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Period 6

President Information  
James Monroe (1758-1831)

Two Terms in Office

Election Results

With the backing of the President Madison, he became the Republican choice for the presidency in 1816, and then with little Federalists opposition, he was easily reelected in 1820.

Four Ideas or Acts Passed During Administration

- Goodwill tour which led to the "Era of Good Feelings"
- The Missouri Compromise bill paired Missouri as a slave state with Maine
- The Monroe Doctrine which could be separated into four basic points:
  - 1) America will not get involved in European Affairs;
  - 2) America would not interfere with existing European colonies in the Western hemisphere;
  - 3) No other country could form a new colony in the western hemisphere;
  - 4) If an European nation tried to control or interfere with a nation in the Western hemisphere, the United States would view it as a hostile act against that nation.
- Monroe's most important domestic act was in constructing a chain of coastal fortifications to prevent future invasions. A drop in federal revenues after the financial panic of 1819 led Congress to curtail this program.

Two Problems

-A painful economic depression undoubtedly increased the dismay of the people of the Missouri Territory in 1819 when their application for admission to the Union as a slave state failed. An amended bill for gradually eliminating slavery in Missouri precipitated two years of bitter debate in Congress.

-Adams-Onis Treaty, also known as the Transcontinental Treaty of 1819. The border between the then-Spanish lands and American territory was a source of heated international debate. In Europe, Spain was in the midst of serious internal problems and its colonies out west were on the brink of revolution. Spanish foreign minister Onis signed a treaty with Secretary of State John Quincy Adams. Similar to the Louisiana Purchase statutes, the United States agreed to pay its citizens' claims against Spain up to \$5 Million. The treaty drew a definite border between Spanish land and the Louisiana Territory.

#### Two Trivia Facts

-Monroe made unusually strong Cabinet choices, naming a Southerner, John C. Calhoun, as Secretary of War, and a northerner, John Quincy Adams, as Secretary of State.

-Along with Robert R. Livingston, Monroe helped to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase.