacy was extremely powerful and often controlled neighboring nations. The Lenape and the Shawnee were under their authority and representatives were sent from the Iroquois Confederacy to govern them. These nations were traditionally French allies. The French also relied on the American Indian nations along the St. Lawrence River for assistance. The population of all the Indian nations in northeastern North America was about , New France had three colonies: Canada along the St. There were about 70, colonists throughout the French settlements. Their economy was based on trade with the American Indians. It was a weak economic system and the colonies were not self-sustaining. They needed to purchase food from the Indians or import it. The French colonists had a much different relationship with the American Indians than the British. They viewed the American Indians as trade partners and established personal relationships with the nations they traded with. They became members of the native communities and often inter-married and had children. Rivers and waterways were the best means of transportation through the interior of the continent. The French had a series of forts and trading posts along the main travel and trading route, west of the Ohio River Valley. The Ohio River Valley was an alternate transportation route. Even though the French did not have trading posts or settlements in the Ohio River Valley, they claimed the land as theirs. To the east of the Allegheny Mountains lived more than 1 million colonists in the 13 British colonies. They had a strong economy based on farming. Their population was expanding rapidly, both through immigration and population growth. Although there were no settlers in the Ohio River Valley in , the British colonies claimed the land. They did not have river access to the valley and there were no roads for wagons. To get their goods across the mountains they used packhorses. The British colonists generally did not mix with the American Indian societies. However, the two cultures needed to deal with each other. They needed people who could interpret the languages and also understand the different cultural customs and manners. The Ohio River Valley Indians wanted to maintain their land, their lifestyle, and control of their future. They sought to trade with the Europeans but prevent settlement. By this time the American Indians were dependent on European goods. Guns, gunpowder, knives, lead for musket balls, rum and cloth were a few of the items they did not want to live without. They were excellent hunters and were able to kill the game and beavers the Europeans sought. Most of the Shawnee and Lenape living in the Ohio River Valley had only started living there in the s. They had moved to the region from their homes in eastern Pennsylvania. As the British colonists settled that land the American Indians moved west. The Shawnee and the Lenape also did not like being under the control of the Iroquois Confederacy. They wanted to speak for themselves. The Iroquois Confederacy wanted to maintain control of the Ohio River Valley so that it was in a better negotiating position with the French and British. The French depended on the Indian trade as the basis of their economy. This area was on the eastern edge of their main trading routes and they did not want to lose control of any of the trade. Also they used the Ohio River Valley and its river systems as a transportation route. They wanted their traders, priests, and soldiers to be able to travel freely through the region. The French were not interested in settling the area. However, they were determined to maintain authority over it. The British colonial settlement had reached the eastern base of the

Allegheny Mountains. They saw wealth and opportunity in the vast lands west of the mountains. There were many settlers seeking to own their own property. However, to get land speculation profits they needed more farmland and the Ohio River Valley looked like a perfect place to get it. The British colonial traders involved with Indian fur trade were already making fortunes. None of these colonists wanted to see the French control the Ohio River Valley. The British saw many opportunities and they did not intend to lose them to their enemies, the French. The goals and economies of the three nations also impacted how they viewed and interacted with each other. The British emphasis on farming and owning land often put them in competition with the American Indians. The French were more likely to view the American Indians as allies since their economy depended so heavily on American Indian trade. The preservation of trade was important to the American Indian nations and often influenced which alliances they made. Top How Did the Conflict Begin? Celoron buried lead plates in the ground stating the French claim to the land. He made speeches to the Ohio River Valley Indians warning them not to trade with the British and expelled the traders he found. In Logstown near present day Ambridge, PA he found 10 British traders with 50 packhorses and packs of fur. When he returned to Canada he had a bleak report. He sent a young volunteer, George Washington, to deliver a letter to the French demanding that they leave the region. Not surprisingly, the French refused to leave. At the same time the British started to build a fort at the Forks of the Ohio. They had just hung the gate when at least French troops, along with many cannon, appeared. The British commander, Ensign Edward Ward, quickly realized that he was badly outnumbered. He and his soldiers left the fort to the French, who began building a much stronger fortification that they named Fort Duquesne. Many of the Ohio River Valley Indians were concerned with the large number of troops and their fort building activities. Since the British traders had been forced to leave, the Indians in the region now traded with the French. They found the French trade goods to be more expensive and of a poorer quality than the British. Washington proceeded forward with the construction of a road across the mountains. The British hoped to use this road to re-take control of the Ohio River Valley. While camped in the meadow Washington received a message from Tanaghrisson tan-ah-gris-suhn. His position was given the title the Half King. The Half King sided with the British and his message told Washington that there was a band of French soldiers nearby. On the night of May 27, Washington and 40 soldiers marched through a dark and wet night. Together they decided to surround the French. A French soldier spotted the British and yelled. They all ran for their muskets. A shot was fired. Then Washington ordered his troops to fire. The French were in a bad position at the bottom of a ravine. They tried to escape down the ravine, but met the Half King and his warriors. They came back and surrendered.

