

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE
LESYA UKRAINKA VOLYN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Faculty of International Relations
International Relations and Regional Studies Department

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**Methodical Recommendations from
EC (Educational Component)
"Geopolitics and Geostrategy"**

Educational and methodical publication

LUTSK – 2024

UDC 327:911(072)

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Recommended for publication by the Scientific and Methodological Council of Lesia Ukrainka Volyn National University (the minutes # 1 from 25.09.2024).

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Kopachinska G. V.

K 65 Kopachinska G. V. Methodical Recommendations from EC (Educational Component) "Geopolitics and Geostrategy" : Educational and Methodical Publication. Lutsk. 2024. 50 p.

Abstract: the educational and methodical publication from the EC "Geopolitics and Geostrategy", contains methodological recommendations on this discipline for students of the Faculty of International Relations: an explanatory note; syllabus of the academic discipline; questions for seminars and for the exam; information minimum for understanding the course and test questions for self-control, which will be useful during the study; independent training of bachelors; preparation for seminars and the course exam.

Recommended for students of specialty 291 "International relations, public communications and regional studies", educational and professional program "International relations", educational degree "bachelor" of the Faculty of International Relations of Lesia Ukrainka Volyn National University.

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INTRODUCTION

"Geopolitics and Geostrategy" is an important and necessary training course for bachelors of the educational and professional program "International Relations". One of the important tasks of the discipline is to form students' knowledge about the multifaceted policy of states and other subjects aimed at studying the possibilities of active use of geospatial data in the interests of military-political, cultural-informational, economic and environmental security within the relevant fields of interaction.

The discipline has close ties with such educational disciplines as "Introduction to the Specialty "International Relations", "Theory of International Relations", "International Relations and World Politics", "History of International Relations", "Regional Studies of Ukraine", "Political Geography" and a number of others taught at the Faculty of International Relations.

In the process of studying this EC, students will know: basic concepts and categories of geopolitics; prerequisites and factors for the development of geopolitics as a science; historical stages of the development of geopolitics; basic laws of geopolitics; characteristic works of classics and modern researchers of geopolitics; peculiarities of the development of geopolitical thought in Ukraine. Students will be able to: select, schematize and analyze information from the theory of geopolitics and geostrategy; distinguish the historical stages of the development of geopolitics as a science; analyze classic and modern geopolitical doctrines, ideas and concepts; characterize the main features of the development of geopolitical thought in Ukraine.

In this context, the EC "Geopolitics and Geostrategy", which is studied by students of the Faculty of International Relations, acts as one of the important disciplines for a holistic understanding and study of the processes taking place in the modern world, the study of the multifaceted policy of states and the peculiarities of its formation, the analysis of the main laws and paradigms of this science, as well as an understanding of the works of classics and modern geopoliticians, and the proposed educational and

methodological edition from this EC will help to obtain and consolidate this knowledge properly.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE

**Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University
International Relations Faculty
International Relations and Regional Studies Department**

SYLLABUS

of the normative academic component

Geopolitics and Geostrategy

Training of bachelors

**Specialty 291 International Relations, Public Communications and
Regional Studies**

Educational-professional programme International Relations

Lutsk – 2022

Syllabus of the academic component "GEOPOLITICS AND GEOSTRATEGY", Education Level Bachelor, Field of Knowledge 29 International Relations, Specialty 291 International Relations, Public Communications and Regional Studies, Educational and Professional Programme International Relations.

Developer: Galina Kopachinska, PhD (candidate of geographical sciences), associate professor

Approved

by the Guarantor of Education and Professional Programme:

(Vozniuk Ye.)

The syllabus of the academic component was approved at the meeting of the International Relations and Regional Studies Department

protocol No. 1 dated August 29, 2022

Head of Department: _____

(Kotsan N.)

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I. Description of the academic component

Indicator Name	Field of knowledge, educational and professional programme / education and research program, education level	Characteristics of academic component
Full-time education	029 «International relations» specialty 291 «International relations, public communications and regional studies» educational-professional program «International relations» education level «bachelors»	normative
		Year of preparation 3,4
Number of hours / credits 180/6		Semester 6 th and 7 th
		Lectures: 66 h.
ISRT: 6 th semester is not 7 th semester is		Practical (seminars): 46 h.
		Independent work: 56 h.
		Consultations: 12 h.
		Form of control: 6 th semester - credit 7 th semester - exam
Language of study		<i>English</i>

II. Information about the university teacher

S&N Kopachinska Galina

Scientific degree PhD (candidate of geographical sciences)

The academic title is associate professor

The position is associate professor

Contact information (kopachinska.galina@vnu.edu.ua).

Days of classes ([ПС-Розклад в.3.8.2](#)).

III. Description of the academic component

1. Abstract of the course

Geopolitics is one of the most influential intellectual directions of the XXI century, which determines the nature of research in such areas as foreign policy and military strategy of states, national interests, analysis and forecasting of local and global international conflicts.

As a scientific discipline, geopolitics is the science of the multifaceted policy of states and other subjects, aimed at studying the possibilities of active use of geospatial data in the interests of military-political, cultural-informational, economic and environmental security within the relevant fields of interaction.

In this context, the subject "Geopolitics and Geostrategy", which is taught to students of the faculty of international relations, acts as one of the important disciplines for a holistic understanding and study of the processes taking place in the modern world, as well as an analysis of the features of the modern world structure and the place of states and regions of the world in it, including Ukraine.

2. Purpose and tasks of the academic component.

The aim of course is to form knowledge about geopolitical interests, vectors of geostrategy, geo-economic priorities in foreign policy of regions and world countries.

The task of course is acquiring a comprehensive knowledge of geopolitical and geo-economic map of the world and place of countries|regions in it; forming the ideas about the balance of power in world geopolitics and geoeconomics; awareness of Ukraine’s objective geopolitical and geo-economic role and place in the world

3. Learning outcomes (competencies).

Competences	Integral	General	Special (Professional)
	The ability to solve complex specialized tasks and practical problems in the area of international relations, public communications and regional studies, states foreign policy activities, international interactions between states, international organizations and non-state actors, characterized by the complexity and uncertainty of conditions and involves the application of social sciences theories and special scientific methods in researching international relations issues.	GC3. The ability to learn and master modern knowledge..	SC1. The ability to distinguish signs and trends of development, to understand the organization nature, dynamics, principles of international relations, public communications and/or regional studies.
		GC4. Knowledge and understanding of the subject area and understanding of professional activity.	SC2. The ability to analyze international processes in various contexts, including political, security, legal, economic, social, cultural and informational ones.
		GC5. The ability to work in an international context.	SC4. The ability to solve complex specialized tasks and practical problems in the field of interstate relations, states foreign policy, public communications, regional studies.
		GC7. The ability to apply knowledge in practical situations.	SC5. The ability to analyze the influence of the world economy, international law and domestic politics on the structure and dynamics of international relations and the states foreign policy.
		GC8. The ability to abstract thinking, analysis and synthesis.	
		GC10. The ability to communicate the national language both orally and in writing form.	
		GC12. The ability to search, process and analyze information from various sources.	

		GC13. The ability to be critical and self-critical.	<p>SC8. Awareness of the national interests of Ukraine in the international arena.</p> <p>SC9. The ability to apply knowledge of the characteristics of the development of countries and regions features and regularities of global processes and the place of individual states in them to solve complex specialized tasks and problems.</p>
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Learning outcomes		
	LO01	To know and understand the nature of international relations and regional development, the evolution, the state of theoretical studies of international relations and world politics, as well as the nature and sources of the states' policies in the international arena and the activities of other participants in international relations.
	LO03	To know the nature of international cooperation, the nature of interaction between international actors, the ratio of state and non-state actors in world politics.
	LO04	To know the principles, mechanisms and processes of ensuring the states' foreign policy, the interaction between foreign and domestic policies, the definition and implementation of the national interests of states on the international arena, the process of forming and implementing foreign policy decisions.
	LO06	To know the nature and character of interactions of individual countries and regions at the global, regional and local levels.
	LO11	To carry out an applied analysis of international relations, the foreign policy of Ukraine and other states, international processes and the international situation in accordance with the set goals, prepare informative and analytical reports.
	LO13	To conduct a professional discussion on issues of international relations, international communications, regional studies, foreign policy activities, argue one's position, respect opponents and their points of view.
	LO15	To understand and apply current legislation, international regulatory documents and agreements, reference materials, current standards and

		technical conditions, etc., to solve complex specialized problems of international relations, public communications and regional studies.
	LO17	To have the skills of self-determination in educational goals and learning, finding educational resources necessary for their achievement.

