Tanner Day

Hour: 12:00 – 12:50

Research paper: Primary Source Documents

**The Monroe Doctrine, 1823, by James Monroe:**

The Monroe Doctrine, a policy written by James Monroe, was first introduced during Monroe’s seventh annual State of the Union Address to Congress on December 2nd, 1823. This policy that was proposed to European nations requested that those nations do not attempt to colonize in North America or South America. This policy came about because of the events that occurred on the other side of the world, when Latin American nations overthrew Spanish and Portuguese rule in the early 1800s. The United States simply did not want other European nations to claim the newly independent nations as colonies, just as they did with the Spanish and Portuguese. Later on in the doctrine, Monroe expresses that the United States intends to stay neutral in the wars between European powers and their colonies. However, if there were to be any interference with the independent countries in the Americas, it would be taken as a hostile act towards the United States. In this case, the United States would set up their defense.

In my opinion, this is a very strong doctrine. James Monroe achieved his goal by making the right statements and by coming off fearless, but friendly at the same time. At first, he begins by explaining his reasoning and says, “The American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers.” This quote shows how the Americas differ from the European nations, and it demands European powers to not consider colonizing America. This is an intimidating factor which contributes to the fulfillment of Monroe’s goal. But, it almost seems as if Monroe plays the role of an ally in certain parts of the doctrine. For example, there is a line that reads, “The late events in Spain and Portugal show that Europe is still unsettled.” This line possesses a hidden sympathy and is helping Monroe clarify why he is composing the doctrine asking European powers to stay out of America. It’s almost as if Monroe is saying, “Look, we aren’t coming at you guys with this for no reason, we are just concerned and don’t want to be involved.” In my final analysis, I think that the Monroe doctrine was delivered very effectively because obviously it worked.

**Letter to Sarah, 1861, by Sullivan Ballou:**

In 1861, Sullivan Ballou wrote a letter to his wife Sarah explaining what was going on around him and he included some potential heartbreaking news. Sullivan was a man fighting in the civil war among the Rhode Island Volunteers. Ballou explains in his letter to his wife that he is fighting in these battles to protect his country and to maintain the form of government that the country had. There is a specific line from the letter that reads, “And I am willing -- perfectly willing -- to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this Government, and to pay that debt.” This quote provides evidence that Sullivan knows that he will probably die in battle, but is willing to face the fact because of the overpowering patriotic characteristic that he has. Then, in the letter, he tells Sarah, “My dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name.” This line shows the love that Sullivan has for his wife. He then tells his wife that he is confident in her maternal care, and that he knows she will raise their sons to be great men. The letter proves that Sullivan is a family man as well as a patriot.

Analyzing the document, you can see that the author achieves his goal by comforting Sarah and by making his last words to his family very honorable ones. Even though the letter is very deep and effective, it is not written very well. Sullivan’s thoughts and feelings are kind of scattered everywhere throughout the letter, and he also bounces back and forth between subjects. He comes to a very strong conclusion, but throughout the body of his letter there are some parts that can be hard to follow. Aside from how the letter is formatted, Sullivan meets his expectations when writing to his wife because it is such a deep and sensitive subject.

From my standpoint, reading this letter assured me that there is no man whose greatness could Triumph that of Sullivan Ballou. He is a man who would have been idolized by many back in that day and age and becoming that is a difficult task. Although Sullivan’s letter was not composed to its full potential, I still feel that the letter was very important and had a great significant influence on his family and history.

**Speech on The Death of Martin Luther King Jr, by Robert Kennedy, 1968:**

Robert Kennedy’s speech came after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr and after many riots among the black community. This speech was attempting to conceive American society by lifting the hearts of the civilians. Kennedy reaches out to blacks and tells them not to be full of hatred, bitterness, and revenge. Instead, RFK suggests that everyone should come together as a nation with peace and love, and move in the right direction. He pacifies the blacks by reassuring them that he has been in their spot before, when his brother, and former president, John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Robert Kennedy gives his speech using words containing power and emotions, and forms himself into an inspirational figure. The crowd applauds multiple times because they feel like they can relate to Robert F. Kennedy.

Looking over the document, you can see that this speech was delivered in a strong manor and inspired many people to change the ways of society. There are a few elements of the speech that could use critiquing, one of them being the part when he says, “For those of you who are black and are tempted to be filled with hatred and mistrust of the injustice of such an act, against all white people, I would only say that I can also feel in my own heart the same kind of feeling.” Kennedy stating that he has had the same feeling as the blacks could possibly temper some people because they might believe that he does not share the same feeling. Also, Kennedy makes it seem like the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. was just as much of a tragedy for whites as it was blacks. This could apply even more anger to blacks because they know that the white community was not as affected nearly as much. However, there are strong parts of this speech that were used to the best measure. For example, when Kennedy utilizes the quote, “"Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God." then after states that what America needs is not division or hatred. Instead, what they need is, “love and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or whether they be black.” These words came towards the concluding end of his speech, and left everyone feeling uplifted.

In my eyes, Robert Kennedy used his mesmerizing words to sway the entire crowd to come together and ignite the start of something new. He took some risks by trying to relate himself to a black population even though he was Caucasian, but the risks paid off. You could imagine the deliverance of the speech is what sealed the deal to all people listening. Robert Kennedy accomplished his goal by going out of his way to be a unique voice just like Martin Luther King Jr.

**Works Cited:**

Primary Source Documents CD, Salt Lake Community College – The Monroe Doctrine, Letter to Sarah, Speech on the Death of Martin Luther King Jr

**ePortfolio web address:**

http://tannerday.yolasite.com/coursework.php