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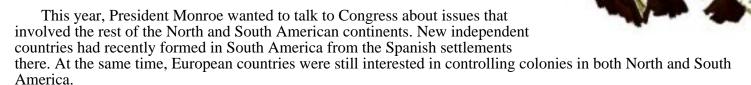


The Monroe Doctrine

By Sharon Fabian

One of the many jobs that the president of the United States does is to make a yearly speech to Congress. In this speech, the president talks about important current events.

In 1823, President James Monroe was in his second term as president. He had made six of these yearly speeches so far. This year he would be making his seventh one. He would address a joint session of Congress, which means that it would be a meeting of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.



Spain, France, and Russia still hoped for colonies in the Americas, and President Monroe saw this as a threat to the United States. England wanted the United States to join with them against the Spanish, French, and Russians. Some people thought that, since the United States was an independent country in America, it should support the new independent countries in South America. Monroe was afraid that this might lead to a war.

In his speech to Congress, he stated his ideas. He said, "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 power." He said that European interference in America would be "dangerous to our peace and safety."

Here are the main points that he made. First, there should be no more European colonization in America. Second, European countries should not interfere with the new, independent, Spanish American countries. Third, the United States should not interfere with European colonies that were already established in America.

This was not a law. It was just President Monroe's statement of what he believed would be best for the United States. The United States did not have any real power to enforce the provisions that he set out; however, it did receive support from England, which had a powerful Navy. England helped to prevent other countries from setting up new colonies in the Americas.

President Monroe made his speech just as the United States was becoming a world power. His speech told the rest of the world that the United States was taking an interest in more than just what happened inside of the United States. The United States was paying attention to whatever was happening in all of America.

President Monroe's speech set the stage for the United States to side with the other new countries in the Americas. It led to the United States taking on a role as the protector of the newly independent American countries.

After many years, the United States was still following the ideas set down by Monroe in his 1823 speech. The United States had believed in those ideas for so long, that it became more than just one speech. It became a doctrine -- a statement of the United States' policy. By about 20 years after President Monroe's death, his 1823 speech had become known as the Monroe Doctrine. Later presidents and congresses expanded on Monroe's ideas, and today, the Monroe Doctrine still helps to explain how the United States sees its role in the world.

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 1. James Monroe was president for years.
A. sixteen
B. eight C. four
D. two
 2. The Monroe Doctrine is a statement of
 A. the United States policy regarding the American continents B. independence for the United States C. war with Spain D. all of the above
 3. A meeting of the House of Representatives and the Senate together is called a session.
A. joint
B. major C. final
D. congress
 4. The Monroe Doctrine was important for
A. one year
B. eight years C. a few months
D. many years
 5. Which happened last?
A. Monroe made his first yearly speech to Congress.
B. Monroe made the speech that became known as the Monroe Doctrine.C. Monroe was elected president.
D. Monroe was elected for a second term.
 6. The Monroe Doctrine said
A. There should be no more European colonization in America.
B. European countries should not interfere with the new, independent, Spanish American countries.C. The United States should not interfere with European colonies that were already established in
America. D. all of the above
 7. In the 1820's the United States was
A. made up of 50 states B. a brand new country
C. becoming a world power
D. made up of 13 colonies

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8. After the Monroe	Doctrine was establish	hed, the United State	s was seen	as	
A. a protector of B. a country that	f North and South Am t never gets involved it t always sides with Eu	erican countries in other countries' af			
Copy the first quotation fro tell what you think Presiden	m James Monroe's s at Monroe might have	peech in the article e said next.	above. The	en add three or mo	re sentences to
The Monroe Doctrine was a involvement with the other with the other write a short speech giving in America or in another pa	parts of North and So your views about ho	outh America. Supp	pose that y	ou had just been el	ected president.