

Foreign Affairs – A Purchase and a Doctrine

“The Louisiana Purchase posed a challenge for President Thomas Jefferson. As a strict constructionist, he could not find any passage in the Constitution that stated that the president had the power to purchase territory. However, the land was valuable and would double the size of the United States. It would give Americans full control of the Mississippi River, the port of New Orleans, and the Great Plains. Jefferson eventually reasoned that the purchase was a treaty and the president had the power to make treaties. When Napoleon began making plans to conquer Europe, Napoleon concluded that he could use the funds from the sale of the Louisiana Territory for his European conquests. On April 30, 1803, the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France for \$11.25 million. The United States also agreed to take on French debts owed to American citizens. These debts were worth about \$3.75 million, making the total cost about \$15 million. The Senate overwhelmingly ratified the Louisiana Purchase.

Even before Louisiana became a part of the United States, Jefferson asked Congress to fund a secret expedition into the Louisiana Territory to trace the Missouri River and find a route to the Pacific Ocean. After Congress approved the expedition, Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis, his private secretary, and William Clark, the younger brother of Revolutionary War hero George Rogers Clark, to lead the expedition. In May 1804 the ‘Corps of Discovery,’ as the expedition was called, head west up the Missouri River. Along the way they met Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman, who joined the expedition as a guide and interpreter. The expedition found a path through the Rocky Mountains and eventually traced the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. The expedition greatly increased American knowledge of the Louisiana Territory and also gave the United States a claim to the Oregon territory along the coast.” ~ *The American Vision*

1. One result of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory (1803) was that the United States
 - A. acquired California from Spain
 - B. gained control of the port of New Orleans
 - C. ended border conflicts with British Canada
 - D. annexed Florida
2. Which geographic area was added to the United States by the Louisiana Purchase?
 - A. Appalachian Mountains
 - B. Columbia River valley
 - C. Great Plains
 - D. Piedmont Plateau
3. The Louisiana Purchase initially presented a dilemma for President Thomas Jefferson because he believed it would
 - A. lead to war with Great Britain
 - B. bankrupt the new nation
 - C. force Native American Indians off their lands
 - D. violate his strict constructionist view of the Constitution
4. A major reason for purchasing the Louisiana Territory (1803) was to
 - A. gain access to the Ohio Territory
 - B. remove the British from the borders of the United States
 - C. secure control of the port of New Orleans
 - D. open the Rocky Mountains to miners
5. The legal basis for the United States purchase of the Louisiana Territory was the
 - A. power granted to the President to make treaties
 - B. President’s power as Commander in Chief
 - C. authority of Congress to declare war
 - D. Senate’s duty to approve the appointment of ambassadors
6. The Louisiana Purchase (1803) was a foreign policy success for the United States primarily because it
 - A. secured full control of Florida from Spain
 - B. ended French control of the Mississippi River
 - C. ended British occupation of forts on American soil
 - D. eliminated Russian influence in North America

The Monroe Doctrine:

“In 1809 rebellions began to erupt in Spain’s colonies. By 1824 all of Spain’s colonies on the American mainland had declared independence. Spain’s once vast empire had been reduced to three islands: Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Santo Domingo. Meanwhile a group of European countries – Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia (later joined by France) – formed the *Quadruple Alliance* in an effort to suppress movements against monarchies in Europe. Over Britain’s objection, the alliance raised the possibility of helping Spain regain control of its overseas colonies in 1822.

Great Britain and the United States were not pleased. Both nations enjoyed profitable trade with Latin America and would not welcome a return of Spanish rule. In August 1823, British officials suggested that the two nations issue a joint statement supporting the independence of the new Latin American countries. Britain also wished to limit future American expansion in the hemisphere.

