

## THE MONROE DOCTRINE

**Directions:** *Using the resource provided, please answer the questions that follow to the best of your ability.*

*In the early 1800s, many of Spain's American colonies had fought for and won their independence. For countries like our neighbor Mexico, these were difficult years. Then, in 1823, other European powers - Austria, Russia, Prussia, and France - were threatening to help Spain re-conquer its American colonies. In response, United States President James Monroe announced a new policy in his seventh annual message to Congress on December 2, 1823.*

...as a principle in which the 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 powers...

In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves we have never taken any part, nor does it [agree] 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. We ...therefore ...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 or shall not interfere....

Our policy in regard to Europe...remains the same, which is, not to interfere in the internal concerns of any of its powers....

It is impossible that the allied powers should extend their political system to any portion of either continent without endangering our peace and happiness; nor can anyone believe that our southern brethren, if left to themselves, would adopt it of their own [will]. It is equally impossible, therefore, that we should behold such [interference] in any form with indifference....

1. Why was the Monroe Doctrine issued?

2. In what way was this a warning to the European powers?