

FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS

FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS IS A TERM THAT CAPTURES THE CORE PRINCIPLES, STRATEGIES, AND THEORIES THAT SHAPE HOW NATIONS UNDERSTAND AND INTERACT WITH THE WORLD. THIS ARTICLE PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE EXPLORATION OF WHAT FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS ENTAILS, EXAMINING ITS ORIGINS, KEY CONCEPTS, AND ITS IMPACT ON MODERN GLOBAL AFFAIRS. READERS WILL GAIN INSIGHT INTO THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF GEOPOLITICAL THOUGHT, MAJOR THEORISTS WHO HAVE INFLUENCED THE FIELD, AND THE PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF THESE IDEAS IN SHAPING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. THE ARTICLE ALSO DELVES INTO THE ROLE OF GEOGRAPHY, POLITICAL POWER, AND STRATEGIC INTERESTS, WHILE HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING GEOPOLITICS IN TODAY'S INTERCONNECTED WORLD. THROUGH CLEAR EXPLANATIONS AND DETAILED SECTIONS, THIS GUIDE AIMS TO ENHANCE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS, MAKING COMPLEX IDEAS ACCESSIBLE AND RELEVANT.

- DEFINITION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF GEOPOLITICS
- HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF GEOPOLITICAL THOUGHT
- CORE THEORIES AND MODELS IN GEOPOLITICS
- KEY FIGURES IN THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS
- GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS IN GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGY
- MODERN APPLICATIONS OF GEOPOLITICAL PRINCIPLES
- CHALLENGES AND CRITICISMS OF GEOPOLITICAL APPROACHES
- CONCLUSION: THE ENDURING RELEVANCE OF GEOPOLITICS

DEFINITION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF GEOPOLITICS

THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS REFER TO THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES THAT GOVERN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GEOGRAPHY AND POLITICAL POWER. GEOPOLITICS EXAMINES HOW GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS SUCH AS LOCATION, RESOURCES, AND PHYSICAL BARRIERS INFLUENCE THE POLITICAL BEHAVIOR OF STATES AND THEIR INTERACTIONS ON THE GLOBAL STAGE. THE TERM ENCOMPASSES BOTH THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS AND PRACTICAL POLICIES THAT GUIDE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DECISION-MAKING. UNDERSTANDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS IS CRUCIAL BECAUSE IT SHAPES FOREIGN POLICIES, MILITARY STRATEGIES, AND ECONOMIC ALLIANCES. IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION, GEOPOLITICAL THINKING REMAINS CENTRAL TO ADDRESSING ISSUES LIKE SECURITY, TRADE, AND REGIONAL STABILITY. AS NEW CHALLENGES EMERGE, NATIONS CONTINUE TO RELY ON THESE FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS TO NAVIGATE A COMPLEX AND CHANGING WORLD.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF GEOPOLITICAL THOUGHT

THE HISTORY OF GEOPOLITICS DATES BACK CENTURIES, EVOLVING ALONGSIDE THE RISE AND FALL OF EMPIRES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATION-STATES. EARLY EXAMPLES CAN BE TRACED TO CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS, WHERE LEADERS RECOGNIZED THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF TERRITORIAL CONTROL. HOWEVER, THE MODERN FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS EMERGED IN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURIES AS SCHOLARS BEGAN TO FORMALIZE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GEOGRAPHY AND POWER. INFLUENTIAL WORKS FROM THIS PERIOD ESTABLISHED KEY CONCEPTS THAT CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE GEOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS TODAY. THROUGHOUT THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, GEOPOLITICAL THOUGHT WAS SHAPED BY EVENTS SUCH AS THE WORLD WARS, THE COLD WAR, AND THE EMERGENCE OF NEW GLOBAL POWERS. EACH ERA BROUGHT NEW PERSPECTIVES, THEORIES, AND APPLICATIONS, SOLIDIFYING THE ENDURING SIGNIFICANCE OF GEOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS.

CORE THEORIES AND MODELS IN GEOPOLITICS

GEOPOLITICAL THEORIES PROVIDE FRAMEWORKS FOR ANALYZING HOW AND WHY STATES PURSUE PARTICULAR STRATEGIES IN RELATION TO THEIR GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT. SEVERAL FOUNDATIONAL MODELS HAVE SHAPED THE STUDY AND PRACTICE OF GEOPOLITICS, EACH OFFERING UNIQUE INSIGHTS INTO THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN GEOGRAPHY, RESOURCES, AND POLITICAL AMBITION.

THE HEARTLAND THEORY

FORMULATED BY HALFORD MACKINDER IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, THE HEARTLAND THEORY POSITS THAT CONTROL OVER THE CENTRAL REGION OF EURASIA—REFERRED TO AS THE "HEARTLAND"—CONFERS SIGNIFICANT STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE. MACKINDER ARGUED THAT WHOEVER CONTROLS EASTERN EUROPE COMMANDS THE HEARTLAND, AND THUS, CAN DOMINATE THE WORLD. THIS THEORY INFLUENCED STRATEGIES DURING BOTH WORLD WARS AND THE COLD WAR.

THE RIMLAND THEORY

NICHOLAS SPYKMAN'S RIMLAND THEORY COUNTERED MACKINDER'S IDEAS BY EMPHASIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COASTAL FRINGES OF EURASIA, OR THE "RIMLAND." SPYKMAN CONTENDED THAT POWER LIES NOT AT THE CENTER, BUT ALONG THE PERIPHERY, WHERE ACCESS TO OCEANS AND TRADE ROUTES ALLOWS FOR GREATER INFLUENCE. THIS PERSPECTIVE HAS INFORMED NAVAL STRATEGIES AND ALLIANCES LIKE NATO.

OTHER GEOPOLITICAL MODELS

- SEA POWER THEORY (ALFRED MAHAN): STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF NAVAL DOMINANCE FOR GLOBAL INFLUENCE.
- ORGANIC THEORY (FRIEDRICH RATZEL): COMPARES STATES TO LIVING ORGANISMS THAT MUST EXPAND TO SURVIVE.
- WORLD-SYSTEM THEORY (IMMANUEL WALLERSTEIN): EXPLORES THE ECONOMIC HIERARCHY OF CORE, SEMI-PERIPHERY, AND PERIPHERY NATIONS.

KEY FIGURES IN THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS

THE EVOLUTION OF GEOPOLITICAL THOUGHT HAS BEEN SHAPED BY SEVERAL INFLUENTIAL FIGURES WHOSE THEORIES AND WRITINGS REMAIN FOUNDATIONAL. THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS CONTINUE TO INFORM CONTEMPORARY ANALYSIS AND POLICY.

HALFORD MACKINDER

KNOWN AS THE "FATHER OF GEOPOLITICS," MACKINDER DEVELOPED THE HEARTLAND THEORY AND EMPHASIZED THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF EURASIA. HIS WORK UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF LAND POWER IN GLOBAL COMPETITION.

ALFRED MAHAN

A U.S. NAVAL OFFICER AND HISTORIAN, MAHAN'S SEA POWER THEORY HIGHLIGHTED THE CRITICAL ROLE OF NAVIES AND MARITIME COMMERCE IN ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING GLOBAL DOMINANCE.

NICHOLAS SPYKMAN

SPYKMAN EXPANDED ON AND CHALLENGED MACKINDER'S IDEAS, DEVELOPING THE RIMLAND THEORY. HIS CONCEPTS INFLUENCED U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND THE CONTAINMENT STRATEGY DURING THE COLD WAR.

FRIEDRICH RATZEL

A GERMAN GEOGRAPHER, RATZEL INTRODUCED THE ORGANIC THEORY OF THE STATE, WHICH LIKENED NATIONS TO LIVING ORGANISMS THAT MUST GROW AND ADAPT TO SURVIVE IN A COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT.

GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS IN GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGY

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN SHAPING THE STRATEGIES AND POLICIES OF NATIONS. UNDERSTANDING THESE FACTORS IS CENTRAL TO THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS, AS THEY OFTEN DETERMINE ACCESS TO RESOURCES, DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANSION.

NATURAL BARRIERS AND BORDERS

MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, OCEANS, AND DESERTS HAVE HISTORICALLY SERVED AS NATURAL BARRIERS THAT PROVIDE SECURITY AND INFLUENCE THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND ARMIES. THESE FEATURES OFTEN DEFINE POLITICAL BOUNDARIES AND AFFECT CONFLICT DYNAMICS.

RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

THE AVAILABILITY AND CONTROL OF VITAL RESOURCES—SUCH AS ENERGY, MINERALS, AND WATER—ARE KEY DRIVERS OF GEOPOLITICAL COMPETITION. NATIONS STRATEGICALLY POSITION THEMSELVES TO SECURE ACCESS AND PROTECT SUPPLY CHAINS.

STRATEGIC CHOKEPOINTS

CERTAIN GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS, LIKE THE SUEZ CANAL, STRAIT OF HORMUZ, AND PANAMA CANAL, SERVE AS CHOKEPOINTS FOR GLOBAL TRADE AND MILITARY MOVEMENT. CONTROL OVER THESE AREAS CAN PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT LEVERAGE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

MODERN APPLICATIONS OF GEOPOLITICAL PRINCIPLES

THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS CONTINUE TO SHAPE CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL AFFAIRS, INFLUENCING THE BEHAVIOR OF STATES AND THE STRUCTURE OF INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS. GEOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS IS APPLIED IN A VARIETY OF CONTEXTS TO ASSESS RISKS, ANTICIPATE CONFLICTS, AND FORMULATE POLICIES.

FOREIGN POLICY AND DIPLOMACY

GOVERNMENTS USE GEOPOLITICAL FRAMEWORKS TO GUIDE THEIR FOREIGN POLICIES, FORMING ALLIANCES, AND ENGAGING IN DIPLOMACY THAT ADVANCES NATIONAL INTERESTS. THESE DECISIONS ARE INFORMED BY GEOGRAPHIC REALITIES AND STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES.

MILITARY STRATEGY AND SECURITY

MILITARY PLANNING RELIES HEAVILY ON GEOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS, FROM THE PLACEMENT OF BASES TO THE PROJECTION OF POWER IN KEY REGIONS. UNDERSTANDING THE GEOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPE IS ESSENTIAL FOR DEFENSE AND SECURITY OPERATIONS.

ECONOMIC COMPETITION

- **TRADE ROUTES:** NATIONS INVEST IN AND PROTECT CRITICAL TRADE CORRIDORS.
- **RESOURCE COMPETITION:** SECURING ENERGY SOURCES AND RAW MATERIALS REMAINS A CENTRAL CONCERN.
- **TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE:** CONTROL OVER DIGITAL AND COMMUNICATION NETWORKS HAS EMERGED AS A NEW GEOPOLITICAL FRONTIER.

CHALLENGES AND CRITICISMS OF GEOPOLITICAL APPROACHES

WHILE THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS PROVIDE VALUABLE INSIGHTS, THEY ARE NOT WITHOUT CHALLENGES AND CRITICISMS. CRITICS ARGUE THAT TRADITIONAL GEOPOLITICAL THINKING CAN OVERSIMPLIFY COMPLEX REALITIES, IGNORE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS, AND PERPETUATE POWER RIVALRIES.

LIMITATIONS OF CLASSIC THEORIES

MANY CLASSIC GEOPOLITICAL THEORIES WERE DEVELOPED IN A SPECIFIC HISTORICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL CONTEXT. ADVANCES IN TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, AND MILITARY TECHNOLOGY HAVE ALTERED THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF CERTAIN REGIONS, MAKING SOME THEORIES LESS RELEVANT TODAY.

ETHICAL AND HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS

GEOPOLITICAL COMPETITION OFTEN PRIORITIZES NATIONAL INTERESTS OVER GLOBAL COOPERATION OR HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS CAN LEAD TO POLICIES THAT EXACERBATE CONFLICT, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, OR DISPLACEMENT OF POPULATIONS.

RISE OF NON-STATE ACTORS

THE INCREASING INFLUENCE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND NON-STATE GROUPS CHALLENGES TRADITIONAL STATE-CENTRIC MODELS OF GEOPOLITICS. ADAPTATION OF GEOPOLITICAL FRAMEWORKS IS NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THESE EVOLVING DYNAMICS.

CONCLUSION: THE ENDURING RELEVANCE OF GEOPOLITICS

THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS REMAIN CENTRAL TO UNDERSTANDING HOW NATIONS NAVIGATE THE COMPLEXITIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. AS THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE SHIFTS, THE CORE PRINCIPLES, THEORIES, AND STRATEGIES DEVELOPED BY PAST THINKERS CONTINUE TO INFORM POLICY AND ANALYSIS. BY EXAMINING THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN GEOGRAPHY, POWER, AND STRATEGY, LEADERS CAN ANTICIPATE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD. THE ENDURING RELEVANCE OF GEOPOLITICS LIES IN ITS ABILITY TO ADAPT AND PROVIDE INSIGHTS INTO BOTH HISTORICAL AND EMERGING ISSUES IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS.

