

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

1. The most important event that shows us how the United States acts as the world police power today is the *Russia-Ukraine War*, which began in 2022.
2. This event is an “anchor fact,” which means it is a historical fact that helps us to understand the world today.
3. 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.
4. For the past thirty years, the United States has been expanding its military alliance all the way to the border of Russia.
5. Russia has feels that this is a threat, and it warned the United States that trying to add Ukraine to NATO is unacceptable to Russia. It would make it too easy for NATO to attack Russia in some future war.
6. When America didn’t listen, Russia invaded and conquered about 1/5 of Ukraine. The United States sent billions of dollars and advanced weapons to Ukraine to help it fight.
7. 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. Instead, Europe has been forced to accept America as its protector, and Russia has been turned into an enemy once again.



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 was created as a new country by the *Declaration of Independence* 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 decided they could no longer tolerate being under the control of their mother country, Great Britain.
3. They rebelled against a tax called the Stamp Act in 1765, which forced them to pay for new kinds of stamps, because they were not consulted about such taxes. They were expected to do whatever the British government said. This means they had *no rights*.
4. The *Declaration*, written mainly by Thomas Jefferson, said that governments are supposed to protect individuals’ rights to “*life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness*.” Since Britain wasn’t respecting these rights, Americans wanted to be on their own.

## H. Independence and Neutrality

1. As soon as America became independent, there was a new challenge.
2. A revolution broke out in France, partly inspired by America.
3. Many Americans wanted to help, especially because France had helped America succeed in the American Revolution by also fighting the British.
4. George Washington (the first president) said America should be *neutral*, and have “as little political connection as possible” with Europe in order to stay independent.
5. The main goal of America’s early presidents was to conduct their affairs with the rest of the world so that America would stay independent.

## 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 then it became 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* into what it *is*.
3. The original set of ideas that America lived by are announced in the *Declaration of Independence*, but another important set of ideas is called the “Monroe Doctrine,” which was announced by James Monroe, the president in 1823.
4. Monroe said that America’s “political system” and Europe’s are different and incompatible, so America should not only be independent, but also *politically separate* from the rest of the world.
5. The first part of this doctrine (which means: a set of ideas) is a warning to European empires to stay out of the Americas. This warning was issued because the Ibersphere had just become an independent cultural block, and America wanted to encourage its neighbors and keep their neighborhood safe.
6. The second part—which is especially significant today—is a promise that America would stay out of the wars of others.
7. The Monroe Doctrine was followed consistently and successfully for nearly a century. How then did America become what it is today?