

Foreign and Domestic Policy of Period 4

Excerpt from President Thomas Jefferson's Speech on the Embargo Act (1807)

"Fellow Americans, I stand before you today to explain the reasons behind the enactment of the Embargo Act of 1807. Our young nation has faced significant challenges in recent years, particularly in our relations with European powers. The issues of maritime rights, impressment of American sailors, and economic pressures have led us to this momentous decision.

The Embargo Act is a measure born out of the necessity to protect our sovereignty and safeguard our economic interests. It is with a heavy heart that we restrict American trade with foreign nations, including Britain and France, in the hopes that it will force these nations to respect our rights as a neutral nation on the high seas.

We have witnessed our ships seized, our sailors pressed into service, and our economic well-being threatened. This embargo, though difficult, is a peaceful means to assert our rights. It is our sincere hope that through this act, we can preserve our honor, maintain our independence, and secure a brighter future for our great republic.

It is my duty, as your President, to take these measures to protect our nation. I ask for your understanding and support as we navigate these trying times.

May Providence guide and bless the United States of America.

Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States, 1807"

Primary Source: Excerpt from the Non-Intercourse Act (1809)

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the several acts prohibiting the importation of goods, wares, and merchandise from Great Britain, and France, and their dependencies, and for other purposes, shall be, and the same are hereby repealed, so far as the same respect the nations aforesaid; and that all the provisions of the said acts shall be in force and take effect as to the nations aforesaid, from and after the expiration of three months from the passing of this act.

And be it further enacted, That from and after the expiration of three months from the passing of this act, it shall not be lawful to import into the United States or the

territories thereof, any goods, wares, or merchandise whatever, from any port or place situated in Great Britain, or France, or their colonies or dependencies."

Primary Source: Excerpt from President James Madison's Declaration of War Against Britain (1812)

"Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives,

I come before you today with a heavy heart and a profound sense of duty to address a matter of utmost importance to our young nation. We find ourselves in a position where the honor and sovereignty of the United States are at stake. Our patience has been tested, our rights violated, and our nation's security threatened.

For too long, we have endured the insults and aggressions of the British Empire. The impressment of our sailors, the interference with our trade, and the violation of our maritime rights have left us with no choice but to assert our independence and defend our national honor.

I stand before you to declare that, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States, our nation is now in a state of war with Great Britain. I do not make this declaration lightly, but with a firm belief that it is necessary to protect our rights, our citizens, and our future.

May the Almighty bless our efforts, guide our leaders, and grant us the strength and courage to secure the just and honorable peace we seek.

James Madison, President of the United States, June 1, 1812"

Primary Source: Excerpt from President James Monroe's Annual Message to Congress (1823)

"Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives,

As I address you today, it is my solemn duty to express the principles and concerns that guide our nation's foreign policy. The events and developments in the Western Hemisphere compel us to clarify our position on the matter of European colonization and interference.

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. We owe this declaration to the profound sense of responsibility we hold for our hemisphere's fate.

In the discussions to which this interest has given rise and in the arrangements by which they may terminate, 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.

We must 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 maintained it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration and on just principles, 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.

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. It is equally impossible, therefore, that we should behold such interposition in any form with indifference."

Primary Source: Excerpt from President Andrew Jackson's Address on the Indian Removal Act (1830)

In considering the policy of removing Native American tribes from their ancestral lands to lands west of the Mississippi River, we are guided by the principles of expansion, national growth, and the safety and well-being of our citizens. This policy, as outlined in the Indian Removal Act of 1830, aims to ensure the peaceful coexistence of our growing nation.

It is our belief that this measure will provide the means for these tribes to maintain their unique way of life while allowing for the westward expansion of American civilization. This will promote economic growth, national unity, and the safety of our settlers.

We acknowledge the concerns raised by many regarding the impact of this policy on Native American communities. It is our sincere hope that the federal government, in

cooperation with these tribes, will ensure their fair treatment and provide for their relocation in a manner that respects their rights and dignity.

In pursuing this course of action, we are committed to achieving a harmonious and prosperous future for all citizens of this great republic.