4. The structure of the academic component.

Names of content modules and topics	Total	Lect.	Lab.	Independent work	Cons.	Form of control/ Grades
6th semester						
Content module 1. Theoretical foundations of the study of geopolitics and geostrategy						
Topic 1. Theoretical foundations of the study of geopolitics	19	8	6	4	1	DS/24
Topic 2. Historical stages of formation of geopolitics as a science	13	4	4	4	1	DS/16
Topic 3. Classical geopolitical ideas and concepts	21	10	6	4	1	DS/24 DB/4
Topic 4. Modern schools of geopolitics and their representatives	21	10	6	4	1	DS/24
Topic 5. Geopolitical and geoeconomic map of modern times	11	4	2	4	1	DS/8
Total by module 1/ Total for the 6th semester	85	36	24	20	5	100
7th semester						
Content module 2. Global and regional applied geopolitics						
Topic 6. Geopolitical interests of North American states	14	4	4	5	1	DS/6
Topic 7. Geopolitical interests of the states of Latin America and Africa	12	4	2	5	1	DS/3
Topic 8. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of European states	12	4	2	5	1	DS/3
Topic 9. Geopolitics of the states of East, Southeast, South and Southwest Asia.	16	6	4	5	1	DS/6
Topic 10. Geopolitics of Australia and the states of Oceania	10	2	2	5	1	DS/3
Total by module 2	64	20	14	25	5	21
Content module 3. Peculiarities of the formation of geopolitics of Ukraine						
Topic 11. Peculiarities of the formation of Ukrainian geopolitical thought	14	4	4	5	1	DS/6
Topic 12. Geopolitical interests and geostrategy of modern Ukraine	17	6	4	6	1	DS/6 ISRT/7

Total by module 3	31	10	8	11	2	19
Types of final works						Grades
Modular control work						60
Total for the 7th semester	95	30	22	36	7	100
Total hours for the course/Points	180	66	46	56	12	6 th sem.-100 7 th sem.-100

Control methods*: DS – discussion, DB – debates, T – tests, TR – training, SP/C – solving problems/cases, ISRT/IWS – individual scientific research task/individual work of the student, WSG – work in small groups, MCR/TP – module test paper/test paper, Ab – abstract, analytical note, analytical essay, analysis of the work.

5. Tasks for independent work

Number of order	Topic	Number of hours
1	Task #1: to select the necessary literature, develop and compile an abstract review on the topic "Features and historical stages of the development of geopolitics as a science".	8
2	Task #2: to analyze the common and distinctive features of the works of the classics of geopolitics, to present the obtained results in the form of a synopsis.	12
3	Task #3: to determine the peculiarities, problems and prospects of the development of modern geopolitics in different regions of the world, to present the obtained results in the form of a report during seminar classes on the relevant topic.	15
4	Task #4: to select the necessary literature, develop and compile an abstract review on the topic "The place and role of Ukraine in the geopolitical orientation of the leading states and regions of the world."	10
5	Task #5: to analyze, single out and justify the geostrategy vectors of modern Ukraine, to present the obtained results in the form of a synopsis and a report during a seminar on the relevant topic.	11
	TOTAL:	56

6. Individual Scientific Research Task

To conduct an analytical study and write an abstract review on the topic "Problems and prospects of realizing the geopolitical interests of Ukraine at the current stage." To fulfill this task, pay considerable attention to the historical features of the development of geopolitics in the State, as well as its current geopolitical situation.

IV. Evaluation policy

During seminars, evaluation is made in accordance to student's ability to analyze and transfer the acquired knowledge, re-reading the information from the paper is prohibited. ISRT is represented during seminars, all references to used materials and resources must be made in accordance to true resources, and each student is personally responsible for academic integrity. Missed lectures can't be repassed, seminars can be repassed only if there is objective evidence of the student's absence. Deadline for the representation of ISRT and missed seminars is until the day of exam passing. Repassing of the exam is hold in accordance with the approved schedule of the exam session.

The maximum number of absences without true reasons - 2.

In the 6th semester, the discipline consists of 1 content module and does not provide for the completion of ISRT. In this case, the final grade on a 100-point scale consists of the total number of grades for the current assessment on the relevant topics.

The credit is issued on the condition that the student has completed all types of educational work defined by the program of the academic discipline and received at least 60 grades. In the situation of an unsatisfactory final grade, or if the student wishes to improve the rating, the student goes to pass credit.

In the 7th semester, the discipline consists of two content modules, and its study involves the completion of the ISRT. In this case, the final grade on a 100-point scale consists of the total number of points for:

1. current assessment of relevant topics and implementation of the ISRT (maximum 40 points);

2. modular control work (maximum 60 points).

After mastering content module 2 and content module 3, a modular control work is written, which is evaluated at a maximum of 60 grades. The total amount, including current and module control, is 100 grades.

If the current semester grade is at least 75 points, then with the student's consent, it can be counted as a final grade for the academic discipline. In the opposite case, or at the desire to increase the rating, the student passes the exam. At the same time, points scored based on the results of modular control work are canceled.

V. Final control

In the 6th semester the form of the final semester control from the discipline is credit, which is passed orally. Credit is passed according to the condition that the student has completed all the educational activities specified by the curriculum and received at least 60 grades. In case of unsatisfactory final evaluation, or if desired to increase the rating, the student goes to pass credit, in this case all his grades are canceled.

In the 7th semester the form of the final semester control from the discipline is exam, which is passed orally. Exam ticket includes 3 questions (1 theoretical and 2 practical).

If the current semester evaluation is not less than 75 grades, by the agreement of the student, it can be scored up as a final evaluation of the discipline. Otherwise, or by the wish to improve the rating the student passes the exam orally. Herewith, the grades got by the results of module control works are canceled.

Exam evaluation is defined in grades (0 to 60) by the results of the examination tasks. In this case the final semester evaluation is determined as the sum of the current semester and examination estimation in grades, by accordance to the rating scale. Assessment and mastering of the course are presented according to the rating scale.

EXAM QUESTIONS

7th semester

1. The essence of the concept of world politics.
2. Basic theories and principles of world politics.
3. Geopolitics as a scientific discipline.
4. Modern geopolitical schools and theories.
5. Main categories of geopolitics.
6. Basic laws of geopolitics.
7. Paradigms of geopolitics.
8. History of the development of geopolitics

9. K. Haushofer and his influence on the formation of geopolitics.
10. Z. Brzezinski and his main works.
11. F. Fukuyama and his main geopolitical visions.
12. Leading geopolitical centers of our time.
13. Balance of power as one of the key concepts of geopolitics.
14. Geopolitical doctrine and features of its formation (on the example of states).
15. The French school of geopolitics and its characteristic features.
16. American School of Geopolitics and its representatives.
17. The German school of geopolitics and its characteristic features.
18. Peculiarities of geopolitics of Ukraine.
19. History of formation of geopolitics of Ukraine.
20. Leading classics of geopolitics and their main works.
21. F. Ratzel and his main ideas.
22. R. Kjellen and its significance for the development of geopolitics.
23. A. Mehen and his main works.
24. G. Mackinder and his "geographical axis of history".
25. K. Haushofer and his geopolitical visions.
26. European geopolitical ideas of the XX century.
27. American geopolitical ideas of the XX century.
28. Geopolitics of the late XX century - beginning XXI century, and its main representatives.
29. Geoeconomics. The main categories of geoeconomics.
30. Geopolitical structure of the world. A variety of approaches.
31. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of the USA in the world.
32. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of the USA in Europe.
33. Geopolitical interests of the USA in the post-Soviet space.
34. Geostrategy of the USA in relation to China.
35. Geopolitical and geoeconomic aspects of relations between the USA and Japan.
36. US geostrategy in Southeast Asia.
37. US geostrategy in South Asia.
38. Geoeconomic and geopolitical interests of the USA in the Middle East.
39. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of the USA in Africa.
40. Geoeconomic integration in NAFTA.
41. US geopolitical and geoeconomic control over Latin America.
42. Geopolitical and geoeconomic aspects of the formation and development of the EU.
43. Transformation processes in the EU.
44. NATO: geopolitical principles of creation and development.
45. Geopolitical expansion of NATO, main consequences.
46. Modern geostrategy of NATO.
47. Geopolitics and geoeconomics of Great Britain in Europe and in the regions of the world.
48. Brexit and its consequences for the EU.
49. Geostrategy of France in the international arena.
50. Geostrategy of united Germany in Europe.
51. The role of Germany in NATO and the EU.
52. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of Germany in the regions of the world.
53. Geoeconomic pragmatism of Italy, peculiarities of its geopolitics.

