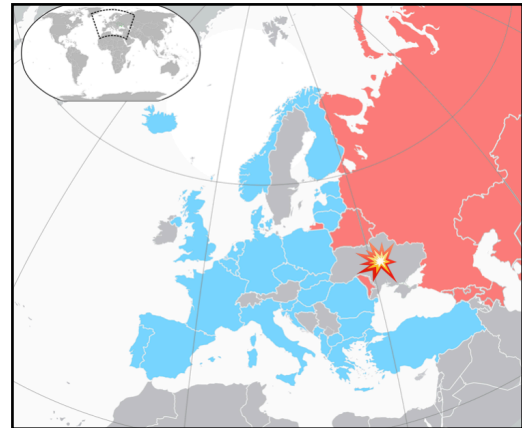


F. The First Anchor Fact: The Russia-Ukraine War (2022-)

1. Among all the current events that reveal what American primacy means to the world today, and which demonstrate how the United States acts as the world police power, none stands out more than the *Russia-Ukraine War*, which began in 2022.
2. We have already seen that Ukraine is a country stuck between the *European Union* and the *Russo-sphere*, but that is only part of the picture. What is even more important about Ukraine is that it is stuck in between an America-centric military alliance called NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and Russia.
3. For the past thirty years, the United States has been expanding its military alliance, which previously only included western Europe countries (and Turkey) to include almost all the countries of Eastern Europe as well. This even includes countries that used to be part of Russia (when it was previously known as the Soviet Union).
4. Russia has felt increasingly insecure about this expansion and it has warned the United States that trying to add Ukraine to NATO was unacceptable to Russia. It would mean that NATO would be too easily poised to conquer Russia in some future war, which Russian leaders can't help but worry about because Russia has been invaded three times by European enemies in the past 200 years. The impact of these wars on Russian culture is impossible to exaggerate.
5. When the United States not only ignored Russia's objections and warnings, but actually helped Ukrainian rebels overthrow the democratically elected president of the country, Viktor Yanukovich, in 2014, that triggered a crisis.
6. The latest phase of that crisis is that Russia invaded and conquered about 1/5 of Ukraine, which it now insists are part of Russia, and the United States sent billions of dollars and advanced weapons to Ukraine to support its war effort, greatly extending the war and the casualty count.
7. In technical terms, this is called "proxy war," which means a war in which America is not directly involved, but instead has recruited another country to fight for itself, in a struggle against a common enemy (in this case, Russia).
8. If there had not been a war, it's quite possible that Europe and Russia would have learned to live in peace, and that a *Euro-Russian Union* would have formed at some point in the future. Regardless of the outcome of the war, that is no longer possible. Europe has been forced to accept America's leadership as its defender, and Russia has been forced into the role of a "pariah" that cannot challenge American primacy.



Ukraine is geographically between Europe and Russia, but that means that it is politically stuck between an America-centric military alliance, NATO, in blue, and the Russo-sphere in pink. When America said that it wanted Ukraine to join NATO, Russia began preparing for the *Russia-Ukraine War*.

G. Back to the Beginning: The Declaration of Independence (1776)

1. The United States began as a country with the issuance of the *Declaration of Independence* by America's leaders (known as the Founding Fathers) on the 4th of July, 1776.
2. The *Declaration of Independence* is part of a period of American history known as the American Revolution, in which Americans, who previously had been part of the British Empire, decided they could no longer tolerate being under the control of their mother country, Great Britain.
3. The source of their rebellion was the raising of taxes (starting with the infamous Stamp Act of 1765) by Great Britain for the purpose of paying for the maintenance and growth of the British Empire, but Americans were not consulted on taxes. They were expected to submit to British authority, even though it was contrary to English tradition going back over five hundred years.
4. Realizing that their "rights of Englishmen" would not protect them, Americans decided they would need to establish their own country, where they could create a government dedicated to protecting their rights.
5. The *Declaration*, written mainly by Thomas Jefferson, stated that governments are justified only if they protect the "unalienable" (today, most people say "inalienable") *natural rights* of individuals to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."
6. Independence, understood as a virtue, is the ability to think and act for oneself. It means not relying on others to support oneself and achieve one's own values. Evidently, since America was proposing to uphold a revolutionary code of values, in defiance of its mother country, it would have to stand on its own.
7. That is how Americans first defined their place in the world.

H. Independence and Neutrality

1. As soon as the revolutionary war was over and the United States had established its new constitution, a critical test arose for the country's leaders.
2. A revolution broke out in France, partly due to the inspiration provided by America, partly due to the outrageous bankruptcy of the French monarchy, which had been exacerbated by providing military assistance to America against Britain in the American Revolution.
3. When France's neighbors attacked that country to prevent its revolution from succeeding, many Americans felt obligated to help the French, while others believed the relationship with Britain should be mended by joining it against France.
4. George Washington issued a *Proclamation of Neutrality* and held to having "as little political connection as possible" with Europe in order to secure America's independence in the name of protecting the rights of Americans.
5. For the same reasons, when Napoleon became emperor over France because of the chaos and war of the French Revolution, then president Thomas Jefferson warned him that he should abandon France's territorial claims in North America, because it would make the

two nations enemies. The result was the *Louisiana Purchase* of 1803, whereby the United States doubled in size.

6. The consistent goal of the Founding Fathers as presidents was to conduct their affairs with the rest of the world in such a way as to permit America's continued independence in the name of protecting rights.

I. Political Separation: The Monroe Doctrine of 1823

1. The world we live in has a United States in it because it was created in 1776 when the country declared its independence and detached itself from the rest of world, but the world is also the way it is because that America has become a country entangled in many wars, such as the *Russia-Ukraine War*. What happened?
2. In order to make sense of where we are today, we need to understand how America changed from what it was originally into what it is.
3. The key lies in the acceptance of a set of principles in early American life, and its replacement by another set of ideas by modern Americans.
4. The original set of principles that America lived by is captured in part by the *Declaration of Independence*, but it remains incomplete until the enunciation of the "Monroe Doctrine," announced by James Monroe (one of the youngest the Founding Fathers) as president in 1823.
5. Monroe identified that America's "political system" (based on individual rights) was essentially different from that of Europe, and that consequently America should not merely be independent, but in addition strive for *political separation* from the rest of the world.
6. The first component of this doctrine (which is a set of ideas) is a warning to European empires to stay out of the Americas. This warning was issued because the Iberosphere had been formed as a distinct cultural block when the colonies of Spain and Portugal achieved their independence because their mother countries were swamped by the European wars against Napoleon.
7. The second component—which is especially significant today—is a commitment by America to stay out of the wars of others.
8. Monroe stated that the United States had no desire to fight in European wars or to take any territory away from any European empire, but that the Americas should be viewed as a sphere intimately connected to the protection of the rights of Americans, where wars by European powers would be viewed as a threat to America itself.
9. The Monroe Doctrine was followed consistently and successfully for nearly a century. How then did America become what it is today?