

Directions: Read the primary source by Henry Clay regarding whether or not the United States should enter into war with Great Britain. Answer the questions provided below the reading using complete sentences.

“It is said ... that no object is attainable by war with Great Britain. In its fortunes, we are to estimate not only benefit to be derived to ourselves, but the injury to be done the enemy. The Conquest of Canada is in your power. I trust I shall not be deemed presumptuous when I state that I verily believe that the militia of Kentucky is alone competent to place Montreal an Upper Canada at your feet. Is it nothing to the British nation; is it nothing to the pride of her Monarch, to have the last of the immense North American possessions held by him in the commencement of his reign wrested from dominion? Is it nothing to us to extinguish the torch that lights up savage warfare? Is it nothing to acquire the entire fur trade connected with that country and to destroy the temptation and the opportunity of violating your revenue and other laws?”

Source: Annals of Congress, 11th Congress, 1st Session (1810). 580

1. War Hawks were people that were for war with Britain and Quids were against. The author of this document is a _____ and why?
2. Who would be some people that would say “no object is attainable by war with Great Britain”? Why would they say that?
3. What does Clay mean when he says that a fortune of the war is “the injury to be done the enemy”?
4. What is Clay saying about the Kentucky militia when he says “ I verily believe that the militia of Kentucky is alone competent to place Montreal an Upper Canada at your feet.”?
5. What is Clay asking the United States to do with Canada? What would be some benefits of Clay’s proposal according to him?
6. In the last statement, who is “that country” that Clay is referring to? What does he mean by “destroy[ing] the temptation and the opportunity of violating your revenue and other laws”?