6: Ohio Country - Ohio History Central

American colonists are fighting the French and Indian War partly, for the right to settle in the disputed Ohio country. Regardless of the Treaty of Easton.

This competition affected Virginia, as well as islands in the Caribbean and India. England, France, Spain, the Netherlands, and even Sweden fought each other overseas in North America and the Caribbean, without formally declaring war and risking invasion of the homelands in Europe. The "Indian" part of the name is key to understanding the conflict. Native Americans chose to ally with either England or France. Competition for their trade and support created conflicts that extended far from the cities of Montreal and Quebec along the St. Lawrence River, and from the English settlements on the Fall Line. The war was one of a continuing chain of English-French conflicts in North America, stretching back to the earliest settlements by the European rivals. French ships traded for beaver and other skins at Tadoussac on the St. Lawrence River downstream from Quebec, which Samuel de Champlain started in 1605. The French established complex trade deals with different Native American groups, but from the beginning the English and French chose to fight rather than trade with each other. In 1609, Virginia colonists sailed north from Jamestown to destroy a French settlement on Mt. Desert Island, now part of Acadia National Park. Desert Island in Source: This freed up the Iroquois to combat the Mahican on the east, their rivals for trade with the Dutch fort at Albany. Peace with New France also allowed the Iroquois to focus on conquering the Susquehanna and Delaware to the south, plus westward expansion to establish Five Nations hegemony over tribes living in the Ohio River valley. The French built Fort Detroit in 1701, extending their trading network further to the west. It was located on territory that Virginia had claimed since 1607. Virginia and Maryland relied upon one staple crop, tobacco, which depleted nutrients in the soil within three years. To find fresh land to plant tobacco, English colonists displaced Native American tribes. Occupying their land and preventing traditional hunting practices led to conflict, and a desire of the colonists to push Native Americans out of Virginia. The sale of tobacco to customers in Europe generated profits for business leaders in London. Taxes on tobacco generated an extraordinary profit for the English government. Land speculation steadily fueled the growth of a wealthy gentry class in Virginia, though the price of tobacco grown in the Middle Atlantic colonies varied based on supply, demand, and manipulation of the market by London businessmen. The colonial government located in Jamestown and then in Williamsburg after granted those lands at low cost to a select group of powerful families. They profited by displacing Native Americans and selling parcels to new farmers. That land speculation by Virginians, more than any other colony, was the fundamental cause of the French and Indian War. Full-scale conflict in the New World between England and France had been delayed years, in part because the two countries initially separated their colonies by great distances. However, as English settlement expanded into the trading backcountry that fed furs to Montreal and Quebec, competition for trade with Native American tribes increased. There was a long tradition of warfare between French colonists and Native Americans, pre-dating the settlement at Quebec in 1605. Warfare between English colonists and Native Americans started in the first days of Jamestown. Various groups of Native Americans resisted efforts by colonists to convert their towns and hunting territories into farms. The paramount chiefdom of Powhatan was disrupted despite uprisings in 1622 and 1644, and most of the Native Americans forced to leave the Coastal Plain. A large share of the capital of the puritan fathers Iroquois expansionism, fueled in part by skillful negotiation of alliances with colonial representatives of France and England, forced the Susquehanna and Delaware out of their traditional territories and made them dependent upon the Six Nations. Library of Congress, A map of the British and French dominions in North America, with the roads, distances, limits, and extent of the settlements John Mitchell, West of the Ohio River, the Shawnee were the most willing to assert their independence of the Iroquois. In negotiations, dependent tribes were forced to accept arrangements acceptable to the Iroquois, and leaders of subordinate tribes were designated as only "half kings. Speculative land claims by that company was just one of many disputes between France and England; the conflict could have become just another minor event in a long pattern of conflicts. The overlapping territorial claims by the French based on the St. Lawrence River, and by the English speculators based in

Virginia, grew into a decisive world war because the buffer of undisputed land between New France and the English colonies finally had been exhausted. The Ohio Company intended to occupy the backcountry of the French traders and block their economic opportunity. The traders from Pennsylvania sought to have Native American groups interfere with traders from Virginia and vice-versa. The colonial governors failed to work together to implement a common negotiation strategy with Native American tribes. Choosing a time for the start of the French and Indian War requires assessing the events that preceded official declaration of war in In , open conflict re-started in North America at the Forks of the Ohio. In the two countries started the Seven Years War in Europe. That led Great Britain to send enough military forces from Europe to North America to tip the balance, and in France was forced to abandon North America. After the Iroquois supposedly "sold" their claim to that land, the Ohio Company obtained a land grant to much of what is modern-day Ohio. Together with Indian allies, the two Virginians reached the French headquarters near Lake Erie modern-day New Waterford, Pennsylvania despite the November snow and ice. The French were more concerned with the Native American allies that accompanied Washington and Gist, and worked hard to shift the Native American loyalties to the French. Washington hurried back to Williamsburg from Fort Le Boeuf in order to alert Dinwiddie as fast as possible, surviving a dunking in an ice-filled river and an attempt to kill him by a Native American in his traveling party. Washington submitted a written report to Lord Dinwiddie, who sent it to London. The report was published as *The Journal of Major George Washington*, and the year old Virginian gained his first recognition in Europe through that report from the frontier. George Washington traveled to Fort Le Boeuf in the winter of November , crossing icy rivers in harsh winter conditions and surviving an attempted murder on the return trip Source: However, before the Virginians arrived, the French captured the fort and renamed it Fort Duquesne, one of several they planned along the Ohio River to connect "New France" in Canada with their holdings in Louisiana. Colonel Joshua Fry was the leader of the Virginia expedition, but Fry died before getting to Pennsylvania. The second-in-command, George Washington, assumed leadership of the military force - and led it into a debacle. After learning the fort had been captured and the Virginia colonists evicted, Washington attacked a group of Frenchmen in late May, while they slept. The site of the attack is now called Jumonville Glen, named after the French leader who died in the British ambush. This murder of the French leader, after he had surrendered, guaranteed continued hostilities between the Europeans trying to occupy the Ohio River valley. Washington failed to maintain good relations with his Native American allies, and they deserted the Virginians. Washington built a small fort with a palisade around it in an open field, called Fort Necessity, but was forced to surrender after less than one day of fighting. Washington signed a surrender document, written in French, in which he admitted to "assassinating" the French ambassador who had travelled from Fort Duquesne to meet with the Virginians. Library of Congress, Copy of a sketch of the Monongahela, with the field of battle Today we know George Washington grew up to be rich and famous, the "Father of the Country" and the "Indispensable Man" without whom the United States may have failed to coalesce into one united country. I then was appointed with trifling Pay to conduct an handful of Men to the Ohio. What did I get by this? I then went out a Volunteer with Genl. What today we call the French and Indian War may have been inevitable, once two European powers sought control over the same Ohio River land. The war was inevitable Why were the Virginians fighting the French so far from the boundaries of the Virginia colony? The average Virginian without a massive land grant shared the hunger for land, and was willing to fight Native Americans, the French, or even Pennsylvanians to obtain cheap land. The Quaker-led assembly in Pennsylvania lacked the avarice and willingness to fight for land. The Virginians saw an opportunity to gain control over the Ohio territory, and had no qualms about citing the colonial charters as the basis for their land claims or raising an army to fight for that land. When Lord Braddock arrived in to lead the British army to the capture of Fort Duquesne, he established his base of operations in Alexandria - not Philadelphia. Farmers bringing crops and other supplies to Braddock created "Braddocks Road" in Loudoun and Fairfax counties, but Braddock marched up modern Route 7 and through Maryland to what is today Cumberland, Maryland. From Cumberland the English cut a road through the wilderness to Fort Duquesne. However, Braddock was killed and the British defeated in a surprise assault by the French and their Native American allies near the fort. Even worse, the British determined to attack Fort Duquesne by building a road

through the Pennsylvania wilderness, enhancing the economic link between Philadelphia and the Ohio River in the process. After the British captured Fort Duquesne and renamed it Fort Pitt, the Virginia investment in fighting the French ended up providing advantages to the Pennsylvania colony rather than to Virginia. The Virginians even dropped their claims to the land in southwestern Pennsylvania, though the land claims already established by Virginia colonists were confirmed by the Pennsylvanians. Library of Congress, A sketch of the field of battle with the disposition of the troops in the beginning of the engagement of the 9th of July on the Monongahela 7 miles from Fort Du Quesne.

