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Content Tip 1: Empire and the Empire Video Questions from a Distance Education Student

Question Asked: is it possible to get explanation about how to empire was viewed? I watched the video but cant understand if theyre speaking about the treaty of paris, spanish american war or something completely different. What is the empire and who is "viewing it"? And what does it have to do with leading up to the corollary of the monroe doctrine?

My Response: I can't ethically answer it straight out but I can (I hope) answer it indirectly.

Question Asked With my clues in blue inserts in the student’s question: is it possible to get explanation about how to empire was viewed? I watched the video but cant understand if they're speaking about the treaty of paris, spanish american war or something completely different.

They are speaking about **all** of them.

What is the empire

Since the beginning of US History I (1301), think of the British Empire and the French Empire and the Spanish Empire and the Dutch Empire (and others) Were those nations embarrassed about conquering places and having colonies then?

No.

Are those empires and the Russian Empire and the Japanese Empire embarrassed in the 1890s to 1900?

No, and they still have most of their previously conquered colonies

and the **late comers like the US and Germany are after their own colonies.**

and who is "viewing it"?

1. **With the Spanish American War, what is the US doing?**

Hmmm. Think about Cuba, Puerto Rico (let's ignore the Far East for now) **so where is the US at that moment?**

2. And once we get the Panama Canal, we have world trade much easier and cheaper for our products and we can move the US Navy between 2 oceans if we need to **so where is the US now?**

What are out boundaries? (Look at those 2 maps).

And what does it have to do with leading up to the corollary of the monroe doctrine?

Hmmm. Seems like controlling a small Latin American nation in the Caribbean so it does not have debts to a European nation or its banks might be a US objective. **Do we want European nations to have a foothold in the so-called "Yankee lake"?**

No

A related tip: The world is dramatically different between that policy and the Good Neighbor policy with:

- Great Depression
- Rise of Fascism and the threats of growing war

It is not just that TR and FDR are different people and different Presidents. They are in different situations. Content Tip 2: To Simplify, What Was the Monroe Doctrine to Latin American Countries Before and After the Roosevelt Corollary?

Changes in the Monroe Doctrine:

- Pre 1890s the US took the position that the US should keep Europeans from re-colonizing small countries in Latin America who had been able to throw out the Spanish Empire.
To simplify, the Latin Americans (if they thought about us at all) thought the US kept the bad guys out.
- Post the Roosevelt Corollary, the US took the position that the US should to “preventive intervention” and the US should make the countries behave as the US believed was right.

To simplify, the Latin Americans thought the US **was** the bad guy.

Content Tip 3: Monroe Doctrine – How Not to Let Your Assumptions Zap You with Page 468

468- **Caution:** Be sure you notice the word *Perversion* in the heading (“**to cause to turn aside or away from what is good or true or morally right**” – *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*). **Tip:** The textbook author also criticizes TR on page 571.

Additional Caution about 468: The sentence says “... in the event of future malfeasance by the Latin American countries, take over the customshouses, pay off the debts, and keep the troublesome Europeans on the other side of the Atlantic.” In steps (color-coded), here is what that sentence meant:

1. In the event a Latin American country (**abbreviated below as LAC**) borrowed money from a European nation or its banks and it could **not** pay its debts to the Europeans and therefore would have to be obedient to these **European creditors, and not the US.**
2. Then the **US** would do these thing to the LAC:
3. Send in our military to take over at the **LAC port** where the LAC had a “customshouse” (a place to collect “customs” or what the US calls tariffs or taxes on **imports**).

Tip: At this time, it is not just LACs who depended on tariffs as income for their governments. The US did also.

4. Take over the **LAC’s** money (those import tariffs) the LAC had collected and send the **LAC’s** money--to the European creditors to pay for the LAC’s debts.

Tip: If you are thinking, so????? How would you feel if China or Russia or the European Union took over the port of Houston and did that to the US?

Purpose: So the European nation did **not** have an excuse to have influence over the LAC, including its taking over the LAC’s customshouse.

Observation Tip 1: When You Are Doing Some Assignment, Observe in the Same Way You Would Observe at Work or in Life

My history training helped my accidental life in industry. Thinking and discovery gives lots adrenalin rush whether thinking is about history or about anything.

When I worked in industry, I would know my own part of the business and I'd learn about the interconnection between another part of the business or about how a customer used our product and my brain would feel a buzz that has always meant that I was seeing something I did not understand yet but that I **had** to understand.

Usually in 24 hours (after a night's sleep), my brain would light up with **why** this interconnection is going to blow up (or get bigger or whatever) at where my world and their world meets."

Profs will ask you questions like the ones you had because that is how life reality works.

Look **not** for facts on the pages and in the video to use for the Great Depression (like poor Mr. Hoover or the protests) but WHAT IS **SIMPLE AND REAL** that reveals the question already being asked.

- is the world sliding toward war according to page 600 so does the US need friends/good neighbors- **YES**
- is the economy because of the tariffs and over-production in a mess so does the US need trade?– **YES**
and does the map for this background show specifically Latin America as part of the economy with the **US?– YES**

The map also shows how many troops we have had out there. Any indication in the Great Depression that we have **BUCKs** for more of that? **NO**

Observation Tip 2: Put Yourself in the Other Person's Shoes - What If It Was Putin and the US Today Instead of TR and Latin America in 1904? -

In some papers, some students saw no problem with the US taking over a country's income.

"preventive intervention" -- The textbook calls it a "perversion" of the Monroe Doctrine, and it would have shown a broader understanding if you had said this was a change from the Monroe Doctrine. That understanding is also essential for the Good Neighbor policy to make sense, including that the Latin Americans praised us in 1936 (572).

Sometimes an analogy helps):

1. If Putin's Russia feared that China might have too much economic power over the US
2. And if we (the US) did owe money to China,
3. And If Russia took over the Port of Houston so Russia could take over the collection of tariffs there so **Russia** could **send to China** the **US tariff income** to pay the **US debts to China.**
4. How would we (the US) feel about Russia being powerful enough to do that to us?
5. And how excited would we be if a moderate Russian was Putin's successor and promised a policy of Russia being a good neighbor?

Think about it.