

## 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 deliberately 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. Following the *Declaration* itself, Americans then had to fight a war of independence, in order to force Great Britain to acknowledge their political separation from it.
5. Then, as European nations including Great Britain fought wars revolving around the French Revolution and the reign of Napoleon that followed, American leaders were especially worried about protecting the rights of American citizens during those wars.
6. They decided on a policy of political separation, starting with a Proclamation of Neutrality by George Washington during the wars of the French Revolution, and continued by the later presidents up until and including James Monroe, who issued the **Monroe Doctrine** in **1823**.
7. This final contribution of the Founding Fathers to America's history became a lasting legacy. Monroe explained that the political system of America and Europe were essentially different and incompatible. He 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 American conduct with regard to Europe all the way until **World War I (1914-19)**. Indeed, the United States refrained from intervening in that war for the first three years of the the war. President Woodrow Wilson was hailed for this policy, and re-elected (to a second presidential term) on the slogan "*He kept us out of war!*"
9. However, the Monroe Doctrine was then repudiated by Wilson on the premise that the United States should embark on a new career to make the "world safe for democracy."

## E. American History 1.0

A diagram summarizing American history in relation to the world is thus:

