

Lesson 21, Appendices

Tecumseh (1768-1813)

Shawnee War Chief



Born: 1768, Ohio Valley

Background: Shawnee chief that opposed the US during the War of 1812. He attempted to halt the advance of white settlement into the Old Northwest.

Heroic Action: During the capture of Detroit Tecumseh's warriors tricked the Americans into believing that their numbers were massive by having them double back so their line appeared never-ending. " A more sagacious or a more gallant Warrior does not, I believe, exist," wrote Brock about Tecumseh. ([www.biographi.ca/.](http://www.biographi.ca/))

Heroic Action: Led over 2000 warriors at the sieges of Fort Megin and Fort Stephenson.

Heroic Action: At the Battle of the Thames, wearing traditional deerskin garments, he was killed leading his

warriors in a final stand against the Americans.

Historiography: Tecumseh has been called a "noble savage", a "great aboriginal hero" and has been mythologized as a hero of the War of 1812. But what were his motives?

It was and is impossible to cast Tecumseh as a Canadian patriot first and an Indian second. His loyalty was never to Canada or even to the British in Canada. It was to a dream of a pan-Indian movement that would secure for his people the land necessary for them to continue their way of life. The few months he spent fighting with the British forces were in service of that vision. In his failure and death the cynical British and Canadians were only slightly less his enemies than the Americans. (Herbert C.W. Goltz, www.biographi.ca)

Abridged from www.1812.gc.ca/eng/1317828221939/1317828660198#a8