Q: WHAT ARE THE MAIN FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS?

A: THE MAIN FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS INCLUDE THE STUDY OF HOW GEOGRAPHY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND STRATEGIC LOCATIONS INFLUENCE THE POWER AND BEHAVIOR OF STATES. CORE THEORIES SUCH AS THE HEARTLAND THEORY, RIMLAND THEORY, AND SEA POWER THEORY, AS WELL AS THE ROLE OF KEY THINKERS LIKE MACKINDER AND MAHAN, FORM THE BASIS OF GEOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS.

Q: WHO DEVELOPED THE HEARTLAND THEORY IN GEOPOLITICS?

A: THE HEARTLAND THEORY WAS DEVELOPED BY SIR HALFORD MACKINDER, A BRITISH GEOGRAPHER, WHO ARGUED THAT CONTROL OVER THE CENTRAL REGION OF EURASIA WOULD LEAD TO GLOBAL DOMINANCE.

Q: WHY IS GEOGRAPHY IMPORTANT IN THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS?

A: GEOGRAPHY IS ESSENTIAL IN GEOPOLITICS BECAUSE IT DETERMINES ACCESS TO RESOURCES, NATURAL BARRIERS, AND STRATEGIC CHOKEPOINTS, ALL OF WHICH AFFECT A NATION'S SECURITY, ECONOMIC POTENTIAL, AND INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD STAGE.

Q: HOW DO GEOPOLITICAL THEORIES INFLUENCE MODERN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS?

A: GEOPOLITICAL THEORIES GUIDE POLICY DECISIONS, MILITARY STRATEGIES, AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THEY HELP NATIONS ANTICIPATE AND RESPOND TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES, FORM ALLIANCES, AND PURSUE NATIONAL INTERESTS BASED ON GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES.

Q: WHAT CRITICISMS EXIST AGAINST TRADITIONAL GEOPOLITICAL APPROACHES?

A: CRITICISMS INCLUDE THE OVERSIMPLIFICATION OF COMPLEX REALITIES, NEGLECT OF CULTURAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS, ETHICAL CONCERNS, AND THE INABILITY TO ACCOUNT FOR MODERN DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS GLOBALIZATION AND THE RISE OF NON-STATE ACTORS.

Q: CAN NON-STATE ACTORS INFLUENCE GEOPOLITICS?

A: YES, NON-STATE ACTORS SUCH AS MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND TRANSNATIONAL GROUPS INCREASINGLY IMPACT GLOBAL AFFAIRS, CHALLENGING TRADITIONAL STATE-CENTRIC GEOPOLITICAL FRAMEWORKS.

Q: WHAT IS THE RIMLAND THEORY AND WHO PROPOSED IT?

A: THE RIMLAND THEORY WAS PROPOSED BY NICHOLAS SPYKMAN. IT POSITS THAT THE COASTAL AREAS, OR "RIMLANDS," OF EURASIA ARE MORE STRATEGICALLY VALUABLE THAN THE CENTRAL "HEARTLAND" AND THAT CONTROL OVER THESE REGIONS IS CRUCIAL FOR GLOBAL INFLUENCE.

Q: HOW DOES RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION AFFECT GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGIES?

A: RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION AFFECTS GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGIES BY DRIVING COMPETITION FOR CONTROL OVER VALUABLE ASSETS LIKE OIL, MINERALS, AND WATER. NATIONS OFTEN SHAPE THEIR FOREIGN POLICIES AND ALLIANCES TO SECURE AND PROTECT THESE ESSENTIAL RESOURCES.

Q: WHAT ROLE DO STRATEGIC CHOKEPOINTS PLAY IN GEOPOLITICS?

A: STRATEGIC CHOKEPOINTS ARE NARROW GEOGRAPHIC PASSAGES CRITICAL FOR TRADE AND MILITARY MOVEMENT. CONTROL OVER THESE AREAS, SUCH AS THE SUEZ CANAL OR STRAIT OF HORMUZ, PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT LEVERAGE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND GLOBAL COMMERCE.

Q: WHY ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS STILL RELEVANT TODAY?

A: THE FOUNDATIONS OF GEOPOLITICS REMAIN RELEVANT DUE TO ONGOING COMPETITION FOR RESOURCES, STRATEGIC POSITIONING, AND THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOW GEOGRAPHY SHAPES POWER DYNAMICS IN AN INTERCONNECTED AND RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD.

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Foundations of Geopolitics: Understanding the Global Power Game

The world is a chessboard, and nations are the pieces. Understanding the moves requires a grasp of geopolitics – the study of international relations in terms of geography and material resources. This isn't just about memorizing capitals; it's about deciphering the complex interplay of power, economics, and culture that shapes our global landscape. This comprehensive guide dives into the foundations of geopolitics, providing a solid understanding of its key principles and influential factors. We'll explore its historical roots, core concepts, and the contemporary challenges that shape the geopolitical landscape of today.

H2: The Historical Roots of Geopolitics

Geopolitics didn't emerge overnight. Its foundations lie in ancient strategies of territorial expansion and resource control. Think of the Roman Empire's meticulously planned infrastructure and

strategic military deployments, or the Silk Road's influence on trade and cultural exchange. These historical precedents demonstrate the enduring importance of geographical factors in shaping power dynamics.

H3: Classical Geopolitical Thinkers

The formalization of geopolitical thought, however, can be traced back to figures like Sir Halford Mackinder, whose "Heartland Theory" posited that control of Eurasia's interior was crucial for global dominance. Similarly, Alfred Thayer Mahan emphasized the importance of naval power and sea control in shaping global influence. These seminal works, while sometimes criticized for their Eurocentric biases, laid the groundwork for understanding the relationship between geography, resources, and power projection.

H2: Core Concepts in Geopolitics

Understanding geopolitics requires familiarity with key concepts:

H3: State Power and National Interest

At the heart of geopolitics lies the concept of state power – a nation's ability to influence and project its will onto the international stage. This power is multifaceted, encompassing military strength, economic clout, diplomatic influence, and soft power (cultural attractiveness and ideological appeal). National interest, the pursuit of goals that benefit a state's security and prosperity, often drives geopolitical actions.

H3: Resource Control and Energy Security

Access to vital resources, particularly energy sources like oil and natural gas, is a cornerstone of geopolitical strategy. Competition for these resources often fuels conflict and cooperation alike, shaping alliances and trade relationships. Energy security – the ability to reliably access energy resources – has become a paramount concern for many nations.

