American System

US Naval Construction
- 1816 act calls for $1 million over 8 years
- 9 ships with at least 74 guns; 12 ships w/ at least 44 guns.
- 1830s US builds several steam-powered ships

Late (?) Recognition of Latin American Republics
- Recognition of sovereignty in int’l law
- Timing of recognition at issue
  o Venezuela (“United Provinces of Venezuela”) declares independence in 1811 and seeks US recognition
  o Pres. Madison seeks Congress’ advice: if truly independent, recognize them
  o Sec. Monroe cautions against premature recog.
    o Venezuela returns to Spain in 1812
- Sep. 1815 Neutrality Proclamation, 1816 Neutrality legislation; 1818 changes ban military service or provisioning privateers

- 1817: Pres. Monroe gets request from “United Provinces of la Plata” (Argentina)
- 1818: Sec. Adams sets two criteria
  o Justice of cause
  o Fact of independence
    o Does “Buenos Ayres” control all it claims and is Spanish re-conquest implausible
    o Danger of war with Spain if US recognizes
    o Henry Clay pushes for recognition in Congress

- US defers recognition until 1822
- Trade agreements signed in 1830s
Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819

1. Spain cedes Florida to US (ending Florida’s outlaw status)

2. Pacific boundaries with US defined

3. US drops: claims to Texas and $5 million in damages arising from incursions from Florida

Revolt in Spain suspends Spanish ratification of the treaty until 1821

Spain criticizes US recognitions in 1822 as “perfidy”

Relations with Haiti Different

- De facto independence since 1804
- Black rule
- Britain recognizes Haiti in 1825, France in 1838
- US trades with Haiti: UN exports more to Haiti than Mexico in 1850s
- US recognizes in 1862 during Civil War

Annex Cuba?

- 1822: Cuban planters propose US annexation
- US rejects bid after cabinet debate
‘Monroe Doctrine’ 1823

- Response to British proposal for joint US-British declaration
- US does not want to be perceived as allying with GB

3 Principles

1. no new colonization by European powers
2. no transfer of existing colonies among European powers
3. no re-imposition of colonial rule in the Americas

1838: Franco-Mexican “Pastry War”

- France bombards and captures fort near Vera Cruz over 1828 incident
- France never declares war and rejects any territorial claim
- Britain brokers a deal
- No US intervention