

ISOLATIONISM & EXPANSIONISM

Isolationism—policy of no contact with foreign countries

Expansionism—policy of seeking to increase the territory of one's country

The AMERICAN PARADOX

- United States has pursued both isolationism & expansionism simultaneously.
- HOW?

American Isolationism—A history

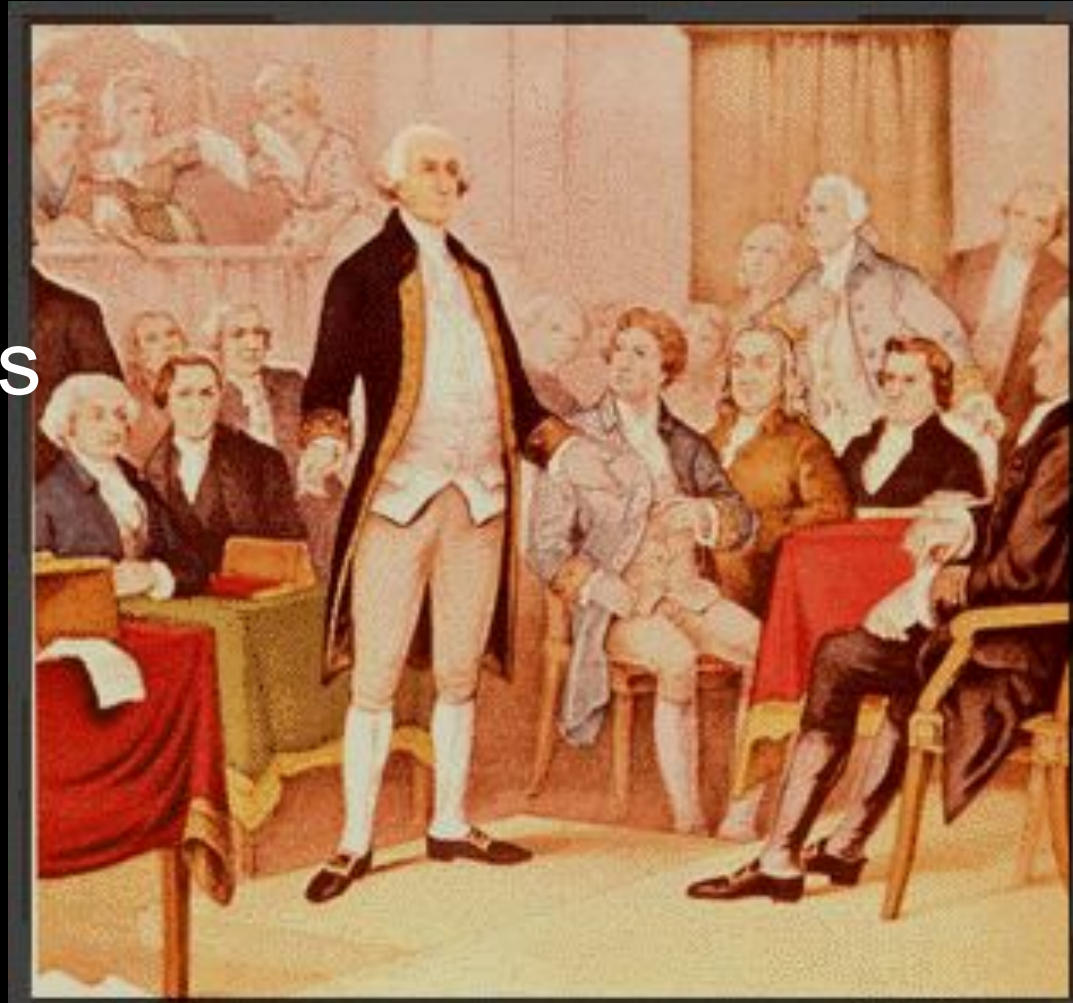
Washington's Farewell Address

(1796)

Good Faith relations
w/ all nations

Avoid entangling
alliances

Free trade w/ all
nations



Washington's Farewell Address

...Europe has a set of primary interests which to us have none; or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves by artificial ties in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities...

Washington's Farewell Address

...The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible...

Commercial Relations w/o Political Connections -- Easier Said than Done

Quasi-War (1798-1800)

War of 1812 (1812-1814)

US trying to...

- maintain trade with Europe especially Britain
- Stay out of French Revolution & associated wars



American Isolationism (cont.)

Monroe Doctrine (1823)

European powers should not interfere with Western hemisphere

US will not interfere with existing colonies or Europe

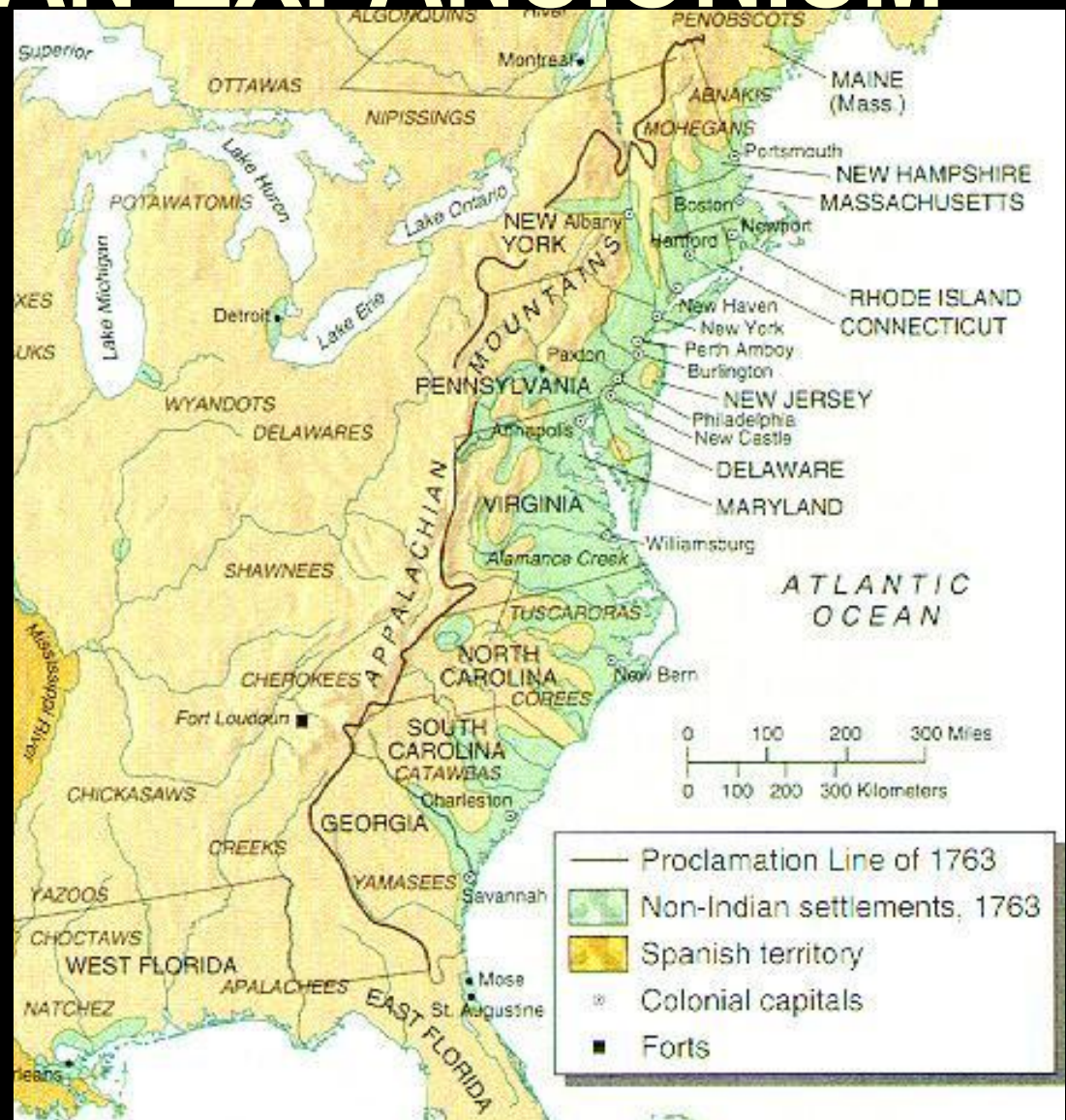
Western Hemisphere – US Sphere of Influence



AMERICAN EXPANSIONISM

Colonial Period –

Expansion in Eastern US



AMERICAN EXPANSIONISM (cont.)

- Louisiana Purchase (1800) – Huge land purchase from France



AMERICAN EXPANSIONISM (cont.)

