

(An excerpt from a speech made by somebody famous....)

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. . . Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all. . . . It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and at no distant period a great nation to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. . . .

In the execution of such a plan nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations and passionate attachments for others should be excluded, and that in place of them just and amicable feelings toward all should be cultivated. . . . Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each one readily to offer insult and umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur. . . .

So, likewise, a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common

interest where no real common interest exists, and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter without adequate inducement or justification. . . . The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop. . . .

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. . . . Why forego the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor, or caprice? [ ]

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**GLOSSARY**

**amicable**—friendly  
**antipathy**—dislike, opposition  
**benevolence**—kindliness  
**caprice**—impulsive change of mind  
**cultivate**—develop  
**enlightened**—freed from ignorance  
**enmity**—hatred, hostility  
**entangle**—involve in something complicated, snarl  
**exalted**—lofty, noble  
**execution**—carrying out  
**facilitate**—make easier  
**forego**—give up, do without

**harmony**—good will, accord  
**haughty**—proud and vain, arrogant  
**illusion**—mistaken notion  
**inducement**—incentive, motive  
**interweave**—weave or twine together  
**intractable**—stubborn  
**inveterate**—firmly established  
**justification**—good reason  
**magnanimous**—unselfish and gracious  
**novel**—unusual  
**rivalship**—competition  
**trifling**—slight  
**umbrage**—offense

1. In your own words, explain the main point, or idea, of this famous speech.
2. In your opinion, do you think the speaker is offering good advice for the young United States? Explain why or why not.
3. Select the three (3) words from the speech that you believe best support the speaker's point of view about the topic.

# “Visualize whirled peas”

America’s foreign relations

1790-1815

## A matching game...

Try and MATCH the country with the correct set of problems they caused the young United States.

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|--------------------------|---|
| 1. <b>France</b>         | a) Controlled New Orleans, thereby restricting U.S. trade along the Mississippi River; harbored runaway slaves – valuable property                  |
| 2. <b>England</b>        | b) Attacked U.S. trade ships in the Mediterranean Sea; demanded tribute payments as “protection” bribes   |
| 3. <b>Spain</b>          | c) Impressed (kidnapped) U.S. sailors; territorial border disputes with U.S.; stirred up hostilities with native tribes in the western frontier     |
| 4. <b>Barbary States</b> | d) Angered at U.S. neutrality, this country attacked U.S. ships; demanded bribes from U.S. officials before discussing a resolution to the problems |

Based on the real life problems the United States faced with foreign nations, do you still believe the advice on the front of this paper is practical? Explain why or why not.

You are now the Secretary of State. You are responsible for advising the President on our nation’s *foreign policy*. Select one set of problems and explain what advice you would give for dealing with the situation to best help our country. Explain the possible advantages and disadvantages of your solution.