

Geopolitics

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Geopolitics is the study of international relations from a spatial or geographical perspective. Classical geopolitics treats geographical space as an existential pre-condition for all politics, for which reason it must serve as the point of departure for all political analysis and policy formulation.

Geopolitics constitutes a science that utilizes a holistic and descriptive method of geographical analysis (spatial dimension) of specific socio-political situations of power (human presence and activity) studied in terms of their spatial setting.

Given its theoretical core, geopolitics can arguably be considered a particular form of realism based on the influence of the natural environments defined by geography and technology. Geopolitics applies the following tools: economic geography, political geography, cultural geography, national-state geography, and geography of control and distribution of information.

Geopolitical prediction patterns of redistribution of power result from synthesizing conclusions in the four geopolitical pillars of power: defence and security, policy, and culture/information in the geographical area and under the ideological context that covers them.

Geopolitics has great explanatory potential as long as it does not fall to the level of simplistic geographical determinism. When geopolitical models are used to create plans of strategic action, it becomes geostrategy.

In recent decades the classical geopolitics approach has been complemented by the notion that problems with a global impact are best approached by considering the world as a whole.

Geostrategy

Geostrategy is not a science. It incorporates both geopolitics and historically rooted national impulses in the formulation of long-term prescriptive strategies.

Geostrategy merges strategic considerations with geopolitical factors. While geopolitics is ostensibly neutral — examining the geographic and political features of different regions, especially the impact of geography on politics — geostrategy involves comprehensive planning, assigning means for achieving national goals or securing assets of military or political significance.

In other words, it uses the tools offered by geopolitics to realize models of strategic action, providing the practical ways in which the respective predictions will take place, obtaining the ideological political goals of the state. Therefore, it aims to inform, constrain, or affect political and military planning.

Geostrategists, as distinct from geopoliticians, approach geopolitics from a nationalist point of view rather than from a scientific one.

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