Primary Source: Speech by Henry Clay on the American System (1832)

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I stand before you to discuss a matter of utmost importance - the American System. This comprehensive plan is designed to strengthen our great nation and secure its future prosperity. The American System consists of three vital components.

Firstly, we propose the establishment of a National Bank. This institution will serve as the bedrock of our financial stability, providing a uniform currency and regulating interstate commerce. It will encourage investment and promote economic stability.

Secondly, protective tariffs are essential to safeguard our fledgling industries from foreign competition. By imposing tariffs on imported goods, we protect American manufacturers, stimulate domestic production, and create jobs for our citizens.

Lastly, internal improvements are the arteries of our nation. We must invest in infrastructure - roads, canals, and railways - to facilitate trade and transportation across state lines. This will not only unite our growing country but also enhance economic growth.

The American System is not without its critics, but I firmly believe it is the path to our nation's greatness. It is a plan for the people, a blueprint for a united and prosperous United States.

Primary Source: Excerpt from the Missouri Compromise (1820)

Article I - Admission of Missouri:

Missouri shall be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, with the status of a slave state.

Article II - Admission of Maine:

Maine shall be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, with the status of a free state.

Article III - Slavery in Certain Territories:

Slavery shall be prohibited in all that part of the Louisiana Territory north of the parallel 36°30' north, except for the state of Missouri.

Article IV - Fugitive Slaves:

The federal government shall assist in the return of escaped slaves to their owners, as required by law.

Article V - Preservation of Balance:

It is the intent of this compromise to maintain an equal number of free and slave states, recognizing the diverse interests within the Union.

Primary Source: Nullification Proclamation by South Carolina (1832)

We, the people of South Carolina, in defense of our sovereignty and constitutional rights, hereby declare our opposition to the recent tariffs imposed by the federal government. These tariffs, we believe, unfairly burden our state and our economy. As a result, we assert the doctrine of nullification, maintaining our right to declare these tariffs null and void within our borders.

Our state has endured these oppressive tariffs, and we find it necessary to protect the interests of our citizens. The federal government's actions have infringed upon our rights, and we stand united in our determination to assert the principle of state sovereignty.

In taking this stance, we hope to engage in peaceful dialogue with the federal authorities to resolve these matters and reaffirm our allegiance to the Union. We firmly believe that our actions are in defense of the Constitution and the rights of our state.

Primary Source: Excerpt from John L. O'Sullivan's Article on Manifest Destiny (1845)

In this great nation's destiny, we find a divine mission, a sacred trust bestowed upon us by Providence itself. It is our destiny to overspread and possess the vast continent that Providence has given us for development, to extend our principles, our institutions, and

our industry across the land. We are destined to become a mighty nation, the greatest in history.

Our expansion westward is not driven by mere conquest, but by the moral duty to bring the blessings of civilization and freedom to the wilderness. As we advance, we bring the light of democracy, Christianity, and progress. This is our Manifest Destiny.

However, we must also recognize the challenges and conflicts that may arise as we fulfill this destiny. We must grapple with questions of territory, statehood, and the rights of indigenous peoples. It is our duty to approach these issues with wisdom, compassion, and fairness.

Primary Source: Excerpt from President James K. Polk's Address on Texas Annexation (1845)

Fellow citizens,

Today, I stand before you to address a momentous decision for our nation - the annexation of the Republic of Texas. After careful consideration, I firmly believe that this union is in the best interests of the United States and Texas.

The people of Texas have expressed their desire to become part of our great Union. In welcoming Texas as a state, we extend the blessings of liberty and opportunity to our fellow Americans in the Lone Star Republic. Texas, with its vast resources and strategic location, will contribute to the prosperity and security of our nation.

While this annexation is not without its challenges, we are committed to addressing the issues of slavery and the boundary dispute with Mexico in a just and responsible manner. We approach these matters with the aim of maintaining harmony and peace.

Let us move forward with confidence, knowing that this expansion strengthens our nation and secures our future as a beacon of freedom and progress.