54. Switzerland and its place on the geopolitical map of the world.
55. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.
56. Geopolitical position of Ukraine. Problems of determining the foreign policy strategy of Ukraine after gaining independence.
57. Leading geopoliticians of Ukraine, their main ideas and visions.
58. Modern geostrategy of Ukraine in global geospace.
59. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of Ukraine in the post-Soviet space.
60. "Western" vector of Ukraine's foreign policy.
61. Ukraine's geostrategic vector for integration with NATO; ways of its implementation.
62. Geostrategic vector of Ukraine for integration with the EU; problems of practical implementation.
63. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of Ukraine in the Black Sea region. Ukraine's participation in BSEC.
64. Geoeconomic interests of Ukraine in Asia, Africa, Latin America.
65. Geopolitical position of the People's Republic of China. Geostrategy of the People's Republic of China in the modern world.
66. The concept of "Greater China".
67. Geopolitical and geoeconomic aspects of relations between the People's Republic of China and the USA.
68. Geo-economic interests of the PRC in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.
69. Geostrategy of Japan.
70. Relations between Japan and China.
71. Geoeconomic strategy of Japan in the Asia-Pacific region.
72. Geoeconomic role of the Republic of Korea in the world and Asia Pacific.
73. Regional geopolitical "power center" in Southeast Asia.
74. Geoeconomic integration in ASEAN and the specifics of its implementation.
75. Geoeconomic role of Singapore.
76. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of India in the world.
77. Relations between India and Pakistan.
78. Geopolitical and geoeconomic aspects of relations between India and China.
79. India's geostrategy in the Indian Ocean basin.
80. Pakistan as a "pole of power" in South Asia.
81. Geoeconomic potential of Iran.
82. Iran's geopolitical interests in the Persian Gulf, Transcaucasia, and Central Asia.
83. Geopolitics and geoeconomics of the states of the Persian Gulf basin.
84. Geopolitics of Turkey.
85. Turkey's geostrategic vector for EU integration.
86. The role of Turkey in the Black Sea region and the Middle East.
87. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of modern Israel.
88. Geopolitical situation on the African continent.
89. Geoeconomic interests of African countries. Regional integration in Africa.
90. The influence of Western countries on the geopolitical and geoeconomic space of Africa.
91. North Africa. Geopolitical and geoeconomic role of Egypt.
92. West and Central Africa: geopolitical interests of states.
93. East Africa: geopolitical and geoeconomic situation, interests of states.

94. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of South African countries.
95. Geopolitics and geoeconomics of South Africa.
96. Geopolitics and geoeconomics of Latin America. Integration processes in Latin America.
97. Geopolitical and geoeconomic situation in Mesoamerica.
98. Peculiarities of geopolitics and geoeconomics of Mexico.
99. Geopolitical and geoeconomic situation in South America.
100. Geostrategy of Brazil in the international arena.
101. Geopolitics and geoeconomics of Argentina and Chile.
102. The anti-American "axis" in the geopolitics and geoeconomics of certain Latin American states and the peculiarities of its formation.
103. Hot spots of the planet and their influence on the geopolitical structure of the modern world.

VI. Rating scale

6th semester

A scale for evaluating the knowledge of education seekers on educational components, where the form of control is credit

Scores	Linguistic Grade
90-100	Passed
82-89	
75-81	
67-74	
60-66	
1-59	Fail (needed to retake)

7th semester

A scale for evaluating the knowledge of education seekers on educational components, where the form of control is exam

Scores	Linguistic Grade	ECTS Grading Scale	
		Grade	Definition
90-100	Excellent	A	outstanding performance
82-89	Very good	B	above the average standard
75-81	Good	C	generally sound work
67-74	Satisfactory	D	not bad
60-66	Sufficiently	E	performance meets the minimum criteria
1-59	Fail	Fx	needed to retake

VII. Recommended Literature and Internet Resources

1. Вегеш М., Палінчак М., Петрінко В. *Геополітика в поняттях і термінах: підручник для студентів та аспірантів спеціальні "Політологія"*. Ужгород: Видавничий дім "Гельветика", 2020. 786 с.

2. Дністрянський М. С. *Загострення геополітичних взаємин у період постмодерну та становище України : монографія*. Львів : ЛНУ імені Івана Франка, 2021. 154 с.
3. Закономірності функціонування глобальної економіки. URL: [http : // www.helpiks.org/4-19769.html](http://www.helpiks.org/4-19769.html). (дата звернення: 04.07.2022)
4. Мирослав Дністрянський, Галина Копачинська, Наталія Дністрянська Проблеми неврегульованості політичного статусу територій як чинник поглиблення суперечностей у міжнародних відносинах. *Наукові записки Тернопільського національного педагогічного університету імені Володимира Гнатюка. Серія: географія*. Том 51, № 2 (2021). С: 74-81 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25128/2519-4577.21.2> URL: <http://nzg.tnpu.edu.ua/issue/view/14796>
5. Незалежний аналітичний центр геополітичних досліджень «Борисфен Інтел» URL: <https://bintel.org.ua/> (дата звернення: 04.07.2022)
6. Jeremy Black. *Why geopolitics matters*. URL: <https://www.fpri.org/article/2020/01/why-geopolitics-matters/> (date of application: 04.09.2022)
7. Geopolitics: Definition, Foundations & Example URL: <https://study.com/academy/lesson/geopolitics-definition-foundations-example.html> (date of application: 04.09.2022)
8. Kopachinska G. Geopolitical view of Ukraine: History of development and specifics of its current transformation. *Quaestiones Geographicae* 40(4), Bogucki Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Poznań, 2021 pp. 47–62. 4 tables. DOI: 10.2478/quageo-2021-0037 URL: <https://sciendo.com/issue/QUAGEO/40/4> (Scopus+WoS)
9. Myroslav Dnistrianskyi, Galina Kopachinska, Nataliia Dnistrianska. Modern conflicts regarding the political status of territories: typological differences, features of spread and prospects for resolution. *Bulletin of Geography. Socio-economic Series*. No. 57 (2022). P: 113-123 Doi: <http://doi.org/10.12775/bgss-2022-0026> URL: <https://apcz.umk.pl/BGSS/article/view/34379/32895> (Scopus+WoS)
10. Natalia Kotsan, Galina Kopachinska, Yevheniia Vozniuk, Roman Kotsan Basic models of protection and functioning of the Ukrainian border in modern geopolitical realities: a view from Ukraine. *European Spatial Research and Policy* Vol. 29, Number 1 (2022) P: 79-96. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18778/1231-1952.29.1.04> URL: <https://czasopisma.uni.lodz.pl/esrap/article/view/9908> (Scopus+WoS)
11. Roman Kotsan, Natalia Kotsan, Galina Kopachinska, Yevheniia Vozniuk Transformation of Ukrainian-Polish border regions: experience of Ukraine *Forum Geographic* Vol. 21, Issue 1. 2022 P: 92-101. DOI: 10.5775/fg.2022.071.i URL: <http://forumgeografic.ro/> (Scopus)

**LIST OF SEMINARS' QUESTIONS FROM
THE EC "GEOPOLITICS AND GEO-STRATEGY"**

SEMESTER 6

**CONTENT MODULE 1. Theoretical foundations of the study of geopolitics and
geostrategy**

Theoretical foundations of the study of geopolitics and geoeconomics

1. The essence of the concept of world politics. Basic theories and principles of world politics.
2. Geopolitics as a scientific discipline and the history of its development.
3. Features of the emergence of geopolitics as a science.
4. Development of geopolitics at the beginning of the 20th century.
5. The influence of K. Haushofer's views on the development of geopolitics in the middle of the 20th century.
6. Geopolitics in the post-war period.
7. Geopolitical schools of the 2nd half of the 20th century.
8. Geopolitics of the late XX century - beginning XXI century, and its main representatives.
9. Features of the development of geopolitics at the current stage.
10. Main categories of geopolitics.
11. Laws of geopolitics and their meaning.
12. Paradigms of geopolitics.
13. Classical geopolitics of the 20th century:
 - a. F. Ratzel
 - b. R. Challen
 - c. A. Mehen
 - d. H. Mackinder and his "geographical axis of history".
 - e. K. Haushofer and his geopolitical visions
 - f. European geopolitical ideas of the 20th century.
 - g. American geopolitical ideas of the 20th century.
14. Leading geopolitical schools and modern currents of geopolitics.
15. Geoeconomics and mechanisms of its functioning.
16. Geopolitical and geoeconomic space of modern times.
17. Classics of Ukrainian geopolitics.
18. Leading geopolitics of Ukraine and their main developments.
19. Russian geopolitics and its influence on the development of the ideas of the "Russian world".
20. The main Russian propagandists and their basic concepts.

SEMESTER 7

Content module 2. Global and regional applied geopolitics

Topic 1. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of the USA

1. Historical, socio-economic, political-legal and other factors of formation of US geopolitics.

2. The USA in the geopolitical map of modernity. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of the USA in modern world.
3. Geopolitical interests of the USA in North and South America, its influence on the region. The USA cooperation with the countries of the region.
4. The country's role in NATO and NAFTA.
4. The geopolitical and geo-economic interests of the USA in Europe.
5. Geopolitical interests of the USA in the post soviet region.
6. The USA geopolitical vision of Russia.
6. The country's geostrategy in Southeast and South Asia and in the Middle East. The USA's geostrategy in relation with China, Japan and other leading countries in the region.
7. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of the USA in Africa. The USA cooperation with the countries of the region.
8. Place of Ukraine in the geopolitical orientation of the USA.

