

Station #4: "The Roosevelt Corollary" to the Monroe Doctrine

In 1904 the government of the Dominican Republic went bankrupt and Theodore Roosevelt feared that Germany and other nations might intervene forcibly to collect their debts. In response, Roosevelt issued the Roosevelt Corollary (to the Monroe Doctrine) as part of a 1904 message to Congress. Roosevelt and later U.S. presidents cited the corollary to justify U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico and Haiti. As you read, think about how this policy impacted American relations with the nations of the Western Hemisphere. Also, consider how this policy might be seen as an extension of the Monroe Doctrine.

Document A: The Roosevelt Corollary

"It is not true that the United States feels any land hunger or entertains any projects as regards the other nations of the Western Hemisphere save such as are for their welfare. All that this country desires is to see the neighboring countries stable, orderly, and prosperous... If a nation shows that it knows how to act with reasonable efficiency and decency in social and political matters, if it keeps order and pays its obligations, it need fear no interference from the United States. Chronic wrongdoing, [however,]... may... ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and in the Western Hemisphere the adherence of the United States to the Monroe Doctrine may force the United States, however reluctantly..., to the exercise of an international police power...

-President Theodore Roosevelt, December 6, 1904

Document B

"I have always been fond of the West African proverb: 'Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far.'"

-Theodore Roosevelt

Document C:



Figure 2.25 Cartoon by Rogers in *New York Herald* (New York: Sun, Inc., 1905).

THE BIG STICK IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA

Document D:



Figure 1.25 Cartoon by Rogers in *New York Herald* (New York: Sun, Inc., 1903).

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