

NATIONAL ARCHIVES DOCUMENT

... At the proposal of the Russian Imperial Government, made through the minister of the Emperor residing here, a full power and instructions have been transmitted to the minister of the United States at St. Petersburg to arrange by amicable negotiation the respective rights and interests of the two nations on the northwest coast of this continent . . .

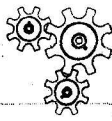
It was stated at the commencement of the last session that a great effort was then making in Spain and Portugal to improve the condition of the people of those countries, and that it appeared to be conducted with extraordinary moderation. It need scarcely be remarked that the results have been so far very different from what was then anticipated . . . In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy to do so. It is only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced that we resent injuries or make preparation for our defense. . . . The political system of the allied powers is essentially different in this respect from that of America. . . . But with the Governments who have declared their independence and maintain 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. . . .

... Our policy in regard to Europe, which was adopted at an early stage of the wars which have so long agitated that quarter of the globe, nevertheless remains the same, which is, not to interfere in the internal concerns of any of its powers; to consider the government de facto as the legitimate government for us . . .

Map of the United States, 1810.



Critical Thinking



Analyze Cause and Effect

In what way did the Monroe Doctrine attempt to benefit U.S. trade relations with Latin America?

Determine Point of View

At the time of the Monroe Doctrine, Spain's remaining colonies lay off the coast of Florida. The lucrative trade and political advantage of acquiring these islands did not elude John Quincy Adams. However, in a letter to President Monroe, Thomas Jefferson advised the following:

I candidly confess, that I have ever looked on Cuba as the most interesting addition which could ever be made to our system of States. The control which, with Florida Point, this island would give us over the Gulf of Mexico, and the countries and isthmus bordering on it, as well as all those

whose waters flow into it, would fill up the measure of our political well-being. Yet, as I am sensible that this can never be obtained, even with her own consent, but by war; and its independence, which is our second interest, (and especially its independence of England,) can be secured without it, I have no hesitation in abandoning my first wish to future chances, and accepting its independence, with peace and the friendship of England, rather than its association, at the expense of war and her enmity.

Summarize Jefferson's point of view in regard to expansion into Cuba.

Draw Conclusions

How had the United States become a stakeholder in international affairs by 1823?

would be more candid, as well as more dignified, to avow our principles explicitly to Russia and France, than to come in as a cock-boat in the wake of the British man-of-war.

Research the encounter between Czar Alexander I and the Monroe Administration. What did Adams mean when he said he didn't want America "to come in as a cock-boat in the wake of the British man-of-war?" How did the British factor into this event? How effective was the Holy Alliance? What efforts did Adams take to reverse Russia's claim? What were the provisions of the 1824 treaty with Russia?

Link to the Past

Read the Monroe Doctrine in its entirety. Compare and contrast the tenets of the Monroe Doctrine with the foreign policy of the current administration. How does the United States today view its relationship with other nations? What role does the President advocate for the United States in the affairs of foreign governments? Focus on one recent event. How did current foreign policy impact diplomatic management of that event? Did American actions support or contradict the tenets of the Monroe Doctrine?