

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Monroe Doctrine

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b'

By the early 1820s, numerous Latin American countries had won independence from Spain or Portugal. The US recognized new governments in Colombia, Mexico, Chile, Peru, and Argentina. But both the United States and Britain feared other European powers would attempt to re-colonize the region. At the same time, Russia was attempting to claim a right to the Pacific Northwest and banning non-Russian ships from the area. The US and Britain planned to work together and issue a joint resolution against colonization in Latin America. President James Monroe supported the idea, but his Secretary of State John Quincy Adams thought involvement with Britain might limit America's autonomy in the Western Hemisphere. Adams urged Monroe to make a declarative statement that the US alone claimed influence over the the affairs of the Western Hemisphere.

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2. b'

During a message to Congress on December 2, 1823, Monroe outlined what would later become known as the Monroe Doctrine. Written mostly by Adams, the message was clear: The Western Hemisphere is closed to European colonization, and any attempt to colonize the Americas would be viewed as a hostile act. In turn, the US would stay out of European affairs and continue to recognize existing European colonies. In other words, Europe can have the Old World, but the Western Hemisphere falls under America's sphere of influence.

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3. b'

At the time of the address, the American military and economy was nowhere near strong enough to back up Monroe's policy statement. The US didn't act when Britain occupied the Falkland Islands in 1833 and France and Britain enacted a naval blockade against Argentina in 1845. But after the Civil War, US power had grown, allowing America to back up the Monroe Doctrine. The first instance of the Monroe Doctrine being put into action was America's military and financial support of the overthrow of Emperor Maximilian in 1867, a French-installed emperor of Mexico. From then on, the Monroe Doctrine remained a cornerstone of American foreign policy.

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4. b'

From 1870 on, the Monroe Doctrine was expanded and reinterpreted to justify military intervention throughout Latin America. President Theodore Roosevelt had an aggressive interpretation of the doctrine. His approach, known as the Roosevelt Corollary, deputized the United States to police the internal affairs of Latin American countries. Roosevelt first invoked the Monroe Doctrine to intervene when European creditors threatened an armed effort to collect debts. Later, though, he did so to maintain US influence and preserve America's economic interests in the region.

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5. b'

Throughout the Cold War Era, multiple presidents invoked the Monroe Doctrine. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, John F. Kennedy ordered a naval quarantine of Cuba to stop the Soviet Union from building missile launch sites. Ronald Reagan invoked the doctrine to justify intervention in El Salvador in the 1980s. In 1989, George H.W. Bush approved a US invasion of Panama to remove military leader Manuel Noriega from power. After the Cold War, US military involvement in Latin America greatly diminished. But American economic and political influence over the Western Hemisphere remained intact.

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