



Questions to Accompany President Monroe's Message on Recognition

1. In his response to the House resolution about the revolutionary movements in South America, Monroe mentions first the sympathy toward them of members of Congress and all Americans. Monroe says Americans are sympathetic “from causes which need not be communicated to you.” What are those causes? Why does he put this point first in the speech? (He acknowledges the pressure from—while directly appealing to—the general population and members of Congress.)
2. What kinds of supporting evidence does Monroe give to prove that the revolutionary movements might deserve recognition? (The longevity of the revolutionary government, the state of war or lack of it.)
3. What reason(s) does Monroe give for delaying the U.S. decision on recognition?
4. To what events in the relationship between the revolutionary governments and the United States does Monroe refer? (Their requests for recognition.)
5. How does Monroe describe the official position of the United States up to the time of his message?
6. What does Monroe say are the most pressing reasons for recognizing the revolutionary movements?
7. How does Monroe describe the position of the Spanish government with regard to its South American possessions?
8. How does Monroe believe U.S. recognition of the revolutionary governments will affect relations with Spain?