H3: Geopolitical Regions and Power Dynamics

The world isn't a homogenous entity. Geopolitics recognizes the existence of distinct geopolitical regions – areas characterized by shared characteristics like political systems, economic structures, and cultural ties. Understanding the power dynamics within and between these regions is crucial for comprehending global events. For example, the dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region, significantly shaped by the rise of China, are vastly different from those in the European Union.

H2: Contemporary Geopolitical Challenges

The modern geopolitical landscape is marked by several significant challenges:

H3: The Rise of China and the Shifting Global Order

China's economic and military ascendancy is reshaping the global power balance. Its Belt and Road Initiative, a massive infrastructure project spanning Eurasia and Africa, is a prime example of its ambitious geopolitical strategy. This rise challenges the established order and necessitates a reassessment of traditional geopolitical frameworks.

H3: Climate Change and Resource Scarcity

Climate change poses a significant geopolitical threat. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and resource scarcity (particularly water) can exacerbate existing tensions and create new conflict zones. Addressing climate change requires international cooperation, but geopolitical rivalries often hinder such efforts.

H3: Cyber Warfare and Information Operations

The digital age has introduced new forms of geopolitical competition. Cyber warfare and the spread of misinformation and disinformation pose significant threats to national security and stability. These challenges necessitate new strategies and approaches to maintaining security in the digital realm.

H2: Analyzing Geopolitical Events

Applying geopolitical principles helps analyze current events. For example, consider the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Analyzing the historical context, resource competition (particularly regarding natural gas), and the interplay of national interests helps understand the motivations and consequences of the conflict. Similarly, understanding the complexities of the South China Sea dispute requires a deep understanding of resource competition, historical claims, and regional power dynamics.

Conclusion

Geopolitics is a complex and multifaceted field, but understanding its foundations is crucial for navigating the challenges of the 21st century. By examining its historical roots, core concepts, and contemporary challenges, we gain a deeper appreciation for the intricate forces shaping our world. This knowledge is not just for academics; it is essential for informed citizenship and effective decision-making in an increasingly interconnected world.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between geopolitics and international relations? While overlapping, geopolitics emphasizes the influence of geography and material factors on international relations. International relations is a broader field that encompasses diplomatic interactions, international law, and other non-geographically specific factors.
2. How does geography influence geopolitical strategy? Geography dictates access to resources, determines potential allies and adversaries based on proximity, and influences military strategy (e.g., control of chokepoints).
3. What is soft power in geopolitics? Soft power refers to a state's ability to influence others through cultural attraction, ideological appeal, and its overall reputation. It's a non-coercive form of power.
4. Is geopolitics inherently conflictual? No. While competition for resources and power can lead to conflict, geopolitics also encompasses cooperation and diplomacy. Many international agreements and alliances are born out of geopolitical considerations.
5. How can I learn more about geopolitics? Start by reading books and articles on geopolitical theory, following geopolitical analysts and news sources, and paying close attention to current events through a geopolitical lens. Consider taking relevant university courses.

foundations of geopolitics: *Foundations of Geopolitics: the Geopolitical Future of Russia* Alexander Dugin, 2017-08 ENGLISH TRANSLATION The book is a Russian textbook on geopolitics. It systematically and detailed the basics of geopolitics as a science, its theory, history. Covering a wide range of geopolitical schools and beliefs and actual problems. The first time a Russian geopolitical doctrine. An indispensable guide for all those who make decisions in the most important spheres of Russian political life - for politicians, entrepreneurs, economists, bankers, diplomats, analysts, political scientists, and so on. D.

foundations of geopolitics: The Fourth Political Theory Alexander Dugin, 2012 Modern political systems have been the products of liberal democracy, Marxism, or fascism. Dugin asserts a fourth ideology is needed to sift through the debris of the first three to look for elements that might be useful, but that remains innovative and unique in itself.

foundations of geopolitics: Introduction to Geopolitics Colin Flint, 2012-07-26 This clear and concise introductory textbook guides students through their first engagement with geopolitics. It offers a clear framework for understanding contemporary conflicts by showing how geography provides opportunities and limits upon the actions of countries, national groups, and terrorist organizations. This second edition is fundamentally restructured to emphasize geopolitical agency, and non-state actors. The text is fully revised, containing a brand new chapter on environmental geopolitics, which includes discussion of climate change and resource conflicts. The text contains updated case studies, such as the Korean conflict, Israel-Palestine and Chechnya and Kashmir, to emphasize the multi-faceted nature of conflict. These, along with guided exercises, help explain contemporary global power struggles, environmental geopolitics, the global military actions of the United States, the persistence of nationalist conflicts, the changing role of borders, and the new geopolitics of terrorism, and peace movements. Throughout, the readers are introduced to different theoretical perspectives, including feminist contributions, as both the practice and representation of geopolitics are discussed. Introduction to Geopolitics is an ideal introductory text which provides a deeper and critical understanding of current affairs, geopolitical structures and agents. The text is extensively illustrated with diagrams, maps, photographs and end of chapter further reading. Both students and general readers alike will find this book an essential stepping-stone to understanding contemporary conflicts.

foundations of geopolitics: The Foundations of Ethnic Politics Henry E. Hale, 2008-06-30

Despite implicating ethnicity in everything from civil war to economic failure, researchers seldom consult psychological research when addressing the most basic question: What is ethnicity? The result is a radical scholarly divide generating contradictory recommendations for solving ethnic conflict. Research into how the human brain actually works demands a revision of existing schools of thought. Hale argues ethnic identity is a cognitive uncertainty-reduction device with special capacity to exacerbate, but not cause, collective action problems. This produces a new general theory of ethnic conflict that can improve both understanding and practice. A deep study of separatism in the USSR and CIS demonstrates the theory's potential, mobilizing evidence from elite interviews, three local languages, and mass surveys. The outcome significantly reinterprets nationalism's role in CIS relations and the USSR's breakup, which turns out to have been a far more contingent event than commonly recognized.

foundations of geopolitics: Meta-Geopolitics of Outer Space N. Al-Rodhan, 2012-05-11 Al-Rodhan sheds new light on the debate about the geopolitics of outer space, going beyond applying traditional International Relations approaches to space power and security by introducing a multidimensional spatial framework. The meta-geopolitics framework includes space and expands classical power considerations to cover seven state capacities.

foundations of geopolitics: Astropolitik Everett C. Dolman, 2005-07-15 This volume identifies and evaluates the relationship between outer-space geography and geographic position (astrogeography), and the evolution of current and future military space strategy. In doing so, it explores five primary propositions.

