

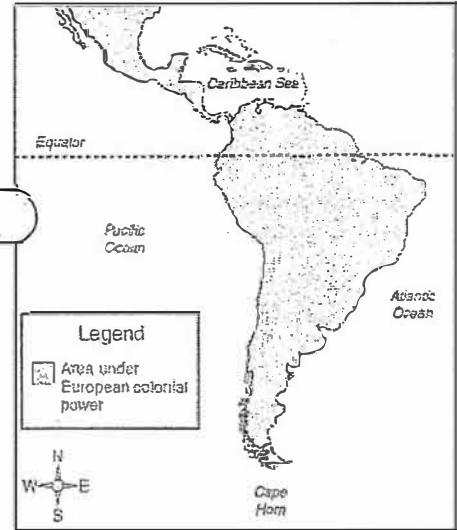
THE MONROE DOCTRINE

The Monroe Doctrine was a United States policy that was introduced on December 2, 1823. The Monroe Doctrine asserted that the Western Hemisphere was not to be further colonized by European countries and that the United States would neither interfere with existing European colonies, nor meddle in the internal concerns of Europe. The Doctrine was issued at a time when many Latin American countries were on the verge of becoming independent from Spain. The following excerpts are taken from the Doctrine.

1. Where the rights and interests of the United States are involved, . . . the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subject for future colonization by any European powers. . . .
2. The citizens of the United States cherish sentiments the most friendly in favor of liberty and happiness of their fellowmen on that side of the Atlantic. In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves we have never taken any part, . . . It is only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced that we resent injuries or make preparation for our defense. . . .
3. We owe it, therefore, to candor and to the [friendly] relations existing between the United States and [European] 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. . . .”

The Monroe Doctrine became the cornerstone of America's foreign policy for almost 100 years. It also enabled the nations of Latin America to pursue policies free from the European influences. However, it has also created some problems with certain Latin American countries who feel that America's self-appointed "big brother" status is unwarranted.

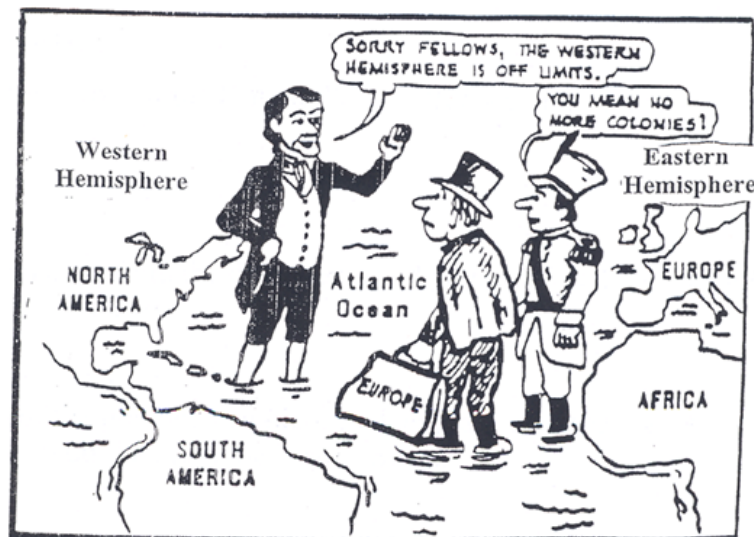
Latin America, 1800



Latin America, 1830



1. The first part of the Monroe Doctrine tells European Powers:
 - a. To come to our aid in war
 - b. That the US will not interfere in their affairs
 - c. That they should not claim colonies in the Americas
 - d. To work toward keeping world peace
2. According to the 2nd part of the Monroe Doctrine:
 - a. The US has always helped Europe in wars
 - b. America is always ready for war
 - c. That Europe is dangerous to our safety
 - d. That America does not interfere in Europe's matters
3. Which event probably had the biggest effect on our issuing the Monroe Doctrine?
 - a. World War I
 - b. The Revolutionary War
 - c. Latin American Independence movements
 - d. The unification of Italy
4. Was the Monroe Doctrine successful in keeping the US out of European affairs?
Explain your answer.
5. How do you think most European countries reacted to the Monroe Doctrine?



"...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..."

Monroe Doctrine, 1823

1. Who is the man in the black suit?
2. Why are all the men in the cartoon standing in the Atlantic Ocean?
3. According to the quote below the cartoon, what are the European powers prohibited to do in the American Continents?