

USA – Background Information

Background

America is about to play a major role in our study of the Twentieth Century.

While we need to understand the raw essentials of its early history, my suggestion is to move quickly through this information.

Foreign policy should be your focus, especially the practice of isolationism.

Isolationism was a luxury!

America was surrounded by weak neighbours, and was flanked by the protective waters of the Atlantic and Pacific.

Who could really threaten America?

America was in a position where it could afford a policy of isolationism.

Still there is more to understanding American foreign policy.

Americans had an almost pathological distrust of the Great Powers, and positions like the Munroe Doctrine and the Open Door Policy made this clear.

Americans saw themselves as a “special country.”

Blessed with a sense of moral superiority, America focussed on its internal development.

This would eventually make America a global superpower!

Assignment

Your mission is to gather information on the early development of America, especially its foreign policy.

Step 1 – Read each section in your *Student Workbook*.

Step 2 – Take notes, focussing on specifics.

