

D. The Original America

1. The fact that the United States acts as the world police power today is strange, because the early America was politically separate from Europe.
2. That separation began with the American Revolution. In that period of American history, the thirteen colonies belonging to Great Britain in what is now the United States rebelled against higher taxes and issued the *Declaration of Independence* **1776**.
3. The Declaration stated that the former British colonists wanted to create a new and independent country in order to secure the protection of the individual's inalienable rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."
4. After the *Declaration*, Americans had to fight a war of independence, in order to force Great Britain to accept their political separation from it.
5. Then, as European nations including Great Britain fought the wars of the French Revolution and Napoleon that followed, American leaders were worried about protecting the rights of American citizens during those wars.
6. They decided on a policy of political separation, including a policy announced by James Monroe in **1823**, which is called the **Monroe Doctrine**.
7. Monroe told Europeans that he expected them to respect the independence and political separation of the United States and he said America would continue to avoid participating in European wars.
8. The Monroe Doctrine guided America with regard to Europe all the way until **World War I (1914-19)**. The United States stayed out of that war for the first three years, but then president Woodrow Wilson said America needed to start a new career to make the "world safe for democracy."

E. American History 1.0

The diagram of American history with the most important facts is:

