

**Forum:** Economic and Social Council

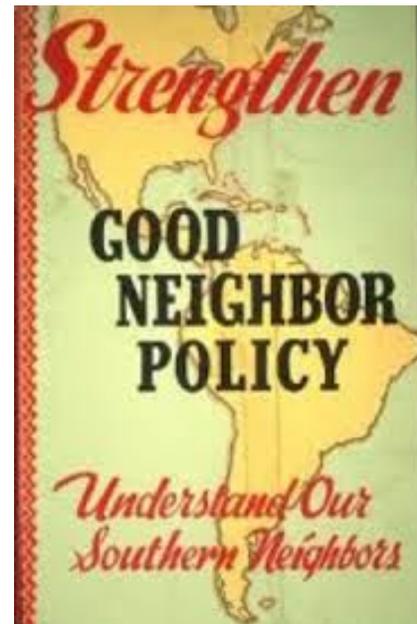
**Issue:** Pan-Americanism in the future of Latin America

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**Position:** Presidency

## Introduction

Pan-Americanism is defined as the movement that aims to form relationships and mutual cooperation between the states of the Americas. The movement is designed to achieve this goal through diplomatic, economic, political and social means. Pan-Americanism developed after the unifying effect of the United States, Haiti and Hispanic Americans all seeking independence with only years apart. The cooperation between American nations throughout their fights for liberty led to Henry Clay and Thomas Jefferson setting forth the principles of Pan-Americanism, which were strengthened with the Monroe Doctrine that addressed European interference in American affairs. Pan-Americanism took a hit with the rise of South American nationalism, yet many Inter-American conferences were held to continue the movement. In the 20th century, a great step towards achieving the Pan-American agenda was taken by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who established the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs in order to maintain peaceful commercial and cultural relations during World War II.



The “Good Neighbor” doctrine that is embodied within Pan-Americanism is almost unprecedented in history, with most nations having tumultuous relationships with their

neighboring states that leads to invasions, violence and war. Latin America houses many of these historically tumultuous relationships, and the lingering resentment remains strong to this day. The United States, as well, is a country that has established its large territory using less-than-diplomatic strategies, and policies such as Dollar Diplomacy and Teddy Roosevelt's Big Stick form barriers against the advance of the Pan-Americanism movement. These are most likely the reasons why the intended commercial liberalization never took place. However, several advances were made within the Pan-American movement, and collaboration occurred in areas such as health, human rights, continental defense and infrastructure. The trend towards solidarity which took place in the 19th century, along with recent developments, paved the way for the future of Pan-Americanism -an ideal which, if ever achieved, would provide great prosperity for all nations in the Americas.

## Definition of Key Terms

**The Monroe Doctrine:** United States policy of opposing European colonialism in the Americas

**Good Neighbor Doctrine:** US policy to engage in reciprocal exchanges with Latin American countries.

**Dollar Policy:** American foreign policy to further its aims in Latin America and East Asia through the use of its economic power by guaranteeing loans made to foreign countries.

**Roosevelt's "Big Stick":** "Speak softly and carry a big stick, you will go far."

## General Overview

### Establishment of Pan-Americanism

Although the roots for Pan-Americanism extend to the establishment of the US, the first solid action was taken with the establishment of the Pan-Americanism Union in the 1890s during the Benjamin Harrison Presidency. The relations between the US and South American countries had grown stronger before that thanks to the Monroe Doctrine (1823), which will be discussed in more detail later on, paving way for the establishment of this organisation. The union was established to promote peace and build strong relations between the North and South Americas. Multiple Pan-Americanism conferences were held in which judicial and diplomatic

issues were discussed. The Pan-Americanism Union was amended in 1948 by the Henry S. Truman Administration, and it was named as the Organisation of American States (OAS). The newly established organisation served one main purpose: preventing the interference of countries in the Americas. The establishment of the organization did not take long, as many South American countries longed the support of a strong ally during WWII and the post-WWII periods. The US stood out when compared to other world superpowers, and the Good Neighbor Policy (1933) is largely credited for this. The policy put an official end to traditional US interventionism. The US decreased its military existence in South America with this policy, sowing the seeds of the Organisation of American States. The organisation ensured the protection of South American countries from the intervention of countries such as the Soviet Union at the time. Additionally, the organisation was given the tasks to end disputes and encourage strong economic relations between its members.

### **The Monroe Doctrine and the Contradiction of U.S. Policies**

The Monroe Doctrine (1823) was the first manifesto to recognize the union of the two American continents. In a broad sense, the U.S. recognized current colonial states in South America, and closed off the establishment of any others; promising to retaliate if European countries take any action in that direction.

The unity that was created, along with other actions strengthened economic, social and political relations between the North and South of America. The Good Neighbor Policy was a milestone for the strength of these relations. The development of these relations stagnated due to the contradiction of the United States' policies and the establishments that strengthened relations in the Americas. The United States' anti-communism policies in Asia and Europe led to the undermining of these relations.

### **Challenge posed by “America First” against Pan-Americanism**

Donald J. Trump took office on January 20th, 2017. Since then, his administration is following an “America First” policy which has isolated the US on the international stage. The US decreased its presence on the international stage and prioritised its short-term national interests. This has undermined the US' relations with its allies, including South American states.

Trump's rhetoric during his 2016 presidential campaign signaled a change in US relations with

South America. Trump accused particular states in South America, all of which are members of the OAS, for being the root cause of crime and drugs in the US. This implicated a setting of distance between the US and its South American allies. On April 12 2018, Trump proclaimed the 14th of April as Pan-Americanism day in order to “commemorate the 128th anniversary of the First International Conference of American States” (the White House). The Trump administration also assured South American states it will continue its support and dedicate itself to the enhancement of their relations.

The changes in the region show the total opposite. The Trump Administration has been very slow in appointing high-ranking officials in Latin America, a sign of US's lacking dedication and support in the region. With millions of people fleeing violence in Latin America, the Trump Administration has limited the number of its asylum spots to 30.000, the lowest it has ever been. The administration also did not satisfy the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with the \$100 million it has offered for their regional operations, much less than the fund that is actually needed. The government also came into question after they allegedly prevented the removal of a UN-backed commission called the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), by surrounding the commission's office its army vehicles. Many nations expressed their concern as the US' actions were a violation of Guatemala's sovereignty, but the US remained silent. The US's support in anti-corruption efforts also threatened many government leaders which is why they moved further away from the US.

The weakening economic and political ties with the U.S. made China a promising alternative for a trading partner. China's investments in Latin America have therefore increased. The increasing involvement of China in South America contradicts the essence of Pan-Americanism, which is to prevent the involvement of other nations to South America by creating a political and economic union.

### **The Difference Between Pan-Americanism and Pan-Africanism**

The difference between Pan-Africanism and Pan-Americanism is important to understand why it very difficult to implement such principles. In essence, Pan-Africanism is somewhat different than Pan-Americanism. Pan-Africanism is the ideology that all people with African descent should live under a unified African nation, located in Africa. The ideology turned into a movement, and people can still come up on it. However, the ideology now narrows its range as it calls for the strengthening of political and economic ties between nations in the African

continent. The unity of African nations has developed with the ideology, and shows no signs of reversal.

So, why is there a reversal of Pan-Americanism when there is no reversal of Pan-Africanism? There are many reasons that can be listed. However, there are main reasons that should be discussed. Firstly, it should be noted that Pan-Americanism is the economic and political unity between South American and North American Nations. Its aim is to establish and maintain a unity between nations that are in two different continents. This makes maintaining Pan-Americanism extremely challenging. Another reason for why it is so challenging is the very evident difference in economic strength between North America and South America. In Africa, countries have similar economies, and their unity therefore is beneficial for all. The large gap between the US and the Latin American countries serves as an obstacle against their unity. With the US's prioritization of its economy, its interests in Latin America lost significance, and so did their economic unity.

## **Major Parties Involved and Their Views**

### **Organisation of American States (OAS)**

The OAS is the oldest regional organisation in the world, its roots dating back to 1890. The organisation was established with the aim of creating and maintaining "an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence" between its members (OAS). The OAS today has 35 independent member states, and works closely with the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN).

### **The United States of America**

The US is one of the three countries that called for the Pan-Americanism conferences to be held. The US has had the central role in nearly all major development regarding Pan-Americanism. It played a key role in the establishment of the OAS. This report has provided a detailed explanation on the actions taken by the United States that led to the current state of Pan-Americanism. The policies of the US influence the relations between the members of the OAS, and the U.S. therefore holds the key to the future of Pan-Americanism.

## Cuba

Cuba is one of the very few countries which are not members of the OAS. Cuba's membership was terminated due to OAS' anticommunist stance in 1962. It also supported John F. Kennedy in his efforts to prevent the shipment of Soviet missiles in Cuba. It also called its members to cut all relations with Cuba. In 2009, Cuba was reinvited to the OAS, but Cuba refused.

## Timeline of Events

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| <b>1826</b>      | Simon Bolivar, then-President of Peru, organized the first "Congreso Anfictiónico" in Panama.  |
| <b>1847-1864</b> | Conventions were held in Lima and Santiago.  |
| <b>1889</b>      | The first Pan-Americanism congress in the United States was held in Washington, D.C. The day of the meeting, April 14th, has been celebrated since 1930 as Pan America Day.  |
| <b>1901-1969</b> | Congresses took place in Mexico, Chile, Cuba and more. Some notable examples include the 1922 Maryland Pan-American Women Conference in Baltimore, the 1936 Peace Conference in Buenos Aires, the 1942 Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Rio de Janeiro, and the Latin American Education Congresses in Quito. |
| <b>1941</b>      | US President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. The agency's main purpose was to distribute news, films and advertising in Latin American countries, in an attempt to counter Italian and German propaganda.   |
| <b>1949</b>      | The Office of Latin American Education was founded, which later became the Organization of Ibero-American States.  |

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| <b>2005-2006</b> | Panama organized the Congreso de Escritores y Escritoras de Centroamérica, with the intention to create the Center American Federation, and the Latin American and Caribbean Congress in Solidarity, with Puerto Rico's Independence |
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## **UN Involvement**

The involvement of the United Nations in the issue of Pan-Americanism is extremely limited. The only area in which the UN deals specifically with Inter-American affairs is the issue of health care, which includes the spread of various diseases. The United Nations has established the Pan-American Health Organization, which aims to assist Latin American nations in preventing and quarantining certain viruses. For example, in 2016, UN teams coordinated with the Haitian government in order to vaccinate 800.000 citizens from cholera. However, the UN should take on a bigger role in this issue, considering that almost 15% of the world population would directly be impacted from any policy regarding the Pan-American agenda.

## **Possible Solutions**

Pan-Americanism depends on the stance taken by the United States of America regarding the Latin American countries. Imperialism and national interests of USA further endanger Pan-Americanism and Good Neighbor Policies produce national respect, unity, tolerance and finally Pan-Americanism. But it is to the United States of America's discretion to rather choose the international cooperation by quitting the imperialism or to rather act in its own profits and continue imperialism towards Latin American Countries. Since both can not be obtained at the same time, it is crucial to take a stance. Of course, it is preferable to choose the Pan-Americanism and encourage the commerce between Americas which will have positive impacts on the development of both part's economies.

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