Topic 2. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of African and Latin American states

1. Historical, socio-economic, political-legal and other factors of formation of Africa's geopolitics.
2. Regional integration of the region.
3. Geopolitical and geo-economic role of North Africa. Egypt as the leading power of the sub-region.
4. The geopolitical and geo-economic role of Western and Central Africa. Leading powers of the region.
5. Geopolitical interests of the East Africa region.
6. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of South Africa. Geopolitics and geo-economics of SAR as regional power.
7. Place of Ukraine in geopolitical orientation of the region.
8. Canada on the geopolitical map of modernity.
9. Place of Ukraine in geopolitical orientation of Canada.
10. Historical, socio-economic, political-legal and other factors of formation of Latin America's geopolitics.
11. Integration processes in Latin America.
12. Peculiarities of geopolitics and geo-economics of Mexico.
13. Geostrategy of Brazil in the international arena. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of Brazil in Latin America.
14. Geopolitics and geo-economics of Argentina.
15. Geopolitics and geo-economics of Chile.
16. Features of geopolitics and geo-economics of other states of L. America and Africa (by student's choice).
17. Place of Ukraine in geopolitical orientation of Latin America countries.

Topic 3. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of European states

1. Historical, socio-economic, political-legal and other factors of formation of European geopolitics.
2. Regional integration in Europe.
3. Geopolitical and geo-economic aspects of the formation and development of the EU. Eastward enlargement of the EU. Transformation processes in the EU.
4. Geopolitics and geo-economics of Great Britain. Brexit
5. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of France.
6. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of Germany.
7. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of Italy.
8. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of Spain.

9. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of Greece.
10. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of Scandinavian countries.
11. Poland in the geopolitical map of modernity.
12. Specifics and main factors of Belarus geopolitics and its orientation towards Russia.
13. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of other countries of Europe (by student's choice).
14. Place of Ukraine in geopolitical orientation of European countries.

Topic 4. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of the states of East, Southeast, South and Southwest Asia, Australia and Oceania

1. Historical, socio-economic, political-legal and other factors of formation of geopolitics of the Middle East. The geopolitical and geo-economic interests of the Middle East.
2. Features of geopolitics of Turkey.
3. Geopolitics and geo-economics of the other countries of the region (Iran, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq (by student's choice)
4. Historical, socio-economic, political-legal and other factors of formation of geopolitics of the Central Asia and the Caucasus.
5. Geopolitics and geostrategy of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan; Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia (by student's choice).
6. Historical, socio-economic, political-legal and other factors of formation of geopolitics of the South Asia. Geopolitical interests and vectors of the region.
7. Geopolitics and geostrategy of India.
8. Historical, socio-economic, political-legal and other factors of formation of geopolitics of the East and South-East Asia.
9. Geopolitics and geostrategy of Japan.
10. Geopolitics and geostrategy of China.
11. Regional integration in Asia.
12. Place of Ukraine in geopolitical orientation of Asian countries.
13. Geopolitical interests and vectors of interaction of the other countries of the Asian region (by student's choice).
14. Historical, socio-economic, political-legal and other factors of formation of geopolitics of Australia and Oceania, their geopolitical vectors.

Content module 3. Peculiarities of the formation of geopolitics of Ukraine

Topic 5. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of Ukraine

1. History of the development of geopolitical thought of Ukraine. Leading Ukrainian geopoliticians.
2. Geopolitical interests of modern Ukraine. Modern geostrategy of Ukraine in global geospace.
3. Geostrategic vector of Ukraine for integration with the EU; peculiarities of its practical implementation. Peculiarities of Ukraine's cooperation with European countries.
4. Geopolitical interests of Ukraine in cooperation with the USA. Ukraine's geostrategic vector for integration with NATO; ways of its implementation.
5. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of Ukraine in the Black Sea region. Ukraine's participation in BSEC.
6. Geopolitical and geo-economic interests of Ukraine in the post-Soviet space. CIS, GUAM.
7. Geo-economic interests of Ukraine in Asia, Africa, Latin America.
8. Crisis phenomena in Ukrainian geopolitics.
9. The war in Ukraine: prerequisites, progress, features and consequences.

10. Possibilities of overcoming crisis phenomena in Ukraine as a result of the war.

INDIVIDUAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TASK

To conduct an analytical study and write an abstract review on the topic "Problems and prospects of realizing the geopolitical interests of Ukraine at the current stage." To fulfill this task, pay considerable attention to the historical features of the development of geopolitics in the State, as well as its current geopolitical situation.

INFORMATIONAL MINIMUM FROM EC "GEOPOLITICS AND GEOSTRATEGY"

The approach to understanding geopolitics in the countries of Europe and America differs from the peculiarities of understanding geopolitics in the post-Soviet countries, the reason for this is the fact that while geopolitics was developing in the Western world, it was forbidden in the Soviet Union and was considered a science of the capitalist world. Well, since the topic for discussion concerns the war in Ukraine, we will investigate this issue with reference to how geopolitics is understood in Ukraine and Russia itself.

The term "geopolitics" etymologically consists of two Greek words: geo - land, politicos - state, citizen and everything related to the city. Therefore, according to Johan Rudolf Kjellén (Swedish political scientist, geographer and politician, the author of this term) (1924), geopolitics is "the study of the state as a **geographical organism or phenomenon in space**: it is, therefore, the study of the state as a country, territory or region."

Approaches to the definition of geopolitics are extremely diverse: from identifying it with **the art of managing a global process**, state or other community, through the assertion that geopolitics is a complete independent science, to recognizing it as a **worldview concept of the future**.

Unlike political geography, there is no clear and comprehensive definition of geopolitics. The most common definitions of geopolitics are as follows:

* "Geopolitics serves to determine national policy, taking into account factors affecting it from the natural environment" (Encyclopedia "Britanica", 1994).

* "It is a science that studies and analyzes in unity geographic, historical, political and other interrelated factors that affect the strategic potential of the state" ("The Encyclopedia Americana", 1973).

* "Geopolitics is a combination of geographic and political factors that determine the position of a state or region with an emphasis on the influence of geography on politics" (Zb. Brzezinski, 1997).

* "The science of studying the relationship between power politics in the international plan and the geographical framework in which it is carried out" (P-M. Gallois, 1990).

* "**Geopolitics is the science of controlling space**" (V. Madisson, V. Shakhov, 2003).

In general, the definition that most accurately characterizes the concept of "geopolitics" is the following.

Geopolitics is the science of the multifaceted policy of states and other subjects, aimed at studying the possibilities of active use of geospatial data in the interests of military-political, cultural-informational, economic and environmental security within the relevant fields of interaction.

After the undermining the value of geopolitics by representatives of the German school in the 1930th and 1940th. western scientists rejected the very term "geopolitics" and began to develop almost the same concepts within the framework of geostrategy. Currently, geostrategy is a leading concept of geopolitics, the basis of which is the determination of the subject's direction of foreign political and foreign economic actions by geographical, primarily natural-geographical factors and its geographical location. **The task of geopolitical strategy is to analyze the position of the study subject and determine the possibilities of its transformation in the desired direction.**

The main **object** of geopolitics research is the **geopolitical structure of the world in all its diversity**. Currently, it is represented by many spatial models.

In the second half of the 20th century the world was bipolar: it was dominated by the USA and the USSR, it was an era of fierce confrontation, which was called the "cold war". With the collapse of the USSR and the world socialist system, the geopolitical rivalry of the two poles ended. **The geopolitical structure of the world has fundamentally changed.** According to the logic of things, the world is currently experiencing the stage of formation of a multipolar system and a possible restructuring of the geopolitical picture of the world. In order to determine the promising leaders of the future world, it is necessary to analyze the most common theories of the modern world order.

Saul Bernard Cohen (1925-2021), a famous American political geographer developed the model of geostrategic spheres and geopolitical regions. In his well-known work "Geopolitics of the World System" (2003), the author presents a global spatial scope, the book considers the entire hierarchy of geopolitical units: subnational, national states, and quasi-states; geopolitical regions; and geostrategic realms. By emphasizing the interaction between geographical settings and changing ideological and economic forces, Cohen has succeeded in creating a new

geopolitical map and introduced **polycentric and hierarchical model of the world, which includes:**

- **the first level** - geostrategic spheres - Maritime and Eurasian (Continental). It should be stressed, that geopolitics divide all states of the world into 2 main types: maritime and continental!