foundations of geopolitics: The Dynamics of Russia's Geopolitics David Oualaalou, 2020-12-07 This book provides an understanding of Russia's geopolitical strategic interests as well as a larger picture of its political realities. It shares insights on how to understand and solve the problems affecting US-Russian relations and the world. The book addresses three primary questions relevant to the current global context: Will current geopolitical shifts greatly benefit Russia's long-term global objectives? What foreign policy will Russia pursue in the Middle East and the Baltic regions to guarantee the security of its strategic interests? And will major powers confront one another over resources that could trigger military conflict, or will they choose appeasement to maintain peace and stability in this new era? Thus, the book offers insights into the future geopolitical landscape. It therefore is a must-read for scholars, researchers of international relations and political science, as well as professionals, practitioners and analysts, interested in a better understanding of the changing global order and Russia's geopolitical strategic interests.

foundations of geopolitics: The Grand Chessboard Zbigniew Brzezinski, 2016-12-06 Bestselling author and eminent foreign policy scholar Zbigniew Brzezinski's classic book on America's strategic mission in the modern world. In *The Grand Chessboard*, renowned geostrategist Zbigniew Brzezinski delivers a brutally honest and provocative vision for American preeminence in the twenty-first century. The task facing the United States, he argues, is to become the sole political arbiter in Eurasian lands and to prevent the emergence of any rival power threatening our material and diplomatic interests. The Eurasian landmass, home to the greatest part of the globe's population, natural resources, and economic activity, is the grand chessboard on which America's supremacy will be ratified and challenged in the years to come. In this landmark work of public policy and political science, Brzezinski outlines a groundbreaking and powerful blueprint for America's vital interests in the modern world. In this revised edition, Brzezinski addresses recent global developments including the war in Ukraine, the re-emergence of Russia, and the rise of China.

foundations of geopolitics: *The Geopolitics of the Global Energy Transition* Manfred Hafner, Simone Tagliapietra, 2020-06-09 The world is currently undergoing an historic energy transition, driven by increasingly stringent decarbonisation policies and rapid advances in low-carbon technologies. The large-scale shift to low-carbon energy is disrupting the global energy system, impacting whole economies, and changing the political dynamics within and between countries. This open access book, written by leading energy scholars, examines the economic and geopolitical

implications of the global energy transition, from both regional and thematic perspectives. The first part of the book addresses the geopolitical implications in the world's main energy-producing and energy-consuming regions, while the second presents in-depth case studies on selected issues, ranging from the geopolitics of renewable energy, to the mineral foundations of the global energy transformation, to governance issues in connection with the changing global energy order. Given its scope, the book will appeal to researchers in energy, climate change and international relations, as well as to professionals working in the energy industry.

foundations of geopolitics: *Geopolitics, Supply Chains, and International Relations in East Asia* Etel Solingen, 2021-05-06 An accessible overview of political, economic, and strategic dimensions of global supply chains in a changing global political economy.

foundations of geopolitics: *War for Eternity* Benjamin R. Teitelbaum, 2020-04-21 One of Financial Times' Summer Books of 2020 An explosive and unprecedented inside look at Steve Bannon's entourage of global powerbrokers and the hidden alliances shaping today's geopolitical upheaval. In 2015, Bloomberg News named Steve Bannon "the most dangerous political operative in America." Since then, he has grown exponentially more powerful—and not only in the United States. In this groundbreaking and urgent account, award-winning scholar of the radical right Benjamin Teitelbaum takes readers behind-the-scenes of Bannon's global campaign against modernity. Inspired by a radical twentieth-century ideology called Traditionalism, Bannon and a small group of right-wing powerbrokers are planning new political mobilizations on a global scale—discussed and debated in secret meetings organized by Bannon in hotel suites and private apartments in DC, Europe and South America. Their goal? To upend the world order and reorganize geopolitics on the basis of archaic values rather than modern ideals of democracy, freedom, social progress, and human rights. Their strenuous efforts are already producing results, from the fortification of borders throughout the world and the targeting of immigrants, to the undermining of the European Union and United States governments, and the expansion of Russian influence. Drawing from exclusive interviews with Bannon's hidden network of far-right thinkers, years of academic research into the radical right, and with unprecedented access to the esoteric salons where they meet, Teitelbaum exposes their considerable impact on the world and their radical vision for the future.

foundations of geopolitics: *Geopolitics of the Knowledge-Based Economy* Sami Moisiö, 2018-02-19 We live in the era of the knowledge-based economy, and this has major implications for the ways in which states, cities and even supranational political units are spatially planned, governed and developed. In this book, Sami Moisiö delves deeply into the links between the knowledge-based economy and geopolitics, examining a wide range of themes, including city geopolitics and the university as a geopolitical site. Overall, this work shows that knowledge-based economization can be understood as a geopolitical process that produces territories of wealth, security, power and belonging. This book will prove enlightening to students, researchers and policymakers in the fields of human geography, urban studies, spatial planning, political science and international relations.

foundations of geopolitics: *Public Diplomacy* Nicholas J. Cull, 2019-04-15 New technologies have opened up fresh possibilities for public diplomacy, but this has not erased the importance of history. On the contrary, the lessons of the past seem more relevant than ever, in an age in which communications play an unprecedented role. Whether communications are electronic or hand-delivered, the foundations remain as valid today as they ever have been. Blending history with insights from international relations, communication studies, psychology, and contemporary practice, Cull explores the five core areas of public diplomacy: listening, advocacy, cultural diplomacy, exchanges, and international broadcasting. He unpacks the approaches which have dominated in recent years – nation-branding and partnership – and sets out the foundations for successful global public engagement. Rich with case studies and examples drawn from ancient times through to our own digital age, the book shows the true capabilities and limits of emerging platforms and technologies, as well as drawing on lessons from the past which can empower us and help us to shape the future. This comprehensive and accessible introduction is essential reading for students,

scholars, and practitioners, as well as anyone interested in understanding or mobilizing global public opinion.

