

MILESTONES IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY: LATIN AMERICA

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I. THE MONROE DOCTRINE

A. REASONS THE MONROE DOCTRINE WAS ISSUED

1. The Monroe Doctrine was intended to do the following:
 - ▶ Warn France, Russia, and Spain against further colonization or intervention in the New World
 - ▶ Express opposition to further European colonization in the New World
 - ▶ Protect republican institutions of government in the New World
 - ▶ Express America's intent to refrain from involvement in European rivalries
 - ▶ Assert American independence in foreign policy

B. PRINCIPLES OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE

1. The Monroe Doctrine was a unilateral declaration of the following principles:
 - ▶ Europe and the Western Hemisphere have essentially different political systems.
 - ▶ The American continents are no longer open to European colonization.
 - ▶ The United States will regard European interference in the political affairs of the Western Hemisphere as hostile behavior.
 - ▶ The United States will protect republican institutions of government in the Western Hemisphere.
 - ▶ The United States will not interfere in the internal affairs of European nations.

C. ROLE OF THE BRITISH NAVY

1. The United States lacked the military power to enforce the Monroe Doctrine.
2. However, the principles expressed in the Monroe Doctrine were consistent with British foreign policy goals.
3. Although the British did not formally endorse the Monroe Doctrine, their navy was a de facto enforcer of its principles.

III. THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

A. CAUSES OF THE WAR

1. The battleship USS *Maine* was sunk mysteriously in Havana harbor.
2. There was a circulation battle between the "yellow journalism" newspapers of Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst. The sensational stories in both newspapers played a significant role in arousing public support for a war to liberate Cuba and avenge the sinking of the *Maine*.

B. TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS

1. As a result of the Spanish-American War, Spain relinquished to the United States control of the following:
 - ▶ Guam
 - ▶ Puerto Rico
 - ▶ Cuba
 - ▶ The Philippines
2. When the United States established a protectorate over Cuba, it practiced imperialism.

C. THE DEBATE OVER ANNEXING THE PHILIPPINES

1. The Anti-Imperialism League opposed annexation, arguing that it violated America's long-established commitment to the principles of self-determination and anticolonialism.
2. Supporters of annexation argued that America had a moral responsibility to "civilize" the islands. They also pointed out that the Philippines could become a valuable trading partner.

III. THE ROOSEVELT COROLLARY TO THE MONROE DOCTRINE

A. REASONS THE ROOSEVELT COROLLARY WAS ISSUED

1. President Theodore Roosevelt worried that the Dominican Republic and other Latin American nations would default on debts owed to European banks. These defaults could then provoke European military intervention.
2. Roosevelt issued the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine to forestall European intervention.

B. PRINCIPLES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE COROLLARY

1. The Roosevelt Corollary asserted America's right to intervene in the affairs of Central America and the Caribbean.
2. It expanded America's role in Central America and the Caribbean.
3. It claimed America's right to act as an international police power in Central and South America. Presidents Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson enforced the Roosevelt Corollary by sending American troops to Cuba, Panama, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Haiti.
4. Here is how Theodore Roosevelt explained and justified the Roosevelt Corollary:

"Chronic wrongdoing, or an impotence which results in a general loosening of the ties of civilized society, may in America, as elsewhere, ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and in the Western Hemisphere the adherence of the United States to the Monroe Doctrine may force the United States . . . to the exercise of an international police power."



The Monroe Doctrine and the Roosevelt Corollary are two of the most frequently tested topics on the APUSH exam. Make sure that you carefully study this list of key points for both of these foreign policies.

IV. DOLLAR DIPLOMACY**A. REASONS FOR DOLLAR DIPLOMACY**

1. During the presidency of William Howard Taft, U.S. policy in Latin America was primarily driven by concerns for U.S. economic and strategic interests in the region.

B. AN EXAMPLE OF DOLLAR DIPLOMACY

1. William Howard Taft's use of American bankers to refinance the foreign debt of Nicaragua exemplifies Dollar Diplomacy.

V. THE GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY**A. REASONS FOR THE GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY**

1. The United States sought greater cooperation with the nations of Latin America, primarily to develop a hemispheric common front against Fascism.

B. PRINCIPLES OF THE GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

1. The Roosevelt administration formally renounced U.S. armed intervention in the affairs of Latin America.
2. As part of its Good Neighbor policy, the United States participated in reciprocal trade agreements with nations in Latin America.

VI. THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS**A. REASONS FOR THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS**

1. The Alliance for Progress was initiated by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. It aimed to establish economic cooperation between North America and South America.
2. The Alliance for Progress was intended to counter the emerging Communist threat from Cuba.

B. RESULTS OF THE ALLIANCE

1. The Alliance for Progress was a brief public relations success.
2. Although there were some limited economic gains, the Alliance for Progress was widely viewed as a failure.
3. The Organization of American States disbanded the Alliance for Progress in 1973.



Although most students are keenly aware of the Monroe Doctrine and the Roosevelt Corollary, few can identify FDR's Good Neighbor Policy and JFK's Alliance for Progress. Both initiatives were short-lived and had few lasting consequences. Don't fall into the trap of neglecting these topics, however. APUSH test writers have an uncanny knack for remembering topics that students often forget.

VII. KENNEDY AND CUBA**A. THE BAY OF PIGS**

1. President Kennedy inherited from the Eisenhower administration a CIA-backed scheme to topple Fidel Castro from power by invading Cuba with anti-Communist exiles.
2. When the invasion failed, Kennedy refused to rescue the insurgents, forcing them to surrender.
3. Widely denounced as a fiasco, the Bay of Pigs defeat damaged U.S. credibility.
4. The Bay of Pigs failure, along with continuing American covert efforts to assassinate Castro, pushed the Cuban dictator into an even closer alliance with the Soviet Union.
5. Soviet Premier Khrushchev responded by secretly sending nuclear missiles to Cuba.

B. THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

1. The Cuban Missile Crisis was precipitated by the discovery of Soviet missile sites in Cuba.
2. As part of the negotiations to end the Cuban Missile Crisis, President Kennedy promised to refrain from a military invasion of Cuba.