- **second level** — geopolitical regions. The Maritime sphere includes: Anglo-America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and the Maghreb, Extracontinental (Offshore) Asia and Oceania, South America and sub-Saharan Africa; the components of the Eurasian sphere are the Heartland and East Asia

- **the third level** — states of the first order and their "core territories" — the USA (Atlantic coast — the Great Lakes region); EU ("Central axis of development"); Japan (the conurbation of the Pacific Industrial Belt); Russia (industrial-agrarian triangle St. Petersburg — Rostov-on-Don — Kuzbass) (**the hierarchical position of Russia after the war in Ukraine may fundamentally change!!!**); China (coastal areas of the East, North, South, Northeast)

- **the fourth level** — second-order states — they dominate in the regions, but, because of their limited participation in integration structures and international relations, these states do not have global influence. They are: Algeria, Nigeria, South Africa, Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico, Canada

- **the fifth level** — sub-national territories — "**gates**" (**focuses of connections**), which in the future will play the role as conductors of connections between states, stabilizing the world geopolitical system. "**Gates**", as a rule, are placed along the borders of geostrategic spheres: mostly the states of South Asia, the Middle East and **Eastern Europe (including Ukraine)**, etc. In the opinion of the author, being formed as independent geopolitical units, "gates" are **transformed from zones of conflicts (belts of division) into zones of compromise development**

What is the importance of this geopolitical structure of the world proposed by Cohen? Because it proves that gateway states are the most conflict-prone. Also, it proves that gateway states as they lie along continental or maritime spheres and do not have a clear direction of development, they can be directly attacked by more powerful states from higher levels of the hierarchy, what in reality the war in Ukraine demonstrated. **As a result of the war**, Ukraine will be able to leave the lowest level of the hierarchy and decide in which direction it wants to develop as a maritime or continental state and thus change its position on the geopolitical map of the world.

In the context of the struggle for leadership, it is worth mentioning **the concept of geostrategic agents and geopolitical centers** of Zbigniew Brzezinski and his world-famous work “*The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives*” (1997), translated and published in 19 languages.

Zbigniew Kazimierz Brzeziński (March 28, 1928 – May 26, 2017), was a Polish-American diplomat and political scientist, former National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter, and an advisor to the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Along with Henry Kissinger and Samuel Huntington, he was considered one of the most influential US geostrategists. Zb. Brzezinski was born in Poland, but at the age of 10 he moved to Canada, and at the age of 30, he received American citizenship, hence in the USA he is considered to be an American geopolitician and geostrategist, despite his Polish origin.

His famous work “*The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives*” is a reflection on the geopolitical power of the United States and on the strategies by which this power can be realized in the XXI century.

Zb. Brzezinski focuses most of his attention on the geopolitical strategy of the USA in relation to Eurasia. Brzezinski believes that **supremacy on the Eurasian continent is actually supremacy in the whole world**, and he considers the most important strategic goals of the USA to be to spread its influence in **Central Asia and the post-Soviet space** (primarily on Russia, which occupies the largest area of this space).

Zb. Brzezinski is an adherent of Halford John Mackinder (15 February 1861 – 6 March 1947), the founder of modern Anglo-Saxon geopolitics, that is, he considers politics from the point of view of the confrontation between the civilization of the sea (USA, Great Britain) and the civilization of the land. According to Brzezinski, the main chessboard figures are **Russia, Germany, France, China and India. These great powers have their own ambitions and their interests may collide with those of the United States.** American power in Eurasia must put an end to the ambitions of these countries. The geopolitical goal of the US is to control Eurasia in order to prevent rivals capable of challenging America in the political arena. Eurasia, occupying a key position in the world, is America's main geopolitical asset. **The author emphasizes the special importance of the territory of Ukraine in this geopolitical game and substantiates the importance of separating it from all of Russia in order to preserve a unipolar world with the hegemony of the USA.**

Ukraine is a geopolitical center because its very appearance helps to transform Russia. Zb. Brzezinski observes: "Without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be a Eurasian empire. Without Ukraine, Russia can still fight for imperial status, but then it will be mainly an Asian imperial state and will most likely get involved in exhausting conflicts with Central Asia." **Ukraine's loss**

of independence would automatically turn Poland into a geopolitical center, depriving it of such desirable and unprecedented security.

What is the importance of this author's book? This work was quite controversial in Europe and around the world and received a lot of criticism, but it describes the main ideas and goals that the United States implements in conducting its foreign policy. This work is quite well known among modern geopoliticians of Russia. Therefore, when Russia says that it is not fighting with Ukraine, but actually with America, they really think so! For them, the war in Ukraine is not a war for Ukraine as a State, it is a war for the distribution of spheres of influence! And Russia considers America to be its main enemy, especially if to take into account that the USA itself officially declares this!

Let's return to geopolitics. Its main functions are the following:

- **cognitive** — studying trends in the geopolitical development of countries and peoples, changes in various phenomena, processes, and events;
- **prognostic** — implementation of a probable forecast of the development of geopolitical forces, their influence on international relations;
- **management** — collection and analysis of empirical information, development of specific management decisions and recommendations;
- **ideological** — **a theoretical understanding of the geopolitical strategy of a certain state and the ability to convince the political elite and citizens of one's country of its effectiveness and correctness.**

The ideological function is one of the most important, because it is designed to change the worldview of the country's citizens in the direction of the perception of the policy pursued by the government or authorized bodies. **In this context, propaganda works in Russia, forcing Russians to consider the war in Ukraine necessary and justified, what will be explained in more details later.**

The laws and paradigms of geopolitics, which are explained by the peculiarities of the functioning of the world system, are also very interesting.

Thus, **the first law of geopolitics, the law of fundamental dualism**, says that all states of the world can generally be divided into **maritime and continental** (mostly Eurasian states). The status of a maritime state does not mean only access to the sea! In order to obtain the status of a maritime state, it is necessary to fulfill a number of necessary conditions, namely, to have a sufficiently developed navy, carry out maritime trade and invest a lot in the development of maritime cooperation (this theory was substantiated by the extremely famous classic of geopolitics, **Alfred Thayer Mahan**, an American by origin).

What does the first law of geopolitics prove? It proves the fact that the inhabitants of the maritime and continental states are very different from each other. The inhabitants of a maritime state, or as it is called in geopolitics, a **thalassocracy**, since they had to spend most of their lives in sea and survive in the conditions of the sea elements, are more adapted to changes and are not afraid of them, but they really do not like to follow legal norms. Moreover, in most of cases economy of maritime states suffers greatly, because in order to quickly respond to the variability of economic realities, it is necessary to cross large spaces in the sea (this was especially noticeable during the existence of colonial empires, this was the reason why Great Britain itself was losing its power as a colonial empire, because in order to respond to rebellion in her colonial possessions, she needed to sail the sea for quite a long time).

In contrast, the inhabitants of a continental state (**tellurocracy**) lead a sedentary lifestyle, strictly follow legal norms and have a more stable economy. What is more interesting about this law is that the interests and goals of maritime and continental states are very different, and we saw the functioning of this law in BREXIT, which geopoliticians predicted a long time ago, because Great Britain is a direct example of a historical maritime state, during its stay in the EU, the world often observed how the interests of Britain conflicted with the interests of other EU members.

No less interesting is **the second law of geopolitics - the law of increasing the space factor in human history**. What does this law say? Throughout the history of mankind, states have competed for space! Geopolitics itself proves and substantiates that the growth of the state and its territory is normal and it is impossible to stop the expansion as such! If earlier the wars were for the territories themselves, now we can observe completely different types of expansion, now the struggle is being waged for economic and military, cultural, informational, civilizational and many other types of space. For example, modern hybrid wars, and the war in Ukraine is an example of such a war, begin with the influence of an aggressive state on the information space of the state which is desired to be captured, the spread of disinformation happens first, and then the invasion of its territory takes place.

The third law of geopolitics is the law of synthesis of land and sea. This law proves that a very special zone is formed on the coast, where states most actively either cooperate or oppose each other, because if conquerors arrive from the sea, then the first hostilities will be exactly on the coast, but if merchants arrive from the sea, then the most active cooperation, as well as trade will also be on the coast. This law mentions the concept of Rimland, which was introduced by the well-known classic of geopolitics **Nicholas John Spykman** (13 October 1893 – 26 June 1943), an American professor at Yale University, political scientist, geopolitician of Dutch origin.

The Rimland Theory is a geopolitical concept that says that the Rimland is the key region for world governance. The term was first mentioned by Nicholas Spykman in his work "The Geography of the Peace".

According to N. J. Spykman, the Rimland is an arc of countries located between the Heartland and the countries of the Outer Crescent (as Mackinder called them), in this arc he included the states of **Western Europe, the Middle East, Southwest Asia, China, and the Far East, along with the British and the Japanese islands**. The countries of this arc, compared to the Heartland, **possessed greater human and industrial resources, both land and sea power**.

N. J. Spykman considered the Rimland as a region that acted as a large buffer zone between the Sea and Land forces, and had to be defended against both of them.

To confirm this thesis, he cited the example of the First French Empire, the German Empire, and Nazi Germany as countries that came from Rimland and almost became world hegemony.

N. J. Spykman was an American geopolitician, and here it is worth clarifying that every geopolitician who worked for the development of this science first of all studied how his state could survive in the world and achieve its goals. Why is it worth remembering? Because, studying the same problem in the writings of different geopoliticians, we can see completely opposite views of different scientists. Basically, every author is primarily interested in how a certain problem can be reflected in his country, or how his country can bypass this or that negative situation.

