

**Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament
School of International Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University**

Programme- M.Phil

Course Title- CONCEPTS AND ISSUES IN GEOPOLITICS

Semester- Monsoon

Credits – Three

Teaching Method- Lectures and Discussions

Evaluation Method- Sessional Assignments (50%) and End Semester (50%)

Teaching Hours – Three per week

Course Instructor- Krishnendra Meena

Rationale of the Course

Geopolitics is a traditional area of inquiry seen as central to the understanding of world politics. It is going through fundamental transformations in the way it conceives of territory. Globalization is an all-pervading phenomenon with an effect on the concept of sovereignty; geopolitics could be a useful tool in analyzing these effects.

The course seeks to familiarize students with fundamental concepts of geopolitics. This would involve a focus on classical conceptions of geopolitics, territoriality, sovereignty, theories of the state, spatial expressions of ideology/cold war and post-cold war geopolitics, geostrategy, geopolitical structures in the world and contemporary issues in geopolitics (e.g. environment, globalization, critical geopolitics)

Course Objectives

- 1) to assist the students to analyze political phenomena through the locational aspects
- 2) to stimulate student interest in domestic and world affairs through the study of spatial features in world politics

Course Content

- 1) A) Introduction to Geopolitics
 - a) **Definitions of Geopolitics**

The basic definition would comprise of the one given by Saul B. Cohen, other theoretical perspectives by scholars like John Agnew, Geoffery Sloan and Gerard Toal would be covered
 - b) **Geopolitical Structures**

The hierarchical geopolitical ordering as suggested by Cohen would be analysed and critically examined.
 - c) **Geostrategy**

Locational aspects which make an impact upon relations among nations and resources of geostrategic importance would be discussed.

- B) Concepts in Geopolitics
 - a) **Territoriality**

Space; Identification with Space and Territory and Contestations over Territory

 - b) **Sovereignty**

 - c) **State**: Evolution and Theories of State

 - d) **Region**: Conceptualization, Characteristics of Region; Region in International Politics

- 2) Theories of Geopolitics
 - A) Classical Theories
 - a) **Heartland Theory (Halford J. Mackinder)**
 - b) **Sea Power (Alfred Thayer Mahan)**
 - c) **Rimland Theory (Nicholas J. Spykman)**
 - d) **Theory of Air Power Supremacy (Alexander Seversky)**
 - e) **German Geopolitik**
 - f) **Functional Approach to Political Geography (Richard Hartshorne)**
 - g) **Stephen B. Jones (Unified Field Theory)**

 - B) **Critical Geopolitics** : Modern Geopolitics; Post-Modern Geopolitics

- 3) Contemporary Issues in Geopolitics
 - a. **Global Environmental Issues**
 - b. **Geopolitics of Energy**

- c. Globalization and Geopolitics
- d. Boundary Issues

Reading List

Books

- Agnew, John (2003), *Geopolitics- Revisioning World Politics*, Routledge: London
- Agnew, John (ed.)(1997), *Political Geography: A Reader*, Arnold: London
- Blacksell, Mark(2006), *Political Geography*, Routledge: London
- Blouet, Brian W. (2001), *Geopolitics and Globalization in the Twentieth Century*, Reaktion Books: London
- Cohen, Saul B. (2003), *Geopolitics of the World System*, Rowman and Littlefield: Lanham
- Dodds, Klaus and David Atkinson (eds.)(2000), *Geopolitical Traditions: A Century of Geopolitical Thought*, Routledge: New York
- Dodds, Klaus (2000), *Geopolitics in a Changing World*, Prentice Hall: Essex, England
- Glassner, Martin Ira and Chuck Fahrer (2004), *Political Geography*, John Wiley: Danvers, Massachusetts
- Harvey, David (1990), *The Condition of Postmodernity*, Blackwell: Oxford
- Jones, Michael, Rhys Jones and Michael Woods (2004), *An Introduction to Political Geography: Space, Place and Politics*, Routledge: London
- Kupchan, Charles A. (ed.)(2001), *Power in Transition: The Peaceful Change of International Order*, United Nations University Press: Tokyo
- Nayar, Baldev Raj (2005), *Geopolitics Of Globalization*, Oxford University Press: New Delhi
- Paret, Peter (ed.)(1986), *Makers Of Modern Strategy: from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, Princeton University Press: Princeton
- Prescott, J.R.V. (1987), *Political Frontiers and Boundaries*, Allen and Unwin: London

