

THE MONROE DOCTRINE

AMERICA'S STAND
AGAINST EUROPEAN
INTERVENTION



European Threats and British Proposal

- **1823:** France, backed by the Holy Alliance, invaded Spain to restore King Ferdinand VII.
- Rumors spread that France might restore Spanish control in South America.
- Russia showed interest in Pacific coastal expansion.
- These moves alarmed both Britain and the U.S.



Adams vs. British Proposal

- British foreign secretary Canning proposed a joint U.S.-UK warning to Europe.
- Most U.S. leaders approved—but Adams opposed it.
- He feared it would serve British interests and restrict future U.S. expansion (e.g., Cuba, Texas).
- Adams advised Monroe to act unilaterally.



Key Points of the Monroe Doctrine



1. **No New Colonization:** America closed to new European colonization.
2. **No European Intervention:** Political interference in the Western Hemisphere is a threat.
3. **U.S. Neutrality in Europe:** No interference in European affairs.
4. (Later Add-on) **No Territory Transfers:** U.S. opposes European handovers in the Americas.

Impact and Legacy

- No immediate European pushback, but doctrine asserted U.S. authority.
- Monroe left the door open to peaceful territorial expansion.
- The doctrine shaped U.S. foreign policy for decades.