Why is it necessary to understand it? When N. J. Spykman introduced the concept of Rimland, he was interested in the only thing - how to prevent the emergence of those who can compete with the United States. If most of the bloody wars were fought for the territory of the Heartland - the so-called center of Eurasia, then the capture of the coastal territories of Eurasia or the creation of alliances or unions with these territories could give the states that implemented this policy great power and, in conclusion, make them serious competitors to the United States. Therefore, introducing the concept of Rimland into circulation, N. J. Spykman outlined the territory of special US control, where it was impossible to allow the influence of those Eurasian states that the US considered potential competitors or enemies!

What is the importance of this law at the current stage? This law explains that the control over the coastal territories of a certain region or a certain state gives a lot of power and moreover strengthens the power of the state! This law explains, using the example of the war in Ukraine, why the annexation of Crimea took place and why it is so important to end the war by recapturing this territory. For Putin, the question of Crimea is not a question of the people who live there, or the question of the natural resources that may be there, or the question of the

benefits of control over Crimea. The issue of Crimea concerns the topic of power given by control over the coastal territory. In addition, among the fiercest front line in the war in Ukraine its coastal regions are, like Mykolaiv, Kherson, Zaporizhzhya, Donetsk. According to this law and as Putin sees it, in order to weaken Ukraine, if it was not possible to capture its capital Kyiv, Ukraine must be cut off from the sea!

Paradigms of geopolitics

1) Since the emergence of geopolitics and to this day, **the dualistic paradigm** remains an important paradigm of this science. It proves the dual nature of geopolitics. On the one hand, geopolitics **justifies the expansion of states**, as, according to this science, the power of states is directly dependent on the size of the state territory. On the other hand, it **tries to predict and prevent the occupation of territories, conflicts and confrontations**. In result, aims of geopolitics contradict itself.

2) Geoeconomic paradigm.

At the end of the XX century numerous applied disciplines began to form on the basis of geopolitics, one of such disciplines was **geoeconomics**.

The most important issues of the geoeconomic paradigm are:

- rejection of geopolitical dualism and understanding of the world as a unity (sometimes under the slogans of multipolarity);
- the identification of the state and the corporation, moreover, the state is considered a branch of a global corporation;
- giving preference to Western values, rationalism, information technologies, etc.

A big number of scientists do not accept the ideal of those who support this paradigm — a homogeneous world.

Among the positive statements of this paradigm are:

- development of the concept of a tripolar world;
- understanding of globalization as a fusion of geopolitical and geoeconomic realities;
- justification of the opinion that **the lack of resources is an important factor in the development of the state**.

"The one who will be the first to build a new economic space and manage to create a system of actions for it will win," the EU can serve as an example, where economic cooperation and benefits from it have created a new European reality.

3) Cyclical paradigm.

The essence of the paradigm is that the geopolitical system of the world changes cyclically. The change of cycles — military, leadership, hegemony — causes the regrouping of great powers, the change of their geopolitical fields and the institutional arrangement of the

world. The study of geopolitical cycles requires a systematic approach, especially when studying the factors that lead the state (actor) to the peak of the wave. For example, most pandemics in the world are cyclical. Even what is currently happening in Russia regarding the implementation of their geopolitical doctrine was already in the history of geopolitics in Germany, because similar concepts regarding the special importance and role of Germany in Europe and even in all of Eurasia were developed by **Karl Ernst Haushofer** (27 August 1869 – 10 March 1946), and then used by Hitler. After that, geopolitics as such was banned. Although it revived very quickly in Europe and America. Therefore, the history of the geopolitics of modern Russia completely repeats the history of the geopolitics of Germany, a kind of cycle has taken place! Therefore, it can be proved that various spheres of life of the state and of all humanity develop cyclically, and after analyzing the previous cycles, the next ones can be predicted! Which, by the way, is practically what geopolitics does.

4) **The civilizational paradigm** in geopolitics develops on the basis of the works of A. Toynbee and **Samuel Phillips Huntington** (April 18, 1927 – December 24, 2008) (the well-known work "The Clash of Civilizations") and emphasizes the strengthening of intercivilizational contradictions in the modern world. According to this paradigm, bipolarity, which existed in the second half of the XXth century and was based on the conflict of ideologies, will be replaced by multipolarity, which will be based on **the conflict of cultures (civilizations)**. It claims that in the future, if the Third World War occurs, it will be a **war between civilizations**. It should be mentioned here that in his well-known work, Huntington refers to Ukraine and Russia as a single Orthodox civilization and argues that there is a high probability that the third world war will be precisely intercivilizational, and knowing that the greatest enemy of Russia is the entire Western world with its values, it can be predicted that after Ukraine, Russia will start a fight with the entire Western (European and American) world! This is the reason why European states, including the USA, made their decisions regarding Ukraine very thoughtfully, on the one hand, not wanting to provoke Putin to more aggressive actions, and on the other hand, realizing that if Russia managed to seize Ukraine, **the prospect of this type of war would become more and more real!**

The history of the geopolitics development

What is understood today as geopolitics has existed since ancient times. Ancient thinkers often paid much attention to the geographical location of states, their climatic conditions, population structure, and relations between states and regions. However, this research object did not have its own name.

The development of geopolitics, which took place in parallel with the development of

political geography, dates back to the end of the XIXth and the beginning of the XXth centuries. It is connected with the name of **Friedrich Ratzel** (August 30, 1844 – August 9, 1904), who is called the father of "political geography". F. Ratzel, summarizing the works of previous thinkers, was the first to turn political geography into a systematic scientific discipline.

What is special about Ratzel's views? F. Ratzel believed that the **space (size) of the state is the most important political and geographical factor**. Moreover, **space** is not just the territory occupied by the state and which is one of the attributes of its power, but it **is itself a political force**. It is more than just a physical and geographical concept. **The decline of the state is the result of a weakened spatial concept and a weakened spatial sense**.

The term "geopolitics" was first used by the Swedish scientist **Johan Rudolf Kjellén** (13 June 1864 – 14 November 1922) in the work "The State as a Form of Life" (1899). According to J. R. Kjellen, geopolitics is "the study of the state as a geographical organism or phenomenon in space: it is, therefore, the study of the state as a country, territory or region". Moreover, Kjellen considered state as alive organism, growth of which is a natural process and compared state with a biological human-being!

In the development of many sciences, there were moments when scientific ideas were discredited in favor of one or another political goal. This characterized geopolitics, especially German, in the 1930th and 1940th, when **Karl Ernst Haushofer** (27 August 1869 – 10 March 1946) introduced a negative aspect into German geopolitics, trying to theoretically substantiate the Nazi ideas of world domination, which slowed down the formation of geopolitics as a science for a long time. Due to the connection between geopolitics and fascism, geopolitics in the USA in the 1940th and 1950th, and in the countries of the socialist camp in the 1940th and 1980th was considered a pseudo-science, a reactionary concept that explains state policy by the influence of natural geographical conditions, geographical location and racial differences of the population. In the USSR, a strict taboo was imposed on the term itself.

Nevertheless, geopolitical research has been revived in the USA since the 1950th, and in Europe since the 1960th, where it in most of cases it began to be called geostrategy. Since the end of the 1980th of the XX century, geopolitics enters the newest stage of development, and after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it begins to develop in the post-Soviet countries as well.

This explains why the geopolitical schools of European and American countries are much more developed and much better understand the need to prevent war, it explains why the countries of the Western world have formed geopolitical doctrines. Modern Russia repeats the history of Germany, during Haushofer's time, it can be said that geopolitics in it is only in the initial stages of development, while the geopolitics of European countries and the USA is more balanced and purposeful, so Ukraine has great hopes that by joint actions with partners who

support Ukraine, based on knowledge of geopolitics, **the reaction of the world community will be timely and capable of stopping Russia's aggression.**

In order to understand the peculiarities of the Russian geopolitical doctrine and its influence on the resolution of the Russian-Ukrainian war, it is necessary to clarify the essence of the concept of geopolitical doctrine.

Geopolitical doctrine is a **key concept of geopolitics** — it is a model for understanding the factors of the structure of the territorial-political world system and directions of political activity and analysis based on geographical realities (Myroslav Dnistrianskij, 2003 - modern Ukrainian geopolitician).

Most geopolitical doctrines are the embodiment of interests: national, state, coalition, private. All of them are diverse, but they usually lie in the sphere of **preserving the independence and integrity of states, ensuring the survival of nations and the prosperity of citizens, expanding political and economic influence, and achieving a certain private goal.**

The Prime Minister of Great Britain, Lord G. Palmerston (1784-1865), emphasized: "**the state has neither permanent friends nor permanent enemies, it has only permanent interests**"

Geopolitical doctrines are not developed in all states of the world, but only in those that have a well-balanced foreign policy, which is not change regardless of who heads the state! Why is it important? Geopolitical doctrines are developed and function only in highly developed states! The states which have a number of development problems, whether political, economic or other, there are only geopolitical codes developed in them. The **geopolitical code (codex)** is "a set of strategic ideas formed by the government (country) about other states when developing its foreign policy." **Geopolitical codes contain:** determination of state interests, identification of external threats to these interests, possible response options and their justification.