Sassen, Saskia (2006), *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey

Tuathail, Gearoid O. and Dalby, Simon (1998) (eds.), *Rethinking Geopolitics*, Routledge: London

Waltz, Kenneth N. (1983), *Theory of International Politics*, Addison-Wesley: Massachusetts

Wolch, Jennifer and Michael Dear (eds.)(1989), *The Power of Geography: How Territory Shapes Social Life*, Unwin and Hyman: London

Articles in Journals

Agnew, John, "The New Global Economy: Time-Space Compression, Geopolitics, and Global Uneven Development", *Journal of World Systems Research*, Vol.7, No.2, Fall 2001,pp.133-154

Bassin, Mark and Konstantin E. Aksimov, "Mackinder and the Heartland Theory in Post-Soviet Geopolitical Discourse", *Geopolitics*, Volume 11, No.1, Spring 2006

Brenner, Neil, "Beyond State-Centrism? Space, Territory and Geographical Scale in Globalization Studies", *Theory and Society*, Vol.28, No.1, 1999,pp.39-70

Dijkink, Gertjan, "Geopolitics as a Socialist Movement", *Geopolitics*, Vol.9, No.2/1, 2004

Dodds, Klaus, "Political Geography III: Critical geopolitics after ten years", *Progress in Human Geography*, Vol.25, No.3, 2001,pp.469-484

Fettweis, Christopher J., "Sir Halford Mackinder, Geopolitics, and Policymaking in the 21st Century", *Parameters*, Summer 2000

Frenkel, Stephen, Geography, Empire and Environmental Determinism, *Geographical Review*, Vol.82, No.2, 1992,pp.143-153

Gerace, Michael P., "Between Mackinder and Spykman: Geopolitics, Containment, and After", *Comparative Strategy*, Vol.10, 1991, pp.347-364

Graham, Stephen, "The End of Geography or the Explosion of Place? Conceptualizing Space, Place and Information Technology", *Progress in Human Geography*, Volume 22, No.2, 1998,pp. 165-185

Kearns, Gerry, "Echoes of Mackinder for the Next American Century", *Geopolitics*, Vol.11, No.1, Spring 2006

Kelly, Phil, "A Critique of Critical Geopolitics", *Geopolitics*, Vol.11, No.1, Spring 2006

Kelly, Philip F., The Geographies and Politics of Globalization, *Progress in Human Geography*, Vol.23, No.3, 1999, pp.379-400

Knight, David, B., Identity and Territory: Geographical Perspectives on Nationalism and Regionalism, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol.72, No.4, 1982, pp-514-531

Larner, Wendy and William Walters, The Political Rationality of "New Regionalism": Toward a Genealogy of Region, *Theory and Society*, Vol.31, No. 3, 2002, pp.391-432

Leoussi, A.S., "Theories of Nationalism and National Revival, Vol.7, No.2, Fall 2002, pp.-249-257

Mackinder, Halford J., "The Geographical Pivot of History", *The Geographical Journal*, Vol.23, No.4, April 1904, pp. 421-437

Murdoch, Jonathan and Terry Marsden, The Spatialization of Politics: Local and National Actor-Spaces in Environmental Conflict, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, Vol.20, No.3, pp.368-380

Nevins, Joseph, "Resource Conflicts in a New World Order", *Geopolitics*, Vol.9, No.1, Spring 2004

Nicol, Heather N. and Julian Minghi, "The Continuing Relevance of Borders in Contemporary Contexts", *Geopolitics*, Vol.10, No.4, Winter 2005

O'Lear, Shannon, "Environmental Terrorism: a Critique", *Geopolitics*, Volume 8 , No.3, Autumn 2003

Routledge, Paul, "Critical Geopolitics and Terrains of Resistance", *Political Geography*, Vol.15, No.6/7, 1996, pp.509-531

Special Issue on Geopolitics, Geography, and Strategy, *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Volume 22, Number 2/3 June/September

Uzelac.G., "When is the Nation ? Constituent Elements and Processes, Vol.7, No.2, Fall 2002, pp.-33-52

Wusten, H. Van der and G.Dijkink, "German, British and French Geopolitics", *Geopolitics*, Vol.7, No.3, Winter 2002

Journals in Geopolitics

1) Geopolitics 2) The Journal of Strategic Studies 3) Political Geography 4) Progress in Human Geography 5) Antipode