



Historical Background

- (1) Revolt of Latin American colonies from Spain; increased British trade to them (as a result of Napoleon's Continental System)
- (2) Possible French and Spanish alliance to rebuild lost colonial empire in Americas
- (3) Russian Tsar issued an edict warning other nations away from Alaska
- (4) British approached America with offer of joint declaration

Responses by ex-President Jefferson, and Secretary of State John Quincy Adams

British withdraw offer to the US, and get France to commit to not sending army to the Americas

4 Points of Monroe Doctrine

1. "the American continents... are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers."
2. Toleration of current colonies: "with existing colonies... we... shall not interfere..."
3. Neutrality in European affairs
4. America would regard any future attempt to colonize "any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety."

An interesting point that Monroe made, was the emphasis on the great difference between European governments (monarchies) and those in the Americas (republics). Republics only gained their independence with much bloodshed, although this system was approved of "by the wisdom of their most enlightened citizens." The United States opposed the extension of royal colonies to the American continents.

Historical Impact

Not a commitment to go to war or maintain a pan-American alliance, but a policy

After the Civil War, 50,000 US troops (Civil War veterans) were sent to border with Mexico as warning to France, which had sent 30,000 troops to Mexico. Napoleon III announced in January 1866 that the troops would be withdrawn.

In the 1800s, Latin America remained free, while Africa and Asia were colonized and dominated.