

VII. The United States as World Police Power

A. Europe and Russia in an America-Centric World

1. The European Union and Post-Communist Russia are two of the cardinal cultures of the world, but world only has one true superpower. That is the United States.
2. The United States is: *“the world’s only cultural, economic, and military superpower, and self-appointed world police power, dedicated to the continuation and expansion of the America-centric world order.”*
3. Sensing that Russia was becoming weaker, and America becoming too strong, Vladimir Putin resorted to the desperate measure of invading Ukraine.
4. The story of America as “world police power” will help us understand this situation.

B. The Original America

1. The fact that the United States acts as the world police power today is a historical puzzle, 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 rebelled against oppressive laws by their mother country and issued the *Declaration of Independence* in **1776**.
3. The Declaration stated that the former British colonists were compelled 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. Because of the wars of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars that followed, American leaders made it a priority to protect the rights of American citizens.
6. Their policy was a policy of political separation, starting with the *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. Monroe explained that the political systems 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 other, younger countries in the Americas. In turn, he explained, 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)**. The United States stayed out of that war for the first three years. 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 rejected by Wilson who announced a new policy that the United States should make the “world safe for democracy.”