

# U.S. Doctrines

**Monroe Doctrine (1820)** – stated that European nations had to stay out of the affairs of the Americas and America would stay out of Europe's affairs. Directed more toward Russia to stay out of the Oregon Country than any European nation; the U.S. was not strong enough to challenge Britain's navy.

**Tyler Doctrine (1842)** – declared that the US and Hawaii have a special relationship and it is in America's sphere of influence. This is the beginning of America's imperialist debate during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Freeport Doctrine (1858)** – position taken by Douglas in the Lincoln-Douglas debates; despite that the Supreme Court had decided (Dred Scott Case) the people could not decide if a territory would be slave or free Douglas said the people could vote to decide if a territory was slave or free

**Roosevelt Corollary (1903)** – amendment to the Monroe Doctrine; it said that the U.S. could intervene in any Latin American nation to prevent a financial meltdown.

**Stimson Doctrine (1932)** – pronounced U.S. non-recognition of the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo or any territory acquired by force; this was the best the U.S. could do without being a member of the League of Nations.

**Truman Doctrine (1947)** – President Truman asked Congress for \$400 million in aid for Greece and Turkey to combat communism and pledged support to any nation that was resisting subjugation by communists.

**Nixon Doctrine (1969)** – Nixon stated that the US would assist "allies and friends," but not defend ALL free nations of the word; this was a shift away from the US fighting for South Vietnam and putting more emphasis on the South Vietnamese fighting for their own independence (Nixon called this Vietnamization).

**Reagan Doctrine (early 1980s-1991)** – foreign policy under President Reagan that provided overt and covert aid to nations, right-wing guerrillas in an effort to

“rollback” Soviet supported socialist governments in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

**Weinberger Doctrine (1984)** – a list of questions posed by Secretary of Defense Weinberger to determine if the U.S. could go to war; the questions were an outgrowth of lessons learned in Vietnam

1. The United States should not commit forces to combat unless the vital national interests of the United States or its allies are involved.
2. U.S. troops should only be committed wholeheartedly and with the clear intention of winning. Otherwise, troops should not be committed.
3. U.S. combat troops should be committed only with clearly defined political and military objectives and with the capacity to accomplish those objectives.
4. The relationship between the objectives and the size and composition of the forces committed should be continually reassessed and adjusted if necessary.
5. U.S. troops should not be committed to battle without a "reasonable assurance" of the support of U.S. public opinion and Congress.
6. The commitment of U.S. troops should be considered only as a last resort.

**Powell Doctrine (1990)** – an expanded list (of the Weinberger Doctrine) created by Secretary of State Colin Powell to determine if the U.S. should go to war. All must be answered affirmatively to justify war.

1. Is a vital national security interest threatened?
2. Do we have a clear attainable objective?
3. Have the risks and costs been fully and frankly analyzed?
4. Have all other non-violent policy means been fully exhausted?
5. Is there a plausible exit strategy to avoid endless entanglement?
6. Have the consequences of our action been fully considered?
7. Is the action supported by the American people?
8. Do we have genuine broad international support?

**Bush Doctrine (2001)** – position that the U.S. has the right to protect itself by intervening in any nation that is harboring terrorist groups or giving aid to terrorists groups who wish to harm the U.S. (historians are debating the use of this term). Similar to the Roosevelt Corollary, but expanded from Latin America to globally.