

# Monroe Administration 1817-1825

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## James Monroe



James Monroe went to the College of William and Mary and graduated as a lawyer in 1776. He joined the Continental Army and earned

recognition as a fighter. In 1782, he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates and later to the Continental Congress. During the ratification process, Monroe joined the Anti-federalists opposing the Constitution. Monroe feared that a strong executive might lead to a tyranny like that of a king. Nonetheless, Monroe became a Senator in Congress in 1791. Between 1794 and 1796, he was minister to France and in 1799 he was elected governor of Virginia. Finally, Madison appointed him secretary of state in 1811.

1. What did James Monroe worry about the executive? (circle one)

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- e. might be too weak
- h. Congress might destroy it
- s. might lead to a tyranny
- y. the executive needed more power

## The Presidency

James Monroe became the fifth president of the United States in 1817. It had been two years since the end of the War of 1812 and people began thinking of themselves as Americans rather than a collection of individual states. Since the end of the Revolutionary War, the United States had to deal with several foreign conflicts.

As a result, during his presidency, Monroe stressed the importance of building forts and strengthening the navy to protect American shipping while remaining neutral. America preferred isolationism—staying out of foreign affairs.

2. Why did Americans prefer isolationism? (infer, circle two)

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- e. to prevent the loss of overseas trade
- h. to avoid conflicts with foreign powers
- s. to avoid the need of a military
- y. to avoid trade with other countries

## Foreign Diplomacy

In 1817, Seminoles striking from Spanish Florida attacked settlers along the Georgia border. President Monroe sent the hero of New Orleans, General Andrew Jackson, to stop the raids. Jackson pushed the Seminoles out of Georgia then he began an invasion of Florida conquering several towns. Along the way, he executed two British citizens for encouraging the Seminoles to attack Americans. Both Britain and Spain protested Jackson's actions.

President Monroe sent Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, son of former president John Adams, to make a deal with Spain. In the Adams-Onís Treaty (1819), Spain gave Florida to the United States. In return, the federal government agreed to take over the \$5 million debt Spain owed to American citizens. Also, the United States agreed to give up its claim to Spanish Texas, an area that the United States claimed was a part of the Louisiana Purchase.

3. Who defeated the Seminoles? (circle one)

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- e. James Monroe
- h. Andrew Jackson
- s. John Quincy Adams
- y. Georgia Border

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4. The Adams-Onís Treaty did the following: (circle three)

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- e. France sold Louisiana Territory
- h. the U.S. took over the Spanish debt
- s. the U.S. gave up Spanish Texas
- y. the U.S. acquired Florida

## Monroe Doctrine

While the United States was a growing power in North America, Spain began losing its hold on its New World Empire. After several attempts, Mexico won its independence in 1821. Since the early 1800s, several Spanish colonies in South America began revolting. Simon Bolivar helped Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia gain their independence. Other revolutionaries such as Jose de San Martin also led struggles against Spain. By 1825, Spanish rule in most of the New World came to an end.

In 1821, Russia announced that it claimed all of the west coast of North America from Alaska down to the 51° parallel (just above the modern U.S. / Canadian border). The United States and Britain countered that much of this land was a part of Oregon Territory—land jointly owned by the United States and Britain. The following year, France and many other European countries, fearing revolts in their own colonies around the globe,

wanted to help Spain regain its New World empire.

Both Secretary of State John Quincy Adams and President James Monroe feared new European colonization in the Americas may lead to conflict with the United States. In an annual message to Congress in December 1823, President Monroe made four points concerning European and American relations: (1) the United States would not interfere with the political affairs of Europe, (2) the United States would not interfere with any current European colonies in the New World, (3) Europe could not start any new colonies the New World, and (4) Europe could not try to influence any New World countries. This policy became known as the Monroe Doctrine.

The United States lacked the strength to enforce the Doctrine and Europe largely ignored it. However, the Monroe Doctrine became the foundation of American foreign policy. In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt used it as a reason to interfere in Latin American countries. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan used the Monroe Doctrine to justify supporting anti-communist rebels in El Salvador and Nicaragua. In 2013, Secretary of State John Kerry announced that the “era of the Monroe Doctrine over.” He stressed that the U.S. would now work with Latin American countries as equals to solve common problems.

5. Most of Spain’s control in the New World came to an end by... (circle one)

- e. 1800
- h. 1821
- s. 1823
- y. 1825

6. The Monroe Doctrine stated... (circle two)

- e. the U.S. opposed European intervention in the Americas
- h. Europe could not start any new colonies in the Americas
- s. Russia could colonize above the 51st parallel
- y. Spain could have its colonies returned

7. The United States opposed European colonization in the New World because... (draw conclusions, circle two)

- e. Spain wanted its colonies returned
- h. the U.S. hoped to conquer South America
- s. the U.S. wanted to avoid European conflict
- y. Simon Bolivar supported Spanish rule

### Domestic Issues

The two terms that Monroe served as president became known as the Era of Good Feelings as a result of political stability after the Federalist Party had collapsed. However, by 1819, sectional conflict between free states and slave states began to take on national importance.

The people of Missouri Territory asked to join the Union as a slave state. In 1820, the United States had 11 free states and 11 slave states—an equal balance. Northern free states objected to Missouri being admitted as a slave state as that would give the Southern states more votes in the Senate. Southern states countered that they had a right to spread slavery. To avoid rising tension between sections, Henry Clay pushed through Congress legislation known as the Missouri Compromise:

1. Missouri would be admitted as a slave state.
2. Maine would be admitted as a free state.
3. Slavery would be banned above the 36° 30’ latitude.

Thus, the United States would remain an even number of free and slave states. In addition, Congress limited the expansion of slavery northward above the southern border of Missouri. While this legislation prevented hostility between the North and the South, both sides still grumbled about the expansion of slavery into United States territories.

8. What issues led to the Missouri Compromise? (circle two)

- e. the admission of Maine as a free state
- h. the admission of Missouri as a slave state
- s. an imbalance between free states and slave states
- y. the collapse of the Federalist Party