7: The French and Indian War

Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia wanted to retaliate by attacking Pluggy's Town in the Ohio Country, but he canceled the expedition for fear that the militia would be unable to distinguish between neutral and hostile Indians, and thus make enemies of the neutral Delawares and Shawnees. Nevertheless, Shawnees and Delawares became increasingly divided over whether or not to take part in the war.

In accord with the terms of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, the new states formed from the old Northwest Territory "the region north and west of the Ohio River" were to be admitted to the Union as free, and not slave, states. Further, indentured servitude was permitted by law, meaning slave owners could bring their chattel property into Illinois with them as long as they engaged in a legal fiction by classifying their slaves as indentured servants. When it became clear Congress was going to establish the State of Illinois, elections were held and the first General Assembly began meeting on Oct. 4, 1790. The session lasted until March 31, 1791. Under the new law, black residents of Illinois were prohibited from voting, testifying or bringing suit against whites. They were prohibited from gathering in groups of three or more without risk of being jailed or flogged. Further, they were prohibited from serving in the militia and so were denied their Second Amendment right to own or bear arms. It was mandatory for blacks living in Illinois to obtain and carry a Certificate of Freedom with them at all times. Otherwise, they were assumed to be escaped slaves and were liable for arrest. As a result, pro-slavery forces began militating for a new state constitutional convention at which they planned to write and pass a pro-slavery constitution. In 1792, the statewide referendum failed by a fairly substantial margin, but in response to the pro-slavery lobby, a series of even more restrictive Black Codes were adopted. An addition to the Black Codes required all free black Illinois residents to register at their county seat, and they also had to register a certificate of freedom from the state in which they had previously lived. In practice, most blacks who emigrated to Illinois during that period usually found a friendly white resident who would post the bond for them "creating a nearly insurmountable debt. As a result, most of the black slaves who fled their owners south of the Ohio River lived in Illinois illegally, subject to arrest and flogging if caught. The frequent escapes created an atmosphere of fear, especially in southern Illinois where slave catchers from Kentucky and Tennessee had no compunctions about kidnapping legally free blacks and selling them south of the river. It was, in fact, a financially lucrative practice which state officials largely ignored. A law, sponsored by John A. Logan, later a Civil War general and creator of Memorial Day, was even more draconian and unfair. It was a precarious existence, but one many enslaved people were willing to chance to gain their freedom. As the war dragged on, more troops were needed, and eventually the entreaties of prominent northern blacks persuaded President Abraham Lincoln to authorize enlistment of several regiments of U.S. In partial response, and bowing to the reality that black Illinoisans were indeed being armed by the hundreds to fight against southern secession, the General Assembly repealed the Black Codes early in 1862. But even then, black residents were not granted the right to vote or most of the other civil rights white residents took for granted. Those were finally granted by the passage of the 14th and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution in 1868, as well as the Illinois Civil Rights Act of 1860. The regiment fought through the later stages of the Civil War, acquitting itself very well. It was severely mauled during the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg, Virginia, suffering many killed and wounded. Among the wounded was Pvt. Nathan Hughes, who would recover only to get wounded one more time before moving to Kendall County after the war to farm along Minkler Road. Hughes and his comrade Thomas Jefferson, both veterans of the 29th, are buried in the Oswego Township Cemetery, along with Robert Ridley Smith, a veteran of the 66th U.S.

8: Los Angeles Times - We are currently unavailable in your region

In the spring of , Dinwiddie ordered a colonial force to march into the Ohio Valley to defend Virginia's interests. He commissioned year-old George Washington to command this expedition. Washington led about poorly trained colonial soldiers into the Ohio Country.

