The Monroe Doctrine

Why was the Monroe Doctrine needed?
- Russians were establishing trading posts in what is now California.
- Portugal and Spain wanted to reclaim their former colonies in Latin America.
- With Spain and Portugal trying to move back into their old colonial area, and with Russia pushing in from the northwest, the United States knew that it had to do something.

What does the Monroe Doctrine state?
- They should not attempt to create new colonies or try to overthrow the newly independent republics in the hemisphere.
- President Monroe warned all European powers not to interfere with affairs in the Western Hemisphere.
- The United States would not involve itself in European affairs or interfere with existing colonies in the Western Hemisphere.

How did the Monroe Doctrine assert American nationalism?
- It set the stage for future American policy.
- Asserted U.S. as a power in the world.
- Did not want interference from other countries, were self-sufficient, and self-sustaining.
- Not interested in the affairs of other countries, focused on the U.S.