The geopolitical code can be changed with each government, something similar could be found in Ukraine. With the change of power in Ukraine, the strategy of its foreign activity completely changed. In result, it was spread either towards the EU or towards Russia. In contrast, although geopolitics was banned in Russia during the Soviet Union, many ideas and concepts that formed the basis of its modern geopolitics were developed.

The reasons for Russia's aggressive behavior and desire to capture Ukraine's territories

At the present stage, Russia has a clearly formed geopolitical doctrine developed by its geopolitical theorists Aleksandr Gelyevich Dugin (7 January 1962) and Vladimir

Alexandrovich Dergachev (9 September 1945) . The geopolitical ideas of these 2 geopoliticians formed the ideology of Russian authorities, which have been implemented in their international activities for many years.

The war started by Russia in Ukraine is not only Putin's war, it fully reflects Russia's geopolitical concepts and is grounded in the state geopolitical doctrine. The ideas about Russian domination over Eurasia, the peculiarity of the Russian people, the hostility of the West and opposition to everything related to it have been developed for many years. Therefore, everything that Putin is doing at the current stage is a reflection of what the theorists of Russian geopolitics have been writing about and proving for a very long time. Let's start with the **classics of Russian geopolitics and its classic geopolitical concepts**, because they formed the basis of Russian modern geopolitical doctrine.

Petro Mykolayovych Savitsky (1895 - 1968) is the first (and one of the few) Russian author who can be called a geopolitician in a broad sense. Economist by education. The leading idea of P. Savitsky arises from the fact that Russia is a **special civilizational entity**, which is created due to the quality of "midness/centrality ". If the "centrality" of Germany is limited to the continent, and Europe itself is only the "western capital" of Eurasia, then Russia occupies the central position of Europe within the entire continent. **Russia is not a part of Europe or a continuation of Asia, it is an independent world, an independent and special spiritual-historical geopolitical reality - Eurasia**. Introducing the term "Russia-Eurasia" into scientific circulation, P. Savitsky emphasized the continentality of Russia, its differences from oceanic civilizations. The geopolitical ideas of P. Savitsky are a direct antithesis to the views of European geopoliticians.

This is also confirmed by the Eurasian concept of Russian culture. Eurasians saw the greatest **sin of Western culture**, which claims to be "universal humanity", in its desire **to level and eliminate all individual differences**, to introduce everywhere uniform forms of life and social-state organization, based on the market economy and liberal-democratic forms of government. **Europeanization is harmful for non-European peoples**. Russian culture is neither Slavic nor European. **The culture of Russia**, which is defined by the formula "neither East nor West", but "Eurasia", is something third, **independent and special, which has no expression either in the terms of the East or in the terms of the West**. Russia's highest spiritual task is to preserve its uniqueness at any cost, to defend its identity against the challenge of the oceanic culture of the West and the traditions of the East.

In general, **Eurasianism is a geopolitical and socio-philosophical doctrine that asserts the special role of Russia in world history and the need to unify a large part of Eurasia under Russian rule on the basis of the "historical and cultural commonality" of the peoples**

who inhabit it. Russia-Eurasia is contrasted with Western Europe and the West in general as another civilization or environment in which a new civilization must emerge. **Eurasianism seeks to build a rigid hierarchy of power, a balance between moral values and economic expediency, where self-government is rejected.**

Neo-Eurasianism is one of the varieties of Eurasianism, which appeared at the end of the 1960th and 1970th of the XX century. This concept is connected with the idea of “the theory of passionate development” (an excess of extreme energy) of the historian, ethnographer, geographer Lev Gumilyov (1912-1992). **The concept of passionate development describes the historical process as the interaction and development of ethnic groups with the forming landscape and other ethnic groups.**

Gumilyov's theory does not meet the criteria of scientificity. If in the post-Soviet space some scientists use it as a scientific one, it is mainly to justify the non-scientific and propagandist concept of Eurasianism. **Scientists outside the post-Soviet space do not consider Gumilyov's concept even as a hypothesis.**

Based on the conclusions of history, geography and natural science, L. Gumilyov formulates the conclusion that the **Great Russians are a special ethnic group that was formed under the powerful influence of a passionate (passionateness is an excess of extreme energy) impulse.** This alloy of ethnic groups could have formed as a symbiosis, born from a specific combination of Forest and Steppe, because the territory of both modern Russia and the former Soviet Union was extremely large. **The Union of the Forest and the Steppe determined the essence of civilization, culture, stereotypes, and behavior of the Great Russians.**

According to neo-Eurasians, Russia is the axis of the geopolitical space. **Its task and mission is the creation of an empire of Eurasian socialism.** According to L. Gumilyov, if Russia will be saved, then only as a Eurasian state and only through Eurasianism. Putin's ideological inspirer, modern Russian geopolitician O. Dugin is also an adherent of this geopolitical concept of neo-Eurasianism. O. Dugin claims that a renewed Russia, having strengthened its statehood and revived its economy on the basis of modern technotronic technologies, will occupy its appropriate place in the world, will once again find its **traditional peace-making, stabilizing force that restrains chaos.**

Despite the bloody war and the murder of thousands of civilians of Ukraine, Russian propaganda from mass media convinces citizens that Russia is not an aggressor, but a peacemaker who came to protect Ukrainians from Ukrainians in Ukrainian territory!!! So Russians have long been convinced that it is normal to kill people and to invade the territory of a foreign country, because according to the conclusion, **this will save Russia itself from the influence of Western countries!!!!**

The next geopolitical concept that justifies Russia's uniqueness within Eurasia is "**Moscow — the Third Rome.**" This is a Russian theological and political concept that claims that Moscow is the successor of the Roman Empire. It was formed around 1500 by the Orthodox monk Filofey of Pskov.

According to it, the history of world Orthodoxy and the Orthodox kingdom consists of three main periods: the first Rome (where Rome is the center of Orthodoxy and the capital of the Roman Empire of the first centuries, destroyed by heretics), the second Rome (Constantinople as the center of Orthodoxy, destroyed by the Turks Muslims) and the third Rome (Moscow as the spiritual center of Orthodoxy and therefore the potential capital of a single Orthodox kingdom). After that, humanity will enter the last stage of its history before the end of history and the Last Judgment, because "the fourth Rome will not happen." **Thus, this concept justifies the peculiarity of Russia not only in a geographical but also in a spiritual sense!**

Slavophilism can be considered the transformation of this concept, which at the modern stage has grown into the ideology of "Russian World" or as it sounds in Russian "ryskij mir". Slavophilism is an ideology born in 1840-1870. The Slavophile ideology contrasted itself with the ideology of supporters of Russian orientation towards Western Europe. **The key postulate of the Slavophiles was the opposition of Russia to the West, in particular Russian Orthodox Christianity to Western Catholic Christianity, Russian culture to European culture. Russian Slavophiles believed that Russia should lead and rule all Slavic peoples, and were against a positive solution to the Ukrainian question (that is, the question of Ukraine's independence) and the Polish question (that is, the question of Poland's independence).**

Pan-Slavism is a variety of Slavophilism — a cultural and political trend, an ideology spread in states inhabited by Slavic peoples, **based on ideas about the need for their political unification on the basis of ethnic, cultural and linguistic commonality.** It was formed at the end of the XVIII and the first half of the XIX centuries. In Russia itself, claims were made about the superiority of the Slavs over other peoples, the "hostility of the West," Russia's call for hegemony in the Slavic world. **Russian Slavophiles came up with the idea of opposing the Slavic Orthodox world, which Russia should lead, to "sick", unfaithful Europe.**

Therefore, all the geopolitical concepts of Russia, despite the fact that they began to form quite a long time ago, even before the appearance of geopolitics itself, believed that the West and its culture are harmful, they have a bad influence and Russia has a mission, including a spiritual one to unite all Slavic peoples and rule over them! This idea has not disappeared to this day and is clearly visible in the foreign policy conducted by Putin!

"Russian world" is a church in form, but according to observers and analysts, a geopolitical concept in its essence, which was proclaimed by Moscow Patriarch Kirill in his program speech on November 3, 2009 and repeated in Odesa during his visit to Ukraine in 2010. After the historical failures of the doctrines of the "Third Rome" and Slavophilism, which were calculated first for the entire Christian world, and then for the Slavic world, the **"Russian world" is focused only on the Eastern Slavic countries of Eastern Europe - that is, on Ukraine and Belarus. The ideas of the "Russian World" are used as a justification for the revival of the Russian Empire.**

The concept of the "Russian world" is considered a geopolitical doctrine of the era of Putin's rule and one that serves as an ideological basis for historical revenge - military aggression with the aim of restoring Russia within the borders of the USSR until 1991 and "returning the zone of influence" in relation to the colonial and satellite countries in Europe, Transcaucasia and Middle Asia until 1917, before the defeat of Russia in the First World War. **Some observers consider the "Russian world" project to be a complete analogue, remake or compilation of the Nazi "Third Reich".**

This concept asserts a special "Russian world" and "divinely chosen" Russian people.

