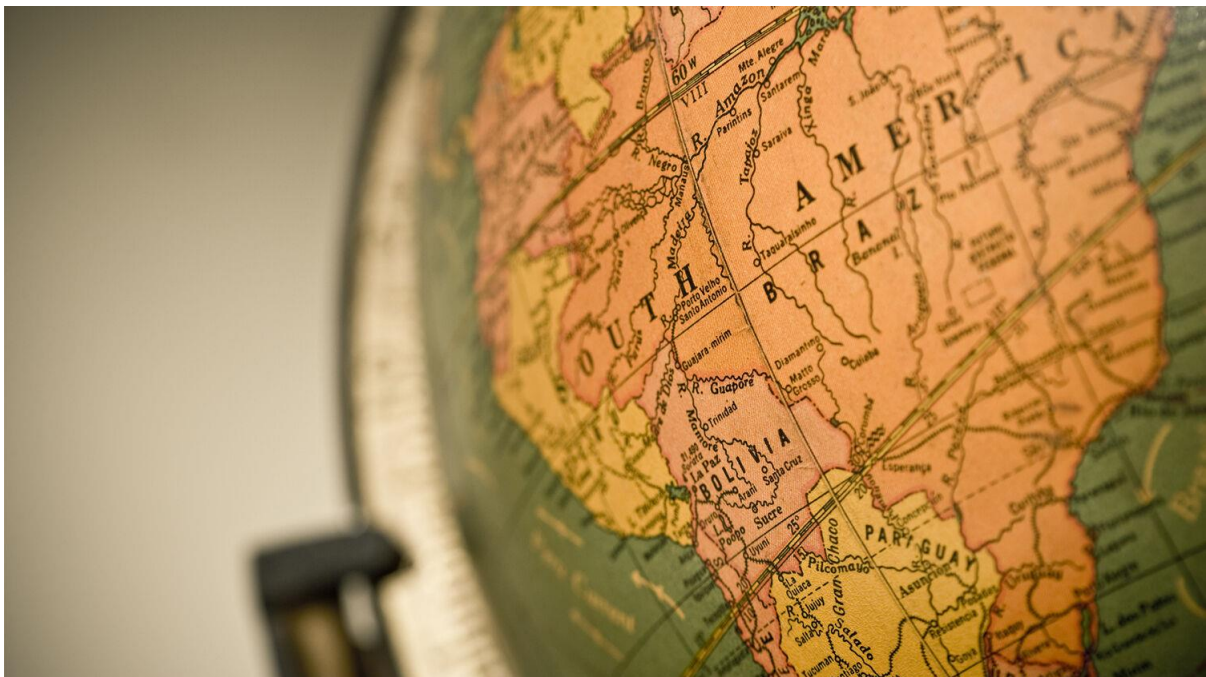


Call for Papers:

## The Monroe Doctrine: History, Interpretations, Legacy



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**Frankfurt-am-Main, 1 and 2 December 2023**

Organized by Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen and the TRACE Research Center “Transformations of Political Violence”, an interdisciplinary research network of five Hessian research Institutions: The Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF), the Goethe University Frankfurt, the Justus Liebig University Giessen, the Philipps University Marburg and the Technical University of Darmstadt. Additional support provided by the Asser Institute for International and Development Studies, The Hague, and the Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt.

## Call for Papers:

### **The Monroe Doctrine: History, Interpretations, Legacy**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, will mark the bicentenary of President James Monroe's famous State of the Union to the U.S. Congress. Out of the 6500 words of his full address, two sentences are remembered as the Monroe Doctrine: « no future colonization by any European power » in the American continents and « not to interfere in the internal concerns » of any other countries.

Over twenty years after Monroe's pronouncement, the doctrine was invoked by President James Polk in a 1845 speech to Congress, but this time he cited it to outline expansionist designs in Latin America.

Later on, the principle of non-interference marked the separation of the Americas from Europe and the rise of geographical spheres of political and economic influence. The Monroe Doctrine also reinforced the principle of non-intervention as opposed to the European Concert of Powers collectively authorizing armed intervention in Italy and Spain after the congresses of Ljubljana and Verona.

Monroe's speech had great resonance upon political writers and jurists all over the world such as Friedrich Gentz who identified it as "a document which will make an epoch in the history of our time". Indeed, the Monroe Doctrine would be re-discussed and re-interpreted at the turn of the century (1880-1910), especially within the Roosevelt Corollary of the doctrine which legitimized U.S. hemispheric interventions that were becoming ever more frequent in the 1910's.

After WW I, the doctrine reached newfound prominence in Article 21 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, which stated that "Nothing in this Covenant shall be deemed to affect the validity of international engagements, such as treaties of arbitration or regional understandings like the Monroe doctrine, for securing the maintenance of peace".

Within the debate between regionalism and universalism of international law, the principle of non-intervention became a legal norm (Art. 8 of the Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States; Arts. 2(1) and 2(7) of the UN Charter) and a tool of monitoring political violence.

As Juan Pablo Scarfi pointed out recently, "although the bicentenary of the Monroe Doctrine is approaching in 2023, we have not seen much significant scholarly discussion over its legacy in recent years". Indeed, shortcomings remain in regard to academic research on the Monroe Doctrine. Especially in a transnational and multidisciplinary (economic, juridical, cultural, and political) perspective within the broader scope of the Monroe Doctrine which could be seen also as an institutional containment of violence.

In order to examine the legacy of the Monroe doctrine two hundred years after its pronouncement, this conference will address three main questions and sections:

1) The historical background of the Monroe Doctrine in transnational perspective.

Contributions can be made on the making of the doctrine, its interpretation and resonance in the U.S., Latin America, and Europe but also in other locales such as the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Paintings, novels and other cultural and material artefacts could also be analysed to reflect upon the impact of the doctrine in the 1820's and onwards. Contributions by economists are very welcome to look more deeply at the economic repercussions of the doctrine.

2) The rearrangement and new interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine from the 1880's to the 1940's

This second section will be devoted to the legacy of the doctrine in the wake of its centenary and in the context of American interventionism and imperialism at the turn of the century. How was the Doctrine interpreted by international lawyers within the *Institut de Droit International*, the International Law Association and the various national international law societies founded at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Here again, even if the principal focus will be on Latin America, contributions on other geographies and spaces are most welcome.

3) The Contemporary Legacies of the Monroe Doctrine

Finally, the conference will evaluate how far the Monroe Doctrine has irrigated contemporary international law and its many subfields such as investment law, forms of trade protectionism and other aspects of diplomatic relations (e.g. the use of force). Indeed, the nineteenth century was an era of unprecedented internationalization of economic rights, which safeguarded property and investments accrued in the context of colonialism and imperialism. This part will examine the extent to which the ideological underpinnings of the Monroe Doctrine supported these unequal economic structures.

Propositions can be send in English (yet, French, German and Spanish can be also accepted) by email to [raphael.cahen@recht.uni-giessen.de](mailto:raphael.cahen@recht.uni-giessen.de) ; [L.Castellanos@asser.nl](mailto:L.Castellanos@asser.nl) ; [simon@soz.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:simon@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)

All applications must be sent by May 15<sup>th</sup> 2023 with an abstract of 250 words and a short CV. The proceedings will appear in a peer-reviewed publication. In principle, transportation should be covered by participants, but accepted panellists will be able to apply for travel grants subject to available funding.

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