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foundations of geopolitics: *Geopolitics in Late Antiquity* Hyun Jin Kim, 2018-10-26 Geopolitics in Late Antiquity explores the geopolitical revolution which shook the foundations of the ancient world, the dawning of the millennium of Inner Asian dominance and virtual monopoly of world power (with interludes) that began with the rise of the Huns and then continued under the hegemony of various other steppe peoples. Kim examines first the geopolitical situation created by the rise of Inner Asian powers, and then the reactions of the great empires of Eurasia to this geopolitical challenge. A unique feature of this book is its in-depth analysis of the geostrategies (some successful, others misguided) adopted by China, Rome and Persia to cope with the growing Inner Asian threat. The conclusions and insights drawn from this analysis are then used to inform modern geopolitics, mainly the contest for hegemonic power between the United States and China. *Geopolitics in Late Antiquity* is a crucial resource for both academic and learned general readership, who have an interest in the fate of antiquity's superpowers and also for those engaged in current international relations policy-making, who wish to learn from historical precedents.

foundations of geopolitics: *Black Wind, White Snow* Charles Clover, 2016-04-26 Charles Clover, award-winning journalist and former Moscow bureau chief for the Financial Times, here analyses the idea of Eurasianism, a theory of Russian national identity based on ethnicity and geography. Clover traces Eurasianism's origins in the writings of White Russian exiles in 1920s Europe, through Siberia's Gulag archipelago in the 1950s, the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, and up to its steady infiltration of the governing elite around Vladimir Putin. This eye-opening analysis pieces together the evidence for Eurasianism's place at the heart of Kremlin thinking today and explores its impact on recent events, the annexation of Crimea, the rise in Russia of anti-Western paranoia and imperialist rhetoric, as well as Putin's sometimes perplexing political actions and ambitions. Based on extensive research and dozens of interviews with Putin's close advisers, this quietly explosive story will be essential reading for anyone concerned with Russia's past century, and its future.

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foundations of geopolitics: The Storm Before the Calm George Friedman, 2020-02-25 *One of Bloomberg's Best Books of the Year* The master geopolitical forecaster and New York Times bestselling author of *The Next 100 Years* focuses on the United States, predicting how the 2020s will bring dramatic upheaval and reshaping of American government, foreign policy, economics, and culture. In his riveting new book, noted forecaster and bestselling author George Friedman turns to the future of the United States. Examining the clear cycles through which the United States has developed, upheaved, matured, and solidified, Friedman breaks down the coming years and decades in thrilling detail. American history must be viewed in cycles—particularly, an eighty-year institutional cycle that has defined us (there are three such examples—the Revolutionary War/founding, the Civil War, and World War II), and a fifty-year socio-economic cycle that has seen the formation of the industrial classes, baby boomers, and the middle classes. These two major cycles are both converging on the late 2020s—a time in which many of these foundations will change. The United States will have to endure upheaval and possible conflict, but also, ultimately, increased strength, stability, and power in the world. Friedman's analysis is detailed and fascinating, and covers issues such as the size and scope of the federal government, the future of marriage and the social contract, shifts in corporate structures, and new cultural trends that will react to longer life expectancies. This new book is both provocative and entertaining.

foundations of geopolitics: On Shifting Foundations Kean Fan Lim, 2019-03-11 This book introduces readers to the current social and economic state of China since its restructuring in 1949. Provides insights into the targeted institutional change that is occurring simultaneously across the entire country Presents context-rich accounts of how and why these changes connect to (if not contradict) regulatory logics established during the Mao-era A new analytical framework that explicitly considers the relationship between state rescaling, policy experimentation, and path dependency Prompts readers to think about how experimental initiatives reflect and contribute to the 'national strategy' of Chinese development An excellent extension of ongoing theoretical work examining the entwinement of subnational regulatory reconfiguration, place-specific policy experimentation, and the reproduction of national economic advantage

foundations of geopolitics: Global Health and International Relations Colin McInnes, Kelley Lee, 2013-05-02 The long separation of health and International Relations, as distinct academic fields and policy arenas, has now dramatically changed. Health, concerned with the body, mind and spirit, has traditionally focused on disease and infirmity, whilst International Relations has been dominated by concerns of war, peace and security. Since the 1990s, however, the two fields have increasingly overlapped. How can we explain this shift and what are the implications for the future development of both fields? Colin McInnes and Kelley Lee examine four key intersections between health and International Relations today - foreign policy and health diplomacy, health and the global political economy, global health governance and global health security. The explosion of interest in these subjects has, in large part, been due to real world concerns - disease outbreaks, antibiotic resistance, counterfeit drugs and other risks to human health amid the spread of globalisation. Yet the authors contend that it is also important to understand how global health has been socially constructed, shaped in theory and practice by particular interests and normative frameworks. This groundbreaking book encourages readers to step back from problem-solving to ask how global health is being problematized in the first place, why certain agendas and issue areas are prioritised, and what determines the potential solutions put forth to address them? The palpable struggle to better understand the health risks facing a globalized world, and to strengthen collective action to deal with them effectively, begins - they argue - with a more reflexive and critical approach to this rapidly emerging subject.

foundations of geopolitics: American Foundations Helmut K. Anheier, David C. Hammack, 2010-09-01 Foundations play an essential part in the philanthropic activity that defines so much of American life. No other nation provides its foundations with so much autonomy and freedom of action as does the United States. Liberated both from the daily discipline of the market and from direct control by government, American foundations understandably attract great attention. As

David Hammack and Helmut Anheier note in this volume, Americans have criticized foundations for... their alleged conservatism, liberalism, elitism, radicalism, devotion to religious tradition, hostility to religion—in short, for commitments to causes whose significance can be measured, in part, by the controversies they provoke. Americans have also criticized foundations for ineffectiveness and even foolishness. Their size alone conveys some sense of the significance of American foundations, whose assets amounted to over \$530 billion in 2008 despite a dramatic decline of almost 22 percent in the previous year. And in 2008 foundation grants totaled over \$45 billion. But what roles have foundations actually played over time, and what distinctive roles do they fill today? How have they shaped American society, how much difference do they make? What roles are foundations likely to play in the future? This comprehensive volume, the product of a three-year project supported by the Aspen Institute's program on the Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy, provides the most thorough effort ever to assess the impact and significance of the nation's large foundations. In it, leading researchers explore how foundations have shaped—or failed to shape—each of the key fields of foundation work. *American Foundations* takes the reader on a wide-ranging tour, evaluating foundation efforts in education, scientific and medical research, health care, social welfare, international relations, arts and culture, religion, and social change.

