

American Power Politics in Latin America: The Monroe Doctrine and the Roosevelt Corollary

Introduction (One Page)

General introduction

- General question of what I want to answer
 - The focus of my paper will be on three major pieces of American Foreign Policy and how they have shaped Latin America.
 - The pieces I will use are the Monroe Doctrine, and the Roosevelt Corollary
 - Included in this I will give a historiography of how United States and Latin American Historians portray each policy
 - My thesis is generally that the Monroe Doctrine was portrayed as a very weak document that did not have a whole lot of impact on the people of Latin America. When it comes to the Roosevelt corollary is that the United States authors wrote of it more as a means to control the region and protect the people of both the United States and Latin America both from threats abroad, and threats with in Latin America

The Monroe Doctrine (Three Pages)

- General information about it
 - Written by United States President James Monroe
 - Given as a speech to US congress in December 1823
 - Made US claim to affairs of Latin America
 - Did not commit United States to noninterference in region, but US focus is elsewhere for now
 - Told European Powers to stay away
 - Made primarily in United States self defense to keep European Powers away
 - Was not established as a means for the United States to establish direct colonies with in Latin America
 - More of a policy directed at European Powers more than anything
- Events in Latin America directly related to Monroe Doctrine
 - Spanish-American War 1898 (Cuba, Puerto Rico)
 - 1852-53 Argentina
 - Nicaragua 1853, 1854, 1894
 - Uruguay 1855
- Why was needed
 - United States had no real power in Monroe Doctrine this document no good and the Roosevelt Corollary to act within the Sovereign states of Latin America. They only laid claim to Latin America in efforts to prevent colonization by European Powers

- In order to get what it wanted out of Latin America, the United States needed to be able to directly manipulate the political systems with in some Latin American countries.
- The United State's stand in the world system had changed, they now possessed one of the top navies in the world and could make more of a bold statement and defend it with regards to Latin America
- **Historiography**
 - Written as a very weak document that really had to means of enforcement
 - United States Historians praise it as a means to protect the Latin American people from the old powers of Europe
 - Latin American historians writing about US as a scared state trying to make a claim in Latin America without hurting anyone's feeling.
 - LA historians write about it as a good way of protecting LA from European powers
- **Conclusion of Monroe Doctrine**
 - What were its lasting impacts on Latin America
 - Used as a scape goat for the United States to participate in actions that were otherwise illegal
 - One of the first real pieces of US foreign policy
 - Set a precedent of the United State's relationship with Latin America

Roosevelt Corollary (Three Pages)

- **General Information about it**
 - Proclaimed by United States President Theodore Roosevelt in 1904
 - Leaders of Dominican Republic asked Roosevelt to protect them from European collectors
 - Used as another way to keep European Interests out of the Western Hemisphere
 - Formally declared United States would adopt a direct Intervention relationship with Latin America in order to ensure stability with in the region
 - United States now possessed the "Great White Fleet" and thus the ability to enforce any territorial like claims to Latin America
- **How did this document affect Latin America?**
 - United States Government could not step in and intervene when ever it saw fit
 - De legitimized Latin American sovereignty
 - Made it more of a Big Brotherly role of the United States to protect the "Little Brother" of Latin America
 - Directly involved United States in a number of different Policing actions, Customs Receiverships, and Military Occupations
 - Any new government that wanted to seek power may not have due to the threat of United States Intervention
- **What did it do that the Monroe Doctrine did not?**
 - Formally established an Intervention based relationship between the United States an Latin America

- United States would step in to correct any situation in order to ensure stability
- Monroe Doctrine focused on keeping European Powers out, Roosevelt Corollary focused on letting United States in
- Events in Latin America directly related to Roosevelt Corollary
 - Panama 1903 (although this was slightly before the Corollary, it was under the same president and generally follows the principles of the Corollary)
 - Cuba (Platt Amendment)
 - Troops 1906-1909, 1912, 1917-1921
 - Haiti 1930s
 - Financial Supervision 1916-1941
 - Dominican Republic 1916-1924
 - Financial Supervision 1905-1941
 - Nicaragua
 - Us troops 1909-1910, 1912-1925, 1926-1933
 - Financial Supervision 1911-1924
- Historiography
 - United States Historians praise document somewhat as a means of the United States to control the hemisphere and manipulate it to their liking
 - Latin American Historians more critical of it since it breaches the boundaries of sovereignty established
- Conclusion of Roosevelt Corollary
 - Hypocrisy? The Monroe Doctrine was established to protect Latin America from the very thing which the United States was now doing to them
 - Directly interconnected policies of Latin America and United States
 - Allowed United States corporations to start exploiting Latin America since if countries tried to stop them, the United States government could just intervene on behalf of the corporations

Good Neighbor Policy (One-Two Pages)

- What was it
 - 1933 Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Good Neighbor policy
 - ended the intervention based relationship between the United States and Latin America
 - led to 1936 Protocol of nonintervention at Inter –American conference in Buenos Aires Argentina
 - Went along with isolationist feelings of American, trying to stay out of another European war
- What it meant for Latin America
 - SOVERIGNTY, uninhibited
 - Still very much under the influence of United States, but were at least out from underneath them now

- Tried and tested, 1937 Mexico nationalizes American Oil companies. United States does not intervene
- Historiography
 - Latin Americans historians praised it since it gave more solidarity to individual nations and allowed them to act independently without as much fear of United States response
 - Some United States historians saw it as a step back away from a world power, but since the United States was in the grips of the Great Depression they saw it as necessary to stay out of other countries affairs, at least until the United States could fix their own problems

Conclusion (One Page)

- American politics goes full circle from no intervention, to full and then back to no
- Latin Americans effected differently by each step
- United States Historians tend to praise anything that gives the US more power, they are somewhat borderline with the Good Neighbor Policy
- Latin American Historians generally ok with Monroe Doctrine, Not so much about Roosevelt Corollary, but fine with Good Neighbor Policy
- United States now in more of a phases of Good Neighbors but there are incentives for staying close. Latin American countries either very tight to United States (Puerto Rico, Mexico) or defiant (Cuba, Venezuela)