The main ideas of the concept of "Russian world" include:

- the eternal struggle with the West for Russia's "specialness", God's purpose;
- constant opposition to the Western model of values
- ideas of "Holy Russia"
- confirmation that the land of former Russia, part of which was under the power of the Moscow principality, is holy in itself
- ideas for establishing the historical significance of the capital of the Russian state — Moscow, as a world political and ecclesiastical center.
- ideas of realizing Russians as a special people (even among other Orthodox peoples), trying to expand one's political borders for the "salvation of Orthodoxy", imposing their worldview on other peoples.

O. Dygin is recognized to be the ideological developer and theoretician of the concept of "Russian World". In his book "Fundamentals of Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia" (1997), he manifested that Ukraine should be annexed by the Russian Federation because allegedly **"Ukraine as a state has no geopolitical significance, special cultural import or universal significance, geographical uniqueness, ethnic exclusivity, its certain territorial ambitions pose a huge danger for the whole of Eurasia, and without a solution to the problem of the "Ukrainian question", it is meaningless to talk about continental politics at**

all." Ukraine cannot be allowed to remain independent if it is not a sanitary border, which would also be unacceptable. The book had a great influence on the foreign policy of Vladimir Putin, which eventually led to the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Oleksandr Dugin (January 7, 1962) is a Russian philosopher, politician, political scientist, ideologist of neo-Eurasism and racism, founder and leader of the "International Eurasian Movement". The author of the racist geopolitical book "The Basics of Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia", which, according to many people, influenced the current policy of Russia towards Ukraine. According to many observers, Oleksandr Dugin professes right-wing radical, extremist, terrorist and ultra-nationalist imperial ideas.

O. Dugin is currently under US financial sanctions against persons guilty of aggression against Ukraine. He is added into the list of persons who pose a threat to the national security of Ukraine. Since January 7, 2023, he has been under sanctions of the Ukrainian National Security Council for anti-Ukrainian activities.

O. Dugin is often described as the main ideologist of Putin's Russia, the representative and inspirer of modern Eurasianism, who ideologically justified the need for Russia's war against Georgia in 2008 and against Ukraine since 2014. Sometimes he is characterized as an occult writer, "Putin's Rasputin", "Putin's brain". Dugin's actual influence on Putin's views is a matter of debate.

In 2014, a collection of signatures was held in Russia for the dismissal of Oleksandr Dugin, a professor of the Faculty of Sociology of Moscow State University and a leader of the international Eurasian movement, due to public calls to kill Ukrainians: "we believe that the public activity of "Professor" Dugin is incompatible with the position he holds in the public education system, causes harm the image of Russian science and the status of Moscow State University named after Lomonosov". Nevertheless, nothing was made according him!

“Fundamentals of geopolitics: The geopolitical future of Russia” is a geopolitical book by Oleksandr Dugin. Its publication in 1997 was well received in the Russian Federation. **It had a significant influence on the Russian military, police and foreign policy elite and was used as a textbook in the Academy of the General Staff of the Russian military.** O. Dugin claimed that the book is accepted as a textbook in many Russian educational institutions. The former speaker of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Gennady Seleznev, for whom Dugin was a geopolitical advisor, **demande d for making Dugin's geopolitical doctrine a mandatory part of the school curriculum.**

In his book, O. Dugin calls for the US and Atlanticism to lose their influence in Eurasia, and for Russia to regain its influence through annexation and alliances. The book claims that the "battle for Russian world domination" is not over, and the Russian Federation remains "the

center of a new anti-bourgeois, anti-American revolution." The Eurasian empire will be built "on the fundamental principle of a common enemy: the rejection of Atlanticism, US strategic control, and the rejection of liberal values to dominate Russia".

Military action plays a relatively minor role in the conflict. The textbook advocates a complex program of subversion, destabilization and disinformation led by Russian intelligence services. **The operations should be facilitated by the heavy use of Russian gas, oil and natural resources for intimidation and pressure in other countries.**

In Europe:

- Germany should be offered de-facto political dominance over the majority of Protestant and Catholic states located in Central and Eastern Europe.

- France should be encouraged to form a bloc with Germany because they both have a "strong anti-Atlantic tradition".

- The United Kingdom, simply described as a "US extraterritorial floating base", should be cut off from Europe.

- Finland should be absorbed by Russia. Southern Finland will be united with the Republic of Karelia, and northern Finland will be "gifted to the Murmansk Region".

- Estonia should be given over to Germany's sphere of influence.

- Latvia and Lithuania should be given "special status" in the Eurasian-Russian sphere.

- Poland should be given a "special status" in the Eurasian sphere.

- Romania, North Macedonia, Serbia, "Serbian Bosnia" and Greece - the "Orthodox collectivist East" - will unite with "Moscow as the Third Rome", they will reject the "rational individualist West".

- Ukraine should be annexed by the Russian Federation, because allegedly "Ukraine as a state has no geopolitical significance, special cultural import or universal human significance, geographical uniqueness, ethnic exclusivity, its certain territorial ambitions pose a huge danger for the whole of Eurasia and without solving the problem of the "Ukrainian question ", talking about continental politics is generally meaningless." **Ukraine cannot be allowed to remain independent if it is not a sanitary border, which would also be unacceptable.**

In the Middle East and Central Asia:

- The book emphasizes the "continental Russian-Islamic alliance" that lies "at the heart of the anti-Atlantic strategy." The alliance is based on the "traditional nature of Russian and Islamic civilization."

- Iran is a key ally. The term "**Moscow-Tehran axis**" is used in the book.

- Armenia will play a special role: it will serve as a "strategic base" and it is necessary to create a "Moscow-Yerevan-Tehran axis." Armenians "are an Aryan people... [like] Iranians and Kurds."

- Azerbaijan can be "split" or given to Iran.

- Georgia should be dismembered. Abkhazia and "United Ossetia" (which includes South Ossetia of Georgia) will be included in Russia. Georgia's independent policy is unacceptable.

- Russia needs to create "geopolitical conflicts" inside Turkey. This can be achieved by involving Kurds, Armenians and other minorities.

- The book considers the Caucasus as Russian territory, including "the eastern and northern shores of the Caspian (the territories of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan)" and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are mentioned).

In East and Southeast Asia:

- China, which poses a danger to Russia, "must be dismantled as much as possible." Dugin suggests that Russia start by taking Tibet - Xinjiang - Inner Mongolia - Manchuria as a security belt. The Russian Federation should offer China help "in the southern direction - Indochina (except Vietnam), the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia" as geopolitical compensation.

- The Russian Federation should manipulate Japanese politics by offering Japan the Kuril Islands and provoking anti-Americanism.

- Mongolia should be absorbed by Eurasia-Russia.

- The book emphasizes that the Russian Federation should spread anti-Americanism everywhere: "the main "enemy" will be the USA."

In the United States:

- The Russian Federation should use its intelligence services within the United States to incite instability and separatism, such as provoking "African-American racists." **The Eurasian project could be expanded to South and Central America.**

It should be stressed, that the book's cover features the Chaos Star, a symbol that represents chaos magic in modern occult trends, and the use of the symbol is in keeping with Dugin's general interests in the occult and magic symbolism. After the publication of the book, Dugin also used this symbol as the logo of his Eurasia party.

So, according to the concept written in Dugin's book, **Russia should take over huge areas not only of the Heartland, but also of the Rimland, which will really ensure its world domination and create the necessary competition for the USA!** And the issues of Ukraine as the state should disappear in general, therefore, when the world community says that Russia will not stop at the annexation of Ukraine, and the world is on the verge of World War III, they are absolutely right.

Another ideological developer of the concept of "Russian world" is **Volodymyr Oleksandrovich Dergachev** (September 9, 1945) – born in Ukraine, but considered as Russian geopolitician, geographer-economist, professor, doctor of geographical sciences. Member of the International Federation of Journalists (Brussels). Foreign member of the scientific committee of Geopolitical magazine (Rome, Italy). In 1998, he created the private Institute of Geopolitics of Professor Dergachev. Since 2013 he is the editor and author of the illustrated magazine "Landscapes of Life". He has a pronounced, especially after the Orange Revolution, pro-Russian and anti-Ukrainian position, as evidenced by the author's publications. His views often coincide with the main Russian-Soviet myths and theses of the "Russian World".

Author of more than 600 scientific works (including 50 books), analytical and journalistic publications published in Russia, USA, Japan, Italy, Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, etc. Permanent author of the international magazine "Visnyk Analytiki" (Moscow, Russia). His journalistic articles were published in the Russian newspapers, Ukrainian and foreign publications. Despite his association with Russia and the ideology of "Russian World", **he still remains on the staff of the editorial board of many foreign magazines!** Therefore, the ideas of the "Russian world" are spread not only by military occupation of territories, but also popularized in scientific schools of Europe and America!

He is also under sanctions in Ukraine since 2014 and forbidden to be mentioned in Ukrainian scientific literature as the source of used resources.

The question may arise why, knowing about the geopolitical concepts of Russia, as well as the work of Putin's ideological inspirