

16

Cornerstones of United States
Foreign Policy

Throughout its existence, the United States has established consistent principles of behavior toward various parts of the world. This consistency has been shaped by geography, domestic politics, and the unique features of each overseas region. During its first 150 years, America built three distinct foreign policies in Europe, Asia, and South America.

The chart on the following page provides an overview of the cornerstones of U. S. foreign policy: isolationism in Europe, the Monroe Doctrine in South America, and the Open Door in Asia. Each of these policies changed in some ways during the second half of the twentieth century as America emerged from World War II as a superpower with a dedication to containing Soviet Communism. This chart should be used in conjunction with the charts on containment of Communism in Lesson 34, America's role in Vietnam in Lesson 35, and the chart of famous doctrines in Lesson 36. Together, these charts review both the continuity and change in America's basic foreign-policy principles.

As you study this chart, consider several questions. How did the United States define its national interest in each of the three areas of the world? What specific regional and cultural conditions shaped America's foreign-policy response in each area? Are there consistent threads of interest that run through all aspects of U.S. foreign policy?

Directions: Analyze the chart on cornerstones of American foreign policy, and then answer the following questions.

1. One consequence of the Monroe Doctrine was that
 - (A) Russia decided to ally with the United States to keep other European nations out of South America
 - (B) England and America clashed repeatedly over their foreign interests during the nineteenth century
 - (C) the doctrine forced America into unwanted European alliances
 - (D) America became increasingly aggressive in enforcing the doctrine in the Western Hemisphere
2. The United States believed its Open Door Policy was threatened when countries tried to
 - (A) achieve exclusive trading rights in various regions of China
 - (B) spread foreign ideologies among the Chinese people
 - (C) establish multilateral trade arrangements in China
 - (D) spread Christianity among the Chinese people
3. A common characteristic of the three American foreign policy cornerstones was that all of them
 - (A) promoted friendships with European powers
 - (B) resulted in large territorial acquisitions for the United States
 - (C) were issued to protect American interests
 - (D) were directed toward American interests in Asia

Enhancing Understanding
located on page 67

Cornerstones of U.S. Foreign Policy

	Isolationism	Monroe Doctrine	Open Door
Area of World	Europe	Western Hemisphere	Asia
Year Established	1793, 1796	1823	1899–1900
Author(s)	George Washington	James Monroe John Quincy Adams	John Hay
Background	<p>Proposed when England and France went to war 1793</p> <p>Both countries expected our help</p> <p>U.S. had an alliance with France from Revolution</p>	<p>U.S. feared Spanish recolonization in South America</p> <p>U.S. feared Russian colonies on west coast of U.S.</p> <p>England wanted to be a partner in issuance; U.S. said no to dual authorship</p>	<p>After Spanish War (1898) U.S. became interested in China</p> <p>Europeans were already in China and had created trading spheres of influence that could exclude U.S.</p>
Elements	<p>Neutrality in European affairs</p> <p>No entangling military or political alliances for U.S.</p> <p>Europe/U.S. have separate spheres of interest</p> <p>Commercial relations maintained</p>	<p>No new colonies in Western Hemisphere.</p> <p>Existing colonies left alone by U.S.</p> <p>Isolationism from Europe reinforced from earlier foreign policy pronouncements</p> <p>Discouraged extension of monarchies into Americas</p>	<p>All nations share equal trading rights in China</p> <p>All countries must guarantee China's territorial integrity</p>
Comments	<p>Washington's Farewell Address in 1796 reinforced ideas</p> <p>Resulted in war in 1812, 1917</p> <p>Established a policy that lasted until 1949 when U.S. joined NATO</p> <p>Cited as reason to oppose League of Nations in 1919</p>	<p>England enforced doctrine for 70 years</p> <p>Roosevelt Corollary (1904) strengthened it</p> <p>U.S. became policeman of Caribbean</p> <p>"Big Stick" to keep down "chronic wrongdoing"</p> <p>Later became "Dollar Diplomacy" to control of the Caribbean region</p> <p>U.S. aggressiveness alienated many South American countries</p>	<p>U.S. became protector of China, but mainly sought trade access</p> <p>Boxer Rebellion (1900) frightened U.S. because China's territory might be divided by European powers</p> <p>Japan became greatest threat to Open Door</p> <p>When U.S. challenged Japan's violation of Open Door, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor</p>

Source Activities

Directions: Using the cartoon below and your knowledge of American history, answer the following questions.



Puck Magazine, 1906

Multiple-Choice

1. The attitude expressed in the cartoon was most directly caused by the
 - (A) closing of the frontier in the late nineteenth century
 - (B) imperialist spirit in the late nineteenth century
 - (C) economic turmoil in the late nineteenth century
 - (D) debate over free silver in the late nineteenth century
2. The sentiment expressed in the cartoon most directly contributed to which of the following?
 - (A) United States activism in the South American/Caribbean regions
 - (B) United States acceptance of international cooperation in the South American/Caribbean region
 - (C) United States involvement in European affairs rather than the South American/Caribbean region
 - (D) United States withdrawal of aid to the South American/Caribbean region

Short-Answer

Using the cartoon, answer parts a, b, and c.

- a) Explain how ONE of the following individuals or groups in the early twentieth century would respond to the sentiment expressed in the cartoon:
 - An American President from 1898–1920
 - A European Head of State from 1898–1920
 - The Native populations of South and Central America from 1898–1920
- b) Briefly explain how ONE of the remaining individuals or groups not selected would counter the sentiment you selected in part a.
- c) Briefly explain how ONE development in the years 1930–1965 challenged the point of view expressed in the cartoon.

Enhancing Understanding

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE — an area (i.e., a country, group of countries, or area within a country) where a foreign nation has exclusive trading rights, denying access to other parties hoping to establish commercial relationships. This “favored nation” policy is often accompanied by political/ military dominance by the nation that established the sphere.