foundations of geopolitics: *Disunited Nations* Peter Zeihan, 2020-03-03 Should we stop caring about fading regional powers like China, Russia, Germany, and Iran? Will the collapse of international cooperation push France, Turkey, Japan, and Saudi Arabia to the top of international concerns? Most countries and companies are not prepared for the world Peter Zeihan says we're already living in. For decades, America's allies have depended on its might for their economic and physical security. But as a new age of American isolationism dawns, the results will surprise everyone. In *Disunited Nations*, geopolitical strategist Peter Zeihan presents a series of counterintuitive arguments about the future of a world where trade agreements are coming apart and international institutions are losing their power. Germany will decline as the most powerful country in Europe, with France taking its place. Every country should prepare for the collapse of China, not North Korea. We are already seeing, as Zeihan predicts, a shift in outlook on the Middle East: It is no longer Iran that is the region's most dangerous threat, but Saudi Arabia. The world has gotten so accustomed to the "normal" of an American-dominated order that we have all forgotten the historical norm: several smaller, competing powers and economic systems throughout Europe and Asia. America isn't the only nation stepping back from the international system. From Brazil to Great Britain to Russia, leaders are deciding that even if plenty of countries lose in the growing disunited chaos, their nations will benefit. The world isn't falling apart—it's being pushed apart. The countries and businesses prepared for this new every-country-for-itself ethic are those that will prevail; those shackled to the status quo will find themselves lost in the new world disorder. Smart, interesting, and essential reading, *Disunited Nations* is a sure-to-be-controversial guidebook that analyzes the emerging shifts and resulting problems that will arise in the next two decades. We are entering a period of chaos, and no political or corporate leader can ignore Zeihan's insights or his message if they want to survive and thrive in this uncertain new time.

foundations of geopolitics: *The Demon of Geopolitics* Holger H. Herwig, 2016-03-10 Karl Haushofer, a Bavarian general and professor, is widely recognized as the "father of geopolitics." In 1945 the United States sought to put him on trial at Nuremberg as a major war criminal for being "Hitler's intellectual godfather" and the true author of *Mein Kampf*. In this definitive biography, noted historian Holger H. Herwig assesses the fiction and reality behind these claims. Making comprehensive use of Haushofer's previously unavailable private papers, Herwig analyzes Haushofer's geopolitical concepts, his relations with his student Rudolf Hess, and his mentorship of Hitler and Hess at Landsberg Prison in 1924. Herwig offers unique insights into Haushofer's crucial behind-the-scenes influence in providing the Nazis with his theories of Autarky and Lebensraum, the rationale for Germany's control of Europe and the world. This riveting book ends with Haushofer's final verdict on himself: "I want to be forgotten and forgotten." But the author concludes with the admonition that the "demon" of Geopolitik demands much closer scrutiny in this new age of

geopolitics.

foundations of geopolitics: Geopolitics of Governance A. Kakabadse, 2001-01-01

Considerable attention has been given to the topic of governance and its relevance to private and public sector organisations. However, little attention has been given to the impact of adopting different governance models on societies and nations which are unaccustomed to alternative ways of working. With both an enterprise level and a societal level of analysis in mind, this book explores the governance impact on both the structure of organisation and performance of organisation, and also examines what are the likely stakeholder reactions and social repercussions of the emerging encroachment of the shareholder value philosophy championed by Anglo-American enterprises on stakeholder societies such as France, Germany, Japan and the Scandinavian countries.

foundations of geopolitics: The Atlantic Realists Matthew Specter, 2022-02-08

In *The Atlantic Realists*, intellectual historian Matthew Specter offers a boldly revisionist interpretation of realism, a prevalent stance in post-WWII US foreign policy and public discourse and the dominant international relations theory during the Cold War. Challenging the common view of realism as a set of universally binding truths about international affairs, Specter argues that its major features emerged from a century-long dialogue between American and German intellectuals beginning in the late nineteenth century. Specter uncovers an Atlantic realist tradition of reflection on the prerogatives of empire and the nature of power politics conditioned by fin de siècle imperial competition, two world wars, the Holocaust, and the Cold War. Focusing on key figures in the evolution of realist thought, including Carl Schmitt, Hans Morgenthau, and Wilhelm Grewe, this book traces the development of the realist worldview over a century, dismantling myths about the national interest, Realpolitik, and the art of statesmanship.

foundations of geopolitics: Strategic Asia 2013-14 Ashley J. Tellis, Abraham M. Denmark,

Travis Tanner, 2013-09-25 The 2013-14 Strategic Asia volume examines the role of nuclear weapons in the grand strategies of key Asian states and assesses the impact of these capabilities—both established and latent—on regional and international stability. In each chapter, a leading expert explores the historical, strategic, and political factors that drive a country's calculations vis-a-vis nuclear weapons and draws implications for American interests.

foundations of geopolitics: Territorial Foundations of the Gulf States Richard Schofield,

2016-11-18 This book, first published in 1994, provides a comprehensive treatment of a crucial set of geopolitical issues from a region where political developments are observed with great care and some trepidation by the rest of the world. Based on expert analysis by leading researchers, the book is the first English-language to deal collectively with the origins and contemporary status of land and maritime boundaries in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula. The 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was the gravest challenge yet posed to the system of small states established by Britain during its stay as a protecting power along the western Gulf littoral. Immediately, questions were raised about the origins of these tiny emirates: How had this territorial framework evolved? What was its *raison d'être*? How capable was this framework of withstanding serious internal and external upheaval such as that caused by the Iraqi invasion? This book reviews these and related concerns from a variety of informed perspectives: those of the boundary-maker himself, the international lawyer, the oil economist, and the political and historical geographer. The origins of the region's framework of state territory are carefully scrutinised, as are the region's borders and the contemporary disputes over their status. The period following the first Gulf War has witnessed an increase in the prevalence of Arabian territorial disputes. Some are new, such as Saudi-Qatar, but most are established cyclical affairs. Although a complete explanation for these developments is premature, they have occurred as states in the region have been making clear moves to finalise the framework of Arabian state territory; only the Saudi-Yemen border remains indeterminate, albeit the subject of current negotiations. The book begins with a major scene-setting chapter by Richard Schofield. This is followed by chapters containing expert insights into the relationship between territory and indigenous notions of sovereignty, Britain's role in drawing Arabian territorial limits (including a contribution from someone who drew up some of its boundaries), Iran-Kuwait disputes in particular,

maritime boundaries, the hydrocarbon dimension, and concepts of shared political space. With many newly-drawn maps based on original research, this volume stands alone as a comprehensive reader on an issue that plays a dominant part in the regional geopolitics of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula.

foundations of geopolitics: Near Abroad Gerard Toal, 2017 In sum, by showing how and why local regional disputes quickly develop into global crises through the paired power of historical memory and time-space compression, Near Abroad reshapes our understanding of the current conflict raging in the center of the Eurasian landmass and international politics as a whole.

foundations of geopolitics: Russian Eurasianism Marlène Laruelle, 2008-10 Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russia has been marginalized at the edge of a Western-dominated political and economic system. In recent years, however, leading Russian figures, including former president Vladimir Putin, have begun to stress a geopolitics that puts Russia at the center of a number of axes: European-Asian, Christian-Muslim-Buddhist, Mediterranean-Indian, Slavic-Turkic, and so on. This volume examines the political presuppositions and expanding intellectual impact of Eurasianism, a movement promoting an ideology of Russian-Asian greatness, which has begun to take hold throughout Russia, Kazakhstan, and Turkey. Eurasianism purports to tell Russians what is unalterably important about them and why it can only be expressed in an empire. Using a wide range of sources, Marlène Laruelle discusses the impact of the ideology of Eurasianism on geopolitics, interior policy, foreign policy, and culturalist philosophy.

