

Week 1 - Intro to Geopolitics

Flint: There are multiple definitions of geopolitics: Agnew's and Massey's.

Lecture

- **Agnew (1987)**
 - Place as a combination of location (role in the world), locale (internal organisation) and sense of place
- **Massey**
 - 'places are networks of social relations which have over time been constructed, laid down, interacted with one another, decayed and renewed
- **Four elements of Geopolitics:**
 - Sovereignty**: role of nations & states
 - Economics**: control Natural resources
 - Culture**: Political (ideological)
 - Territory**: struggle for territory
- Geopolitical perspectives spatialise the world into a hierarchy of places of varying importance.
- Geopolitics is about place and location and the relationship between them

Week 2 - Geopol Theory & Imperialism

Spykman

- Interconnectedness, not neighbour-to-neighbour
- “ Who controls the Rimlands rules Eurasia: who rules Eurasia controls the destiny of the world” (1942)
 - Valuable
 - populations
 - resources
- Amphibious ‘buffer’ zone between land and sea powers

Doyle: There are multiple interpretations of and explanations for the rise of imperialism.

Gray: Geography is inescapable - it exists in the physical and psychological domains. Hence, all politics is geopolitics. Even in cases of cyber warfare and nuclear warfare.

Tunjic: All geopolitical events are necessarily war-like. Annexation and Secession will continue because territory is valuable geographically, economically and symbolically.

Lecture

- history
 - Kjellen coined term, observed strength led to growth
 - geopolitics existed with Tordisillas, Monroe, Lebensraum
- **Truman doctrine (1947)**
 - Belief that it was America's job to stop the spread of communism- Truman Doctrine, (containment)
 - Plan to help Europe recover from the war using American money - became known as the **Marshall Plan**

What does Mackinder mean by the Heartland of the World and why should it be controlled?

- East Europe → Pivot Area/Heartland → Inner Crescent → Outer Crescent
- Importance
 - Then
 - Mackinder concerned about Russo-German railroad system
 - Rejected Mahan's theory: power derives from navy
 - railroads are faster than boats
 - Now
 - NSC-68 and Domino Theory
 - Long Telegram

Why did the world become more geopolitically connected during the late 1800s?

- Imperialism
 1. Hobson
 - product of corporations and individuals
 - economic, political and sociopsychological
 2. Lenin: deterministic, systemic of capitalism
 - imperialism is the economic and political division of the world, as the product of institutions and forces
 - deterministic, systemic
 - parasitism
 3. Schumpeter: deterministic, systemic of monarchies
 - monarchies → export monopolism and war machine
- Sovereignty
 - established through Treaty of Westphalia

In what ways does geography present dangers for states?

- all geopolitical events are necessarily war-like
 - secession and annexation
- this will continue because territory is valuable
 - exerting political influence (territoriality)
 - obtaining economically valuable resources or ports
 - symbolic importance