

Excerpt from The Monroe Doctrine  
(taken from Infoplease)

### The Monroe Doctrine

The Monroe Doctrine was announced in President James Monroe's message to Congress, during his second term on Dec. 2, 1823, in part as follows:

"In the discussions to which this interest has given rise, and in the arrangements by which they may terminate, the occasion has been deemed proper for asserting as a principle in which rights and interests of the United States are involved, that the 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.... We owe it, therefore, to candor and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and those powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we have not interfered and shall not interfere. 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."

**Vocabulary:**

Terminate: to end

Henceforth: now

Amicable: Friendly

Oppressing: Putting down

Deemed: considered

Candor: honesty

Interposition: interference

Manifestation: Appearance

Questions for Understanding:

1. According to President Monroe, who should stay out of further colonization of the American continents?
2. What do you think we are saying we will do about anyone possibly coming into the American colonies and colonizing?
3. What do you think has given the American government the confidence to make such a strong statement to the existing empires of the world?