

Duke of Wellington, the British envoy, expressed in strong terms the decision of his government not to share in the coercion of Spain. In spite of this outspoken protest, the other great powers resolved on interference, and France was assigned the task of crushing out the budding freedom of her long-oppressed neighbour. This congress of Verona did more than discuss the propriety of restoring absolutism in Spain. It agitated the desirability of bringing into subjection to Spanish authority her colonies in South America, which had taken advantage of the Peninsular War to throw off the yoke of the Mother Country, and establish themselves as independent republics. France, it was thought, meditated giving her aid to Spain to recover these colonies, with a view to her own aggrandizement in the New World. The danger to the newly freed Spanish colonies was great, and the extension of French influence in the New World was a menace alike to England and the United States.

At that time Mr. George Canning was the leading spirit in British Foreign affairs, and he had assumed an attitude of pronounced opposition to the policy of the Holy Alliance in interfering with the internal affairs of other nations. Mr. Canning recognized the necessity of preventing the Alliance from taking action to coerce the Spanish colonies; but as England stood alone among the great powers in the policy of non-interference, Canning endeavored to enlist the support of the United States. He represented to Mr. Rush, the United States Ambassador in London, that his country's interests were likely to be imperilled if the Holy Alliance should succeed in forcing the Spanish colonies to return to their allegiance to the mother country. At first Mr. Rush was unwilling to move in the direction indicated by Mr. Canning,

as the policy of the United States was to remain neutral in the conflicts continually arising among the European nations. But Mr. Canning convinced him that the interests of the United States were at stake in the matter, and Mr. Rush then communicated to his own Government Mr. Canning's proposal that the United States should enter its protest against the Holy Alliance using force to destroy the independence of the Spanish American Republics.

James Monroe, the President at this time, had for his Secretary of State and chief adviser in foreign affairs, John Quincy Adams. The subject of making a formal declaration against European interference against Spanish America, was seriously debated in President Monroe's Cabinet, and Monroe was so uncertain as to the line of action he should take that he consulted among others, Jefferson and Madison, Ex-Presidents, and his political friends. The outcome of these anxious deliberations was the "Monroe Doctrine," which might perhaps be better named the "John Quincy Adams' Doctrine."

With considerable hesitancy on the part of Mr. Monroe the following passage was put into the Presidential message, which was sent to Congress in December, 1823: "That we should consider any attempt on the part of the allied powers to extend their system to any part of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power, we have not interfered, and shall not interfere. But with the Governments who have declared their independence and maintained it, and whose independence we have on great consideration and on just principles acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them or controlling in any other manner their destiny by any European