Secretary Adams urged Monroe to avoid working with the British when dealing with Spain. He believed it would be ‘more dignified to avow our principles explicitly’ than to allow the United States to be looked upon as Great Britain’s junior partner. Acting without the British, Monroe declared in 1823 that the American continents were ‘henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers.’ The president’s proclamation, later called the *Monroe Doctrine*, was a bold act, because the United States might not have been able to back up its new policy if challenged. The *Monroe Doctrine* marked the beginning of a long-term American policy of preventing other great powers from interfering in Latin American political affairs. At the same time, by keeping the European powers out of the Americas, the *Monroe Doctrine* upheld Washington’s policy of avoiding entanglements in European power struggles.” ~ *The American Vision*

7. The main purpose of the Monroe Doctrine (1823) was to
 - A. stake a claim to Mexican territory
 - B. limit European influence in the Americas
 - C. force the British out of the Oregon Territory
 - D. establish full control over Canada
8. The Monroe Doctrine (1823) established the United States foreign policy that
 - A. provided foreign aid to developing nations
 - B. opposed the creation of new colonies in Latin America
 - C. led directly to the Civil War
 - D. encouraged expansion into East Asia

A Mini Q: [Stanford]

Document A: Alexander Hamilton (Modified)

The purchase of New Orleans is essential to the peace and prosperity of our Western country, and opens a free and valuable market to our commercial states.

This purchase will probably make it seem like Mr. Jefferson is brilliant. Any man, however, who possesses any amount of intelligence, will easily see that the purchase is the result of lucky coincidences and unexpected circumstances and not the result of any wise or thoughtful actions on the part of Jefferson's administration.

As to the vast region west of the Mississippi, it is a wilderness with numerous tribes of Indians. And when we consider the present territory of the United States, and that not one-sixteenth is yet under occupation, the possibility that this new purchase will be a place of actual settlement seems unlikely.

If our own citizens do eventually settle this new land, it would weaken our country and central government. On the whole, we can honestly say that this purchase is at best extremely problematic.

Source: Alexander Hamilton wrote an editorial called "Purchase of Louisiana" for the New York Evening Post, July 1803.

9. Why was Alexander Hamilton critical of Thomas Jefferson?

Document B: Letters by Federalists (Modified)

Rufus King to Timothy Pickering, November 4, 1803

According to the Constitution, Congress may admit new states. But can the President sign treaties forcing Congress to do so?

According to the Louisiana Treaty, the territory must be formed into states and admitted into the Union. Will Congress be allowed to set any rules for their admission? Since slavery is legal and exists in Louisiana, and the treaty states that we must protect the property of the inhabitants, won't we be forced to admit the new states as slave states? Doing so will worsen the problem of unequal representation from slave and free states.

Timothy Pickering to Rufus King, March 4, 1804

I am disgusted with the men who now rule us. The coward at the head [Jefferson] is like a French revolutionary. While he talks about humanity, he enjoys the utter destruction of his opponents. We have too long witnessed his general wickedness – his cruel removals of faithful officers and the substitution of corruption and immorality for honesty.

Source: The two letters above are written between two Federalists. Rufus King was a Senator from New York and Timothy Pickering was a Senator from Massachusetts.

10. What criticisms about Jefferson are presented in these letters?

Based on these documents, why did Federalists oppose the Louisiana Purchase?

11. The Louisiana Purchase had great geographic significance for the United States because it
 - (A) reduced British control of North America
 - (B) focused the United States on westward expansion
 - (C) extended United States control over Mexico
 - (D) decreased tensions with Native American Indians

12. When President Thomas Jefferson acquired the Louisiana Territory from France, he demonstrated that he had modified his belief that
 - (A) the Constitution should be strictly interpreted
 - (B) the federal government should limit individual rights
 - (C) adding territory would lead to regional rivalries
 - (D) commercial development was the main goal of the federal government

13. As the U.S. acquired more land between 1803 and 1850, controversy over these territories focused on the
 - (A) need for schools and colleges
 - (B) failure to conserve natural resources
 - (C) expansion of slavery
 - (D) construction of transcontinental railroads

14. The purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803
 - (A) Doubled the size of the United States. (B) Cost \$7 million.
 - (B) Was made at the expense of the Spanish.
 - (C) Was most popular among New England Federalists.
 - (D) Led U.S. security interests to the British fleet and nation.

15. The Monroe Doctrine declared that the United States would
 - (A) prevent the establishment of new European colonies anywhere in the world
 - (B) help colonies in North and South America adopt a democratic form of government
 - (C) view European interference in the Americas as a threat to the national interest of the United States
 - (D) prevent other nations from trading with South American nations

16. In 1823, the Monroe Doctrine was established mainly because the United States wanted to
 - (A) keep control of Alaska and Hawaii
 - (B) establish more colonies in Latin America
 - (C) support England's attempt to keep its empire in Central America
 - (D) warn Europe against any further colonization in Latin America