Independence to Monroe Doctrine

How did a global conflict originating in Europe help bring about the American state? What challenges did Great Britain face in managing its colonies in North America in light of the Seven Years/French & Indian War?

How did France help to secure independence for the American colonies from Great Britain? What role did the Declaration of Independence play in signaling to France that the American colonies were worth supporting in its drive for independence?

How did the Articles of Confederation and its concentration of power in the states shape American foreign policy?

How did war and the anticipation of war in Europe lead to constructing a constitution with a stronger national government capable of reining in state powers?

•

How did Washington’s Farewell Address set a precedent of isolationism for the United States? What was Washington’s fear regarding international cleavages and American domestic politics ?

•

How did the threat posed by Napoleon influence the development of the United States (both through the Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812)?

•

What were the main principles of the Monroe Doctrine? Why did the U.S. assert such an ambitious foreign policy statement at this time? What was Great Britain’s role in enforcing the Monroe Doctrine?

**WAR AND INDEPENDENCE**

**The International Politics of American Independence: The Seven Years War/French-Indian War (1756-1763)**

Important consequence was dramatic British victory

Global conflict, originating in Europe

Great Britain huge territorial gains (from France and Spain) in North America

New challenges for the British in N. America

Paying for the war (137 million pounds)

Protecting western frontier – more troops, 10000 (2x)

**The International Politics of American Independence: Moving toward independence**

War shocks the political relationship between Great Britain and the colonies

Significant new taxes to pay for the troops

Stamp Act, Sugar Act, Currency Act, Townshend Act, Monopoly on Tea Trade

Political opposition, increasingly focused on independence, mobilizes in colonies

Great Britain responds with new limits on self-governance (Coercive act of 1774)

**The International Politics of American Independence: The Foreign Politics of Independence and War**

Great Britain was the strongest military power in the world at the time

Key foreign policy goal to counter military weakness: Secure French aid (loans and military support)

Declaration of Independence: signal to French that committed to independence, worthy of investment, irrevocable signal to British

Alliance with France in 1778

Victory at Saratoga in 1777 signals chance at victory

Each guarantees others’ possessions in N. America, **no separate peace**, French aid, France fight until independence, French get British possessions in West Indies, commercial agreement

Important: alliance kills British offering of compromise peace

France seeks to weaken G. Britain, but also wants weak U.S. North America

Global coalition: France gets Spain in, Russia forms armed neutrality to protect neutral shipping (US can import)

**The International Politics of American Independence: The Foreign Politics of Independence and War**

French aid and military support, particularly naval support at Yorktown (1781), critical to victory

British make significant concessions, including recognition of independence, because of costs of war and threat of continuing onflict in Europe

“War made the state...” Charles Tilly, Euorpean politics and war, anglo-french war

The experience of the American revolution helped establish the new American state

**Articles of Confederation (1781)**

2 Points: Institutions matter in shaping FP (loose union->weak military), fear of security threats-> constitution

More like an alliance: loose union among the states, state loyalty more important

Congress possesses authority to control diplomatic relations, requisition money and soldiers from states, coin and borrow money, settle disputes among states

Commercial regulation and taxation remain with the states

Article 2: “each State retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this confederation delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.”

Federalist papers 1-25: warned of faults with AoC, neutrality pack over coming to aid to fellow states, some states could get entangled in euro affairs

**From the Articles to the Constitution (1789)**

Foreign policy and American weakness key role in move toward Constitution, tariffs

Weakness also provoke attack

European War fairly regular: US in danger of being drawn in, more so if loose confederation. Need to be able to enforce foreign treaties on states that resist

John Jay: Worry that state rivalry invite foreign intervention, alliances

Commercial problems created by different state tariffs; could strength commercial leverage if bargain as an entire economy

Shift debate from local internal distributional conflicts (access to western lands, different state size) to unifying, common issue—national strength and promote commercial access to euro markets

**Connecting the American and French Revolutions through War**

Fiscal strain of Seven Year War prompts Britain to alter relationship with colonies to secure new revenue sources

Fiscal strain of American Revolutionary War forces (Localities would not approve new loans 1788) French government to call Estates General to secure new revenues

Helps unleash French Revolution and subsequent wars, total war (1792-1802, 1803-1815), prompts American withdrawal from euro politics

**US foreign policy under Jefferson and Madison**

Two key developments—Louisiana Purchase-> and War of 1812

Reinforcing importance of external pressures (and war) to American political development

Grand strategy consistent with Washington

National interests

States’ rights

Commercial expansion (oriented around agricultural production)->|

Territorial expansion Louisiana Purchase

**Lousiana Purchase**

French lose control 1763, reestablish in 1800

Sources of French geopolitical weakness in North America

Haiti (1802 revolt)

War in principal theater of Europe

Jefferson’s threats to ally with Britain, and support for Haiti

American settlers in New Orleans

Pending resumption of European war creates French need for additional revenue

**THE WAR OF 1812**

**Commercial conflict with Britain**

American neutrality and the carry trade (middle men)

2/3 of all exports; US profiting from war in Europe

Illustrates importance of commercial interests to grand strategy

British seek to cut off all trade with continental Europe after 1803; trying to impose economic pain as part of total war strategy

Jefferson embargoes US trade with Europe, sailor conscription partly as punitive, economic alternative to war

Prompts internal political crisis in the United States (talks of succession)

**War of 1812**

War Hawks see British strategic focus on Europe as opportunity to conquer Canada and Florida

Military stalemate up to 1814 flames risk of secession in New England

Military outcomes and peace negotiations in Europe shape British willingness to make concessions that create peace in 1814

Ghent treaty effectively restores prewar territorial status quo

Again, European war critical to American political development

**John Quincy Adams and the Monroe Doctrine**

One of the most successful Secretaries of State (ADAMS)

Vision: Ardent expansionist who foresaw and strove for continental domination for the U.S. (manifest destiny)

Assertive But, careful not to involve the U.S. in foreign adventures:

"[America] goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy. She is the **well-wisher to the freedom and independence of al**l. She is the **champion and vindicator only of her own**.”

Architect of Monroe Doctrine

**Main principles of the Monroe Doctrine**

The Western Hemisphere was **no longer open for colonization**

Drew a line between colonies and newly independent Latin American states, extending American protection against European interference only to the latter

Dual message:

Asserted sphere of influence

Would refrain from participation in European wars and would not disturb existing colonies in Western Hemisphere

**Monroe Doctrine—Why then?**

Why did the U.S. assert the Monroe Doctrine when it did?

Latin American independence movements (unstable)

Developments in Europe

Napoleonic Wars, Holy Alliance (Russia, Prussia, Austria), and fear of return of monarchy

Balance of power system in Europe allowed for greater assertiveness

British help, in their interest to keep Spain out of western hemisphere

U.S. too weak to enforce the Monroe Doctrine but Great Britain and the British Navy enforced it for them

**Importance of the Monroe Doctrine**

Key Moment of Evolution of U.S. foreign policy

An assertive United States enters the world stage

Introduces key concepts/ideals:

Sphere of influence (we have a special role in our backyard)

Anti-colonialism, Protection of democracy

Basis for American imperialism?

Roosevelt Corollary (world police to stop instability in Latin ‘Murica)