

The Monroe Doctrine

President James Monroe established the foundation for U.S. foreign policy in Latin America in the Monroe Doctrine of 1823. It was an exclusive statement of American policy warning European powers not to interfere with the Americas.



The occasion has been judged proper for asserting, as a principle in which the rights and interests of the United States are involved, that the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers.

It is impossible that the allied powers should extend their political system to any portion of either continent without endangering our peace and happiness; nor can anyone believe that our southern brethren, if left to themselves, would adopt it of their own accord.

We owe it, therefore, to candor and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and those powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety.

With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we have not interfered and shall not interfere.

But with the Governments who have declared their independence and maintain it, and whose independence we have acknowledged. We could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling in any other manner their destiny, by any European power in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States.

In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy to do so. It is only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced that we resent injuries or make preparation for our defense.

It is still the true policy of the United States to leave the parties to themselves, in hope that other powers will pursue the same course. . .

Assignment



Title your paper: "Doctrine Re-write"

Instructions:

Part One: Re-write the doctrine in your own words using outline format.

Give each paragraph a number and write what you think he is trying to say in your own words. There are 7 paragraphs

Example 1 (Direct Translation):

1. It is now the right time to declare that it is in the United States' best interest for the Americas to be free and independent. From now on European countries should not see these continents as possible colonies.

Example 2 (Linguistic Translation):

1. Ok Europe listen up. We are putting our foot down. The Americas are free now, so don't think you can just come over here and make any colonies.

*Continue on your own, paragraphs 2-7
Your translation may be direct, linguistic or a combination of both types.*

Part Two: below your outline, answer the following questions:

1. What warning did President Monroe give to European powers in the Monroe Doctrine?
2. How does Monroe say the United States will treat existing European colonies?

Part Three: under your answers, copy the 4 basic points of The Monroe Doctrine from page 263.