

### The Monroe Doctrine.

The Monroe Doctrine has guided our nation from a small colony to the world's greatest power. It means "America, and nothing but America, for the Americans", that is, we forbid all foreign powers to mix into American affairs, but we also agree not to mix into the affairs of other continents. Is the Monroe Doctrine still sufficient for our nation's welfare, or must we abandon it, enter the concert (we should rather say discord today) of nations, and take part in all their squabbles and jealousies?

The Monroe Doctrine was written in protest against the league to enforce peace, which had been formed after the last world's war before the present one, the "holy alliance" of unholy memory. After the Napoleon wars the great powers which had ended the war and restored peace, formed a league to enforce peace. But all progress overturns existing conditions and so is a potential danger to peace, and so as a matter of course all progress had to be opposed by the league to enforce peace: the prisons and scaffolds of Europe were filled by those who had dreamed of political freedom. The atrocities committed ~~by the~~ against the Greeks, when the latter rose to gain their freedom from Turkish oppression,



were used by the league to enforce peace, because indeed the Greeks were disturbing the peace by trying to become free, and fortress prisons in the countries of the Holy alliance received those Greek leaders which had been fortunate enough to escape the Turkish slaughter. When the league to enforce peace made attempt to force back the South American nation into Spanish oppression, the Monroe Doctrine was the answer.

What reason or right have we to expect that a new league to enforce peace, after the present world's war, can be any different from the holy alliance? For a generation after the present war, as long as the memory of the war's destruction survives, there will be no other war, and no league to enforce peace is necessary. But after this, a league to enforce peace must again be a league to maintain existing conditions, that is, a league to crush all progress. To participate in an organization which of necessity must become a reactionary weapon against progress, is it worth while for us to abandon the principle laid down by Washington and re-affirmed by Monroe, the principles, which have made us a great, peaceable and prosperous nation?

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