Because the Shawnee did not settle in Old Chillicothe until , biographer John Sugden concludes that Tecumseh was born either in a different village named "Chillicothe" in Shawnee, Chalahgawtha [9] along the Scioto River , near present-day Chillicothe, Ohio , or in a nearby Kispoko village situated along a small tributary of the Scioto. She is believed to have been either Muscogee Creek , Cherokee , or Shawnee through both her parents, possibly of the Pekowi band and the turtle clan. Some traditions argue that Methotaske was Creek because she had lived among that tribe prior to marriage, while others claim that she was Cherokee , having died in old age living among that tribe. Others suggest that she was a white captive due to the family stories that claim Puckshinwa had been married to a white captive. The Pekowi had lived in that region alongside the Creek people, since the Iroquois a powerful confederacy based in New York and Pennsylvania forced them from the Ohio River valley during the Beaver Wars in the seventeenth century. Not wanting to force Methotaske to choose between staying in the south with him or moving with her family, Puckshinwa decided to travel north with her. The Pekowi founded an Indian settlement named Chillicothe, where Tecumseh was likely born. Methoataske left Tecumseh and his siblings under the care of their married older sister, Tecumapese. Chiksika took Tecumseh hunting and taught him to become a warrior; however, their younger brother, Lalawethika, who later changed his name to Tenskwatawa , stayed behind and showed little evidence of the powerful spiritual leader and close partnership he would form with Tecumseh as an adult. The Wabash Confederacy , a large tribal alliance that included all the major tribes of Ohio and the Illinois Country formed to repel the American settlers from the region. As the war between the Indian confederacy and the Americans expanded in the late s and Tecumseh grew older, he began training to become a warrior and to fight alongside with his older brother Chiksika , an important war leader. During their trip south, Tecumseh fell from his horse during a hunting expedition and broke a bone in his thigh. The injury took several months to heal and caused him to walk with a slight limp for the remainder of his life. Tecumseh remained with the Chickamauga for nearly two years. During this time he fathered a daughter with a Cherokee; however, the relationship was brief and the child remained with her mother. Tecumseh assumed leadership of the small Shawnee band and subsequent Chickamauga raiding parties before he returned to the Ohio Country at the end of . Their marriage did not last. One of the triplets died within the first year of his birth, but Lalawethika and his triplet brother Kumskaukau survived. He urged them to reject the American way of life and to return to their traditional ways. He also urged his followers to pay traders only half the value of their debts and to refrain from ceding any more lands to the U. Opposing Tenskwatawa was the Shawnee leader Black Hoof , who was working to maintain a peaceful relationship with the United States. Indian agent William Wells met with Blue Jacket and other Shawnee leaders in Greenville to determine their intentions after the recent murder of a settler. Tecumseh, who was among those who spoke with Wells and assured him that his band of Shawnee intended to remain at peace and wanted only to follow the will of the Great Spirit and his prophet. Although the site was in Miami tribal territory and their chief, Little Turtle , warned the group not to settle there, the Shawnee ignored the warning and moved into the region; the Miami left them alone. The Americans called the Indian settlement Prophetstown , after the Shawnee spiritual leader. The village gained significance as a central point in the political and military alliance that was forming around Tecumseh, a natural and charismatic leader. The community attracted thousands of Algonquin -speaking Indians and became an intertribal, religious stronghold within the Indiana Territory for 3, inhabitants. Recruits came from an estimated fourteen different tribal groups, although the majority were members of Shawnee, Delaware , and Potawatomi tribes. Tenskwatawa claimed to have had a vision and spoke to the tribes "in the voice of Moneto", their god, to attack as the white men could not hurt them, and that no one could die or would feel harm. So in marked contrast with the experience of the Shawnee, it will be seen that the whites and Indians in

this section are living on friendly and mutually beneficial terms. Where are the Narragansett, the Mochican, the Pocanet, and other powerful tribes of our people? They have vanished before the avarice and oppression of the white man Sleep not longer, O Choctaws and Chickasaws Will not the bones of our dead be plowed up, and their graves turned into plowed fields? Although Tecumseh was not among the signers of the Treaty of Greenville that ceded much of present-day Ohio, long inhabited by the Shawnee and other American Indians, to the U. For the next ten years pan-tribal resistance to American hegemony faded. After the Treaty of Greenville was signed, most of the Shawnee in Ohio settled at the Shawnee village of Wapakoneta on the Auglaize River , where Black Hoof , a senior chief who had signed the treaty, was their leader. Little Turtle , a Miami war chief, a participant in the Northwest Indian War, and a signer of the treaty at Greenville, lived in his village along the Eel River. The tribes of the region also participated in several additional treaties, including the Treaty of Vincennes and and the Treaty of Grouseland , that ceded Indian-held land in southern Indiana to the Americans. The treaties granted the Indians annuity payments and other reimbursements in exchange for their lands. The validity of the treaty negotiations were challenged with claims that the U. The negotiations also involved what some historians have described as bribes, which included offering large subsidies to the tribes and their chiefs, and liberal distribution of liquor before the negotiations began. Although the Shawnee had no claim on the land ceded to the U. Tecumseh revived an idea advocated in previous years by the Shawnee leader Blue Jacket and the Mohawk leader Joseph Brant that stated that Indian land was owned in common by all. His primary adversaries were initially the Indian leaders who had signed the Treaty of Fort Wayne. Tecumseh, an impressive orator, began to travel widely, urging warriors to abandon the accommodationist chiefs and to join his resistance movement. Tecumseh also warned that the Americans should not attempt to settle on the ceded lands and claimed that "the only way to stop this evil [loss of land] is for the red man to unite in claiming a common and equal right in the land, as it was first, and should be now, for it was never divided. Tecumseh met with William Henry Harrison in and in to demand that the U. Harrison argued that individual tribes could have relations with the U. Why not sell the air, the great sea, as well as the earth? Did not the Great Spirit make them all for the use of his children? How can we have confidence in the white people? As the warriors departed, Tecumseh warned Harrison that unless the Treaty of Fort Wayne was rescinded, he would seek an alliance with the British. Tecumseh told Harrison that the Shawnee and their Indiana allies wanted to remain at peace with the United States; however, their differences had to be resolved. The meeting proved to be unproductive. Harrison believed that the Indians were "simply looking forward to a quarrel. McKenney reported that Tecumseh claimed he would prove that the Great Spirit had sent him to the Creeks by giving the tribes a sign. Battle of Tippecanoe[edit] Main article: Battle of Tippecanoe When Harrison heard from intelligence that Tecumseh was away, he reported to the U. Department of War that Tecumseh was putting "a finishing stroke upon his work. I hope, however, before his return that that part of the work which he considered complete will be demolished and even its foundation rooted up. Prior to the battle, the Prophet claimed that they would not be harmed if they attacked the white men and the warriors would not die. On November 6, , when Harrison and about 1, of his men approached Prophetstown, the Prophet sent a messenger to request a meeting with Harrison to negotiate. Harrison agreed to meet with him the following day and encamped with his army on a nearby hill about two miles from Prophetstown. The Americans burned the village to the ground the following day and returned to Vincennes. The Shawnee reported that the young warriors had said, "We are ten to their one. If they stay upon one side, we will let them alone. If they cross the Wabash we will take their scalps or drive them into the river. Despite the loss at Prophetstown, Tecumseh continued his role as the military leader of the pan-Indian alliance and began to rebuild its membership. However, many tribes lost faith and his great plan to establish a stronger Indian alliance was never fulfilled. He lost his influence among the Indians, as well as the confidence of his brother. Although the interpretation of this event varied from tribe to tribe, one consensus was universally accepted: For many tribes in the pan-Indian alliance, it meant that Tecumseh and the Prophet must be supported.

9: Meet Six HRC Volunteers Who Are Fighting to Take Back Our Country | Human Rights Campaign

The Fight for the Future of the Democratic Party Comes to Missouri. August 7, We'll be covering the elections around this country a lot over the next several months, and today we're.

Share via Email This article is over 6 years old Mitt Romney and Barack Obama go head to head in their second campaign debate: This midwestern state, mixing rural farmland, small towns and decaying industrial cities, is the ground zero of the bitter and protracted election that on Tuesday will decide who wins the White House. It is where blue state Americans, who back Barack Obama to win a second term, battle over turf with red state Americans who desperately want Republican challenger Mitt Romney to bring the right back to power. Ohio has voted for the winning candidate in every election bar one since in , it went for Nixon over Kennedy. No Republican has ever won the White House without taking Ohio. If Obama can stop Romney here, he is likely to emerge the victor. But if Romney can take the state it will signify a ground shift: Both sides know this. In a high school sports hall she warned a packed crowd: All the heat and fury of almost two years of rallies and speeches, all the relentless attack ads, all the politicking and horse-trading, comes to a head this week. Across America there are only a nine states where votes matter. Giant states such as Texas and California are already in the bag for, respectively, Romney and Obama. Instead, these few swing states "from Colorado in the west to Florida in the south and tiny New Hampshire in New England" are the battleground on which the election has been fought. The fight there is poised on a knife edge. In the swing states and, crucially, in Ohio Obama holds a slim but steady lead. That means, as the election goes down to the wire, it is Obama who many believe has his nose just ahead. But the last week has seen a frantic final push. Across the swing states tens of thousands of party volunteers have gone door to door. The "get out the vote" plans for election day are being rehearsed and fine-tuned. Airwaves in the swing states are so saturated with political ads that in some areas there is no ad space left to buy. Even superstorm Sandy which devastated the north-east saw the campaign suspended for only a couple of days before combat resumed. Yet in Ohio, despite the intense effort, two different realities stubbornly persist. John DeCaussim, a year-old Youngstown mechanic, said he could not understand how anyone could vote for Romney. In my lifetime I have never seen things fall apart so far," he said. For Republicans the importance of winning Ohio is maths and history. Every Republican president has had the state on his side. And almost every plan that party strategists have devised to grab the White House for Romney includes Ohio in the win column. As a result, the Romney campaign has been virtually camped in the state. Romney has visited almost 50 times this year alone. Ryan too has been a virtual ever-present. The state has seen a remarkable transformation of the Romney message over the last week. He has sought to shed his conservative image and long career in high finance and turn into an economic populist, emoting about tough economic times and bemoaning the plight of the poor. He told stories of single mothers, low wages and parents making sacrifices so they could buy birthday presents for their children. For Romney, a millionaire many times over who has repeatedly extolled the virtues of high capitalism, it was a jarring performance. Romney even started to sound like Obama circa He has adopted the "change" slogan as his own, portraying himself as an enemy of the status quo. Ignoring the last three years of bitter politics and a Tea Party-dominated Republican party, he claimed to be a centrist, keen to reach out a Republican hand to Democrats, even though it is the same hand that has been rejecting Obama for his entire first term. But Romney as populist fist-pumper was as nothing compared to the musical act in Findlay. Before the teetotal, Mormon former Massachusetts governor took the stage, country music stars John Rich and Cowboy Troy, a black rapper, gave a lyrical performance, singing I Play Chicken with the Train. Rich suggested the crowd treat polling day like a drunken football game day party. Put that man in the White House, can you hear? Oh yeah," Rich said. Billboards appeared in Ohio, and other swing states, apparently targeting poor and minority neighbourhoods with warnings of the threat of prison for voter fraud. On the airwaves the ads have got more extreme. Neither is virulent dislike for Obama hard to find, often tinged with a sense that the president is not really American. Maggie Niswaner is 73 but reckons she has walked more than 20 miles in the last week, knocking on doors and delivering pamphlets as a volunteer for Romney in Findlay.

The doom and gloom pumped out by the Romney campaign has worked, too. Though there is little doubt the economy is stuttering in its recovery, and unemployment remains high, but has been on a downward trend. But that is taboo on the Republican campaign trail. But Ryan is right about one thing. If you do not have a record to run on, paint your opponent as someone that people should run from. Now when you switch on the TV that is exactly what he has become," Ryan said in Findlay. There is much truth in the claim. Obama has raised and spent hundreds of millions of dollars on negative advertising and Bill Clinton and vice-president Joe Biden have become even punchier as the campaign has drawn to a close. And it is a long way from "hope and change". The result has been an Obama effort that has only hesitantly defended its main policy achievement of healthcare reform and has focused on attacking Republicans, rather than laying out any bold agenda. On the streets of Akron, a city at the heart of the north-eastern rust belt, student Cara Chappell remained loyal. He had to save the economy first. Buoyed by polls showing that Obama is holding on to a slim lead in Ohio, his political guru was in a bullish mood. Of course, both sides cannot be right. Unless the election is so tight that it ends up in court decisions and recounts, either blue state America or red state America will triumph. But the warring sides agree on one thing. As Ryan looked out over an enthusiastic crowd of Republican true believers in Celina, he told them:

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