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foundations of geopolitics: Urban Geopolitics Jonathan Rokem, Camillo Boano, 2017-08-21 In the last decade a new wave of urban research has emerged, putting comparative perspectives back on the urban studies agenda. However, this research is frequently based on similar case studies on a few selected cities in America and Europe and all too often focus on the abstract city level with marginal attention given to particular local contexts. Moving away from loosely defined urban theories and contexts, this book argues it is time to start learning from and compare across different 'contested cities'. It questions the long-standing Euro-centric academic knowledge production that is prevalent in urban studies and planning research. This book brings together a diverse range of international case studies from Latin America, South and South East Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East to offer an in-depth understanding of the worldwide contested nature of cities in a wide range of local contexts. It suggests an urban ontology that moves beyond the urban 'West' and 'North' as well as adding a comparative-relational understanding of the contested nature that 'Southern' cities are developing. This timely contribution is essential reading for those working in the fields of human geography, urban studies, planning, politics, area studies and sociology.

foundations of geopolitics: World City Doreen Massey, 2013-04-23 Cities around the world are striving to be 'global'. This book tells the story of one of them, and in so doing raises questions of identity, place and political responsibility that are essential for all cities. World City focuses its account on London, one of the greatest of these global cities. London is a city of delight and of creativity. It also presides over a country increasingly divided between North and South and over a neo-liberal form of globalisation - the deregulation, financialisation and commercialisation of all aspects of life - that is resulting in an evermore unequal world. World City explores how we can understand this complex narrative and asks a question that should be asked of any city: what does this place stand for? Following the implosion within the financial sector, such issues are even more vital. In a new Preface, Doreen Massey addresses these changed times. She argues that, whatever happens, the evidence of this book is that we must not go back to 'business as usual', and she asks whether the financial crisis might open up a space for a deeper rethinking of both our economy and our society.

foundations of geopolitics: How the West Came to Rule Alexander Anievas, Kerem Nisanc@0131oglu, 2015 Mainstream historical accounts of the development of capitalism describe a

process which is fundamentally European - a system that was born in the mills and factories of England or under the guillotines of the French Revolution. In this groundbreaking book, a very different story is told. *How the West Came to Rule* offers a unique interdisciplinary and international historical account of the origins of capitalism. It argues that contrary to the dominant wisdom, capitalism's origins should not be understood as a development confined to the geographically and culturally sealed borders of Europe, but the outcome of a wider array of global processes in which non-European societies played a decisive role. Through an outline of the uneven histories of Mongolian expansion, New World discoveries, Ottoman-Habsburg rivalry, the development of the Asian colonies and bourgeois revolutions, Alexander Anievas and Kerem Nisancioglu provide an account of how these diverse events and processes came together to produce capitalism.

foundations of geopolitics: Gridlock Thomas Hale, David Held, Kevin Young, 2013-07-11 The issues that increasingly dominate the 21st century cannot be solved by any single country acting alone, no matter how powerful. To manage the global economy, prevent runaway environmental destruction, reign in nuclear proliferation, or confront other global challenges, we must cooperate. But at the same time, our tools for global policymaking - chiefly state-to-state negotiations over treaties and international institutions - have broken down. The result is gridlock, which manifests across areas via a number of common mechanisms. The rise of new powers representing a more diverse array of interests makes agreement more difficult. The problems themselves have also grown harder as global policy issues penetrate ever more deeply into core domestic concerns. Existing institutions, created for a different world, also lock-in pathological decision-making procedures and render the field ever more complex. All of these processes - in part a function of previous, successful efforts at cooperation - have led global cooperation to fail us even as we need it most. Ranging over the main areas of global concern, from security to the global economy and the environment, this book examines these mechanisms of gridlock and pathways beyond them. It is written in a highly accessible way, making it relevant not only to students of politics and international relations but also to a wider general readership.

foundations of geopolitics: Ecocritical Geopolitics Elena dell'Agnese, 2021-05-26 What is the role of popular culture in shaping our discourse about the multifaceted system of material things, subjects and causal agents that we call environment? *Ecocritical Geopolitics* offers a new theoretical perspective and approach to the analysis of environmental discourse in popular culture. It combines ecocritical and critical geopolitical approaches to explore three main themes: dystopian visions, the relationship between the human, post-human, and nature and speciesism and carnism. The importance of popular culture in the construction of geopolitical discourse is widely recognized. From ecocriticism, we also appreciate that literature, cinema, or theatre can offer a mirror of what the individual author wants to communicate about the relationship between the human being and what can be defined as non-human. This book provides an analysis of environmental discourses with the theoretical tools of critical geopolitics and the analytical methodology of ecocriticism. It develops and disseminates a new scientific approach, defined as ecocritical geopolitics, to offer an idea of the power of popular culture in the realization of environmental discourse. Referencing sources as diverse as *The Road*, *The Shape of Water*, *Lady and the Tramp*, and TV cooking shows, this book will be of great interest to students and scholars of geography, environmental studies, film studies, and environmental humanities.

foundations of geopolitics: Foundations of National Power in the Asia-Pacific Ashley J. Tellis, Alison Szalwinski, Michael Wills, 2015

foundations of geopolitics: Ethnosociology Alexander Dugin, 2019-07-03 *Ethnosociology: The Foundations* is a systematic presentation of the main principles and analytic strategies of the discipline of ethnosociology, written by Alexander Dugin, one of the major Russian philosophers and political analysts of the present day. Through study of the main sources and schools that influenced the establishment of ethnosociology as an independent and original scientific discipline, Alexander Dugin offers a profound philosophical approach to the categories of the ethnos, narod, nation, and society and elaborates a general ethnosociological taxonomy. Dugin's work is distinguished by its

strict consistency, a broad spectrum of knowledge, and various methodologies of ethnosociological analysis, brought together into a single, easily applicable system. While this book can serve as a manual for specialists in the field of sociology, philosophy, political science, cultural studies, ethnology, international relations, state and law, it will also be of pertinent interest to anyone who follows the latest groundbreaking developments in the humanities, or who seeks to understand the structure of human societies.

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