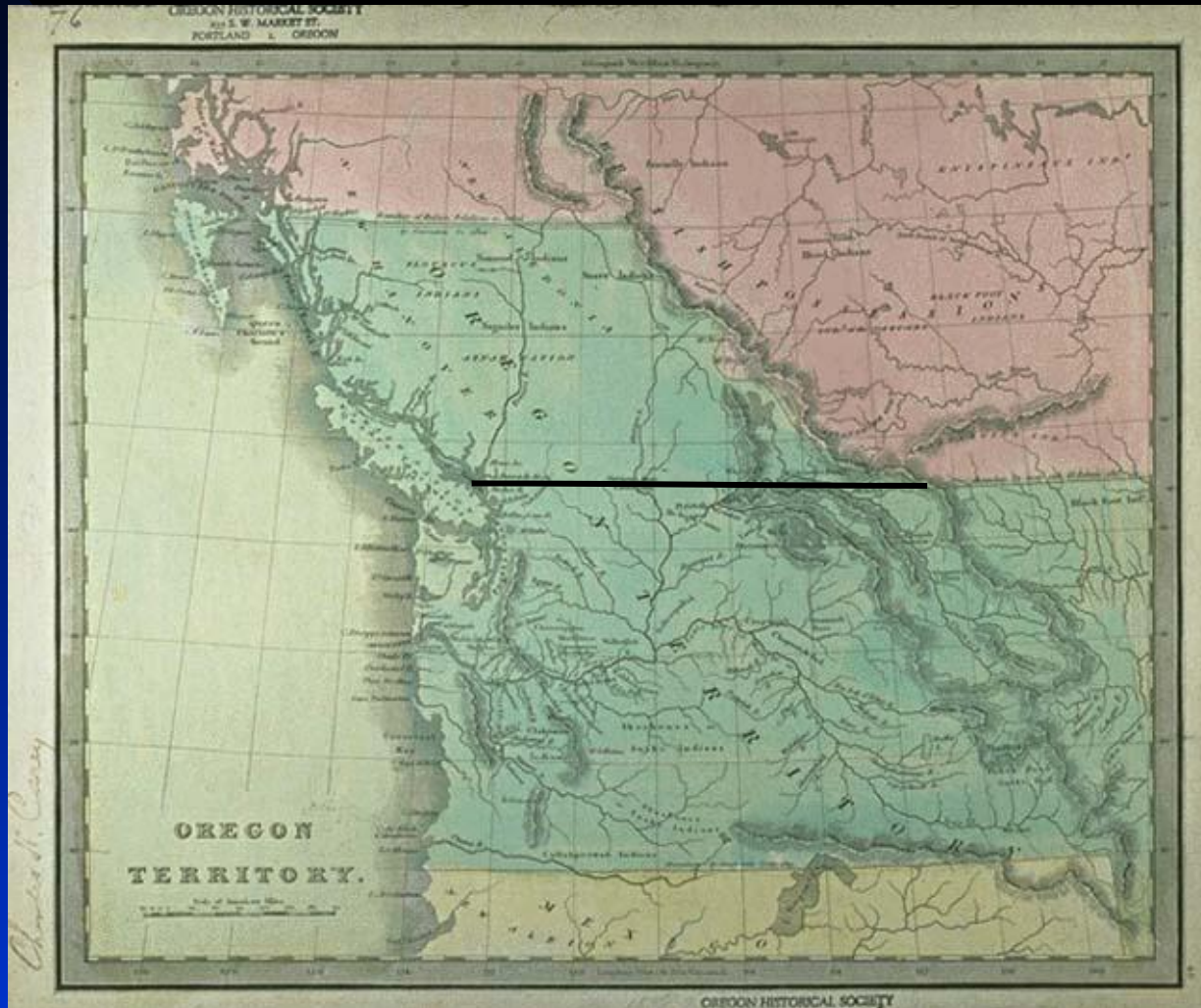
Manifest Destiny – US god-given right to expand

- “Empty continent”
- *Annuit Coeptis*



AMERICAN EXPANSIONISM (cont.)

Oregon Territory – by Treaty w British



AMERICAN EXPANSIONISM (cont.)

Mexican-American War (1846-48)



So...

- Isolationism demands minimal contact with foreigners
- Expansionism forces continual contact with foreigners
- *HOW CAN THESE CONFLICTING POLICIES EXIST AT THE SAME TIME?*

ANSWERS in the 1800's

- Overall goal of both policies is **INDEPENDENCE** of US
 - ◆ Isolationism=don't get sucked into others' problems / conflicts *outside of "sphere of influence"*
 - ◆ Expansionism *within* immediate sphere of influence
 - ★ Get potential threats away
 - ★ Get power to resist threats

WHAT NEXT?

- As US approaches 1900 –
 - ◆ 1890—Turner declares American frontier closed
 - ◆ expansionism has reached territorial limits and the world has gotten smaller...
 - ◆ Pursuing *both* no longer an option...