

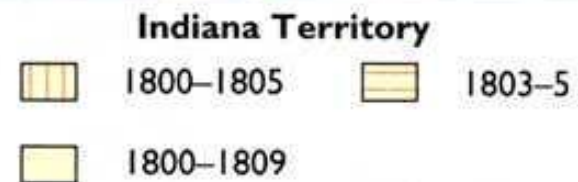
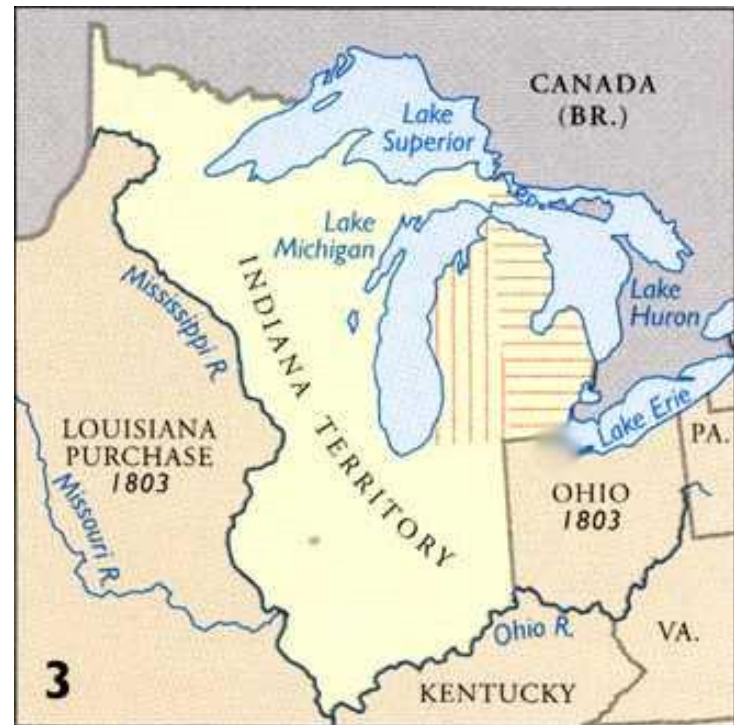
Creating A Frontier War



Prophetstown for Their Own Purposes

Factions or Nations?

- ∞ Violence and American Expansion
- ∞ Violence as empowering
- ∞ Factionalism
 - French and Miamis
 - Miamis
 - Americans
- ∞ Miami Identity



Drinking from the Wells

- ☞ William Wells
 - U.S. Indian Agent
 - Once a captive
- ☞ The Prophet as a threat
- ☞ Miamis in trouble
- ☞ Identity
- ☞ Rumors and fear
- ☞ Damned



Motives

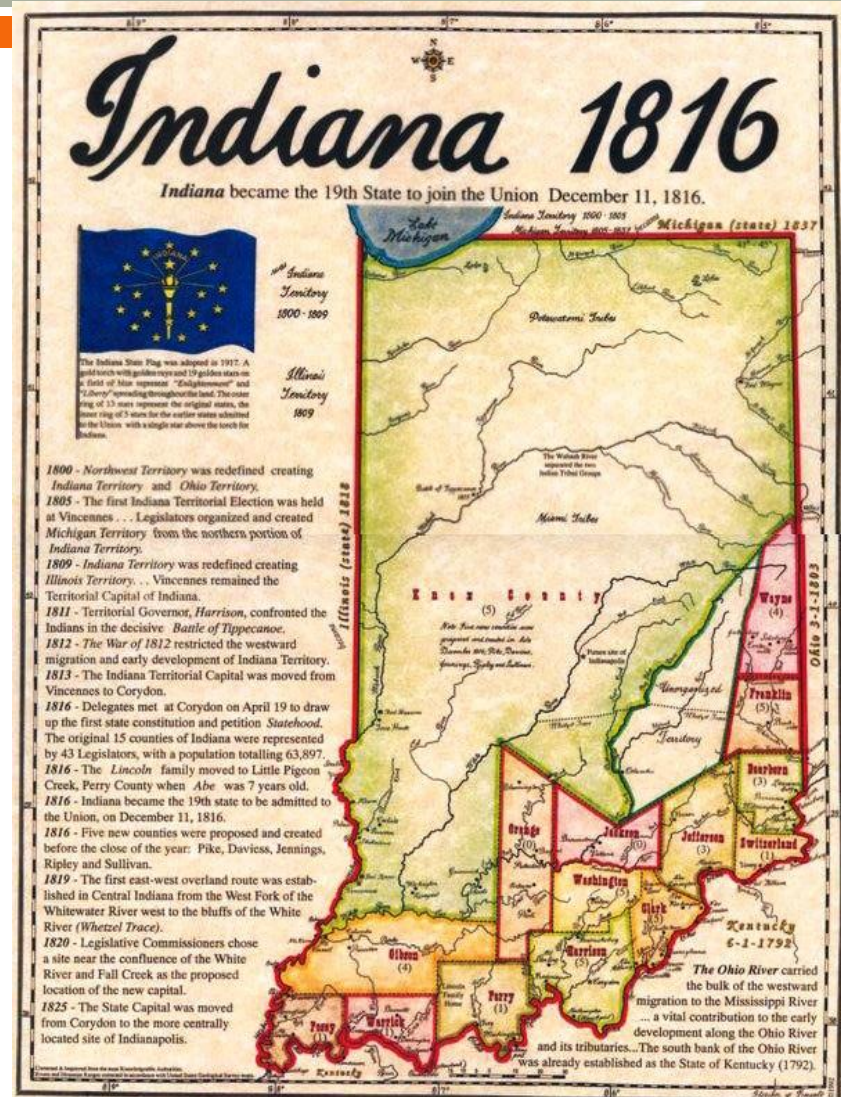
French traders

- Troubles

- Varied allegiances

Spring of 1809

Estimates



∞ “Nine tenths of them prefer the interests of the Indians to that of their employers.”

- Harrison to Secretary of War William Eustis

∞ The Indian woman had been killed by “by Some of the Prophets Party to carry on the deception and to prevent us from taking the alarm at the force he is collecting . . .”

- Toussaint Dubois to Harrison

1809

- ✎ Territorial Election and the Treaty of Fort Wayne (1809)
- ✎ Self-defense
- ✎ The Treaty
 - Factions of Miamis
- ✎ Elihu Stout and *The Western Sun*



- ✎ The Prophet intended “to come [to Vincennes] with a large body of men that 4 or 5 would be assigned to each House and himself with 12 or 15 would enter [Grouseland] and having destroyed [the governor] a signal would be given by a person posted for that purpose to commence the Massacre in the Town – This fellow [the Prophet] has boasted that he would follow the footsteps of the Great Pontiac.”
 - Harrison to Eustis

Vincennes

- ∞ Why did Harrison fear the Prophet?
- ∞ Factionalism
 - Slavery
 - Anger
 - Treaty of Fort Wayne
 - Outrage
- ∞ Visions of Prophetstown
- ∞ Paranoia



The Threat

- ∞ Reframe the debate
- ∞ Ethnic factions NOT nations
- ∞ Marginalized, but not powerless
- ∞ Three narratives

