



**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**  
 English Edition | Print Edition | Video | Audio | Latest Headlines | Puzzles | More

Business U.S. Politics Economy Tech Markets & Finance Opinion Free Expression Arts Lifestyle Real Estate Personal Finance

WORLD | AMERICAS | ESSAY

### Trump's 'Donroe Doctrine' Aims to Dominate the Americas

From attacking drug boats to pressuring Venezuela's leader, the president is putting the Western Hemisphere at the center of his foreign policy.

By Vera Bergengruen [Follow](#)  
 Oct. 22, 2025 9:00 pm ET

[Share](#) [Resize](#) [688](#) [Listen \(2 min\)](#)

[Click for Sound](#) 12:43 PM ET 11/17

**Most Popular News**

- Elite Colleges Are Back at the Top of the List for Company Recruiters
- How a \$3 Grocery Bag Became an International Status Symbol
- Gov. Tim Walz Drops Re-election Bid in Wake of Minnesota Fraud Scandal
- America is Falling Out of Love With Pizza
- Trump Was Skeptical of Ousting Maduro—Until He Wasn't

WSJ's Vera Bergengruen explains how the heightened rhetoric and military moves by the Trump administration and Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro could escalate. Photo: Martin Bernetti/AFP/Getty Images; Francis Chung/CNP/Zooma Press

Once a relic of 19th-century U.S. diplomacy, the Monroe Doctrine is back.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/17/world/americas/trump-latin-america-monroe-doctrine.html>

The Monroe Doctrine is a key part of U.S. foreign policy. President **James Monroe** issued the policy in 1823. It stated that **North** and **South America** were no longer open to **colonization**. It also declared that the United States would not allow European countries to interfere with independent governments in the Americas.

Monroe made four basic points: (1) the United States would not interfere in European affairs; (2) the United States recognized and would not interfere with existing colonies in the Americas; (3) the Western Hemisphere was closed to future colonization; and (4) if a European power tried to interfere with any nation in the Americas, that would be viewed as a hostile act against the United States.

The Monroe Doctrine worked. No serious European interference was attempted until 1861. In that year the leader of France tried to establish a monarchy in Mexico. The United States was just entering the **Civil War**, but it protested to France immediately. When the Civil War ended in 1865, the United States sent troops to the Mexican border and insisted on the removal of the French army. The French left in 1867.

The Monroe Doctrine has been expanded over the years. In 1904 President **Theodore Roosevelt** added the Roosevelt Corollary. The addition stated that the United States could become involved in a Latin American country's internal affairs in cases of clear and long-term wrongdoing by that Latin American country. However, this was reversed in the 1930s when President **Franklin Roosevelt** instituted the Good Neighbor Policy. According to that policy, the United States gave up its right to intervene in the internal affairs of other countries.

*Encyclopedia Britannica*