

The United States: global citizen or global pariah?

Karen Donahue, RSM

Earlier this month, the White House released its most recent [National Security Strategy](#) (NSS). This is a document that outlines the nation's security concerns, the administration's plans to address them, and serves to communicate the administration's vision to Congress and the public.

This NSS is noteworthy in that it reorients U.S. foreign policy relative to several areas of the world and seems to indicate a turning away from the kind of global engagement that has characterized U.S. foreign policy since the end of World War II. For example, there is much less focus on the Middle East now that the U.S. is not as dependent on Middle East petroleum as it once was.

However, there is an enhanced focus on the Western Hemisphere, particularly Latin America, with a call to “reassert and enforce the Monroe Doctrine to restore American preeminence in the Western Hemisphere.” Like the original Monroe Doctrine (1823), the [Trump Corollary](#) “will deny non-Hemispheric competitors the ability to position forces or other threatening capabilities, or to own or control strategically vital assets.” However, the real goal is a “potent restoration of American power and priorities.”

United States intervention is already on the rise. Large numbers of U.S. troops are now deployed in the Caribbean, drone attacks on boats suspected of carrying drugs have killed almost ninety people, the president endorsed right-wing presidential candidates in recent elections held in Argentina and Honduras, and there are ongoing threats to invade Venezuela, a nation which holds the world's largest petroleum reserves.

This NSS also [undermines the long-standing alliance between the United States and Europe](#), claiming that Europe is on the verge of *civilizational erasure* because of its immigration policies, social safety net programs and strong regulatory measures. It affirms far-right parties and considers “the growing influence of patriotic European parties cause for great optimism.”

The general tone of the document is “America First” with almost no regard for the dreams and aspirations of the other 95.8 percent of the world's population. Climate change, the greatest threat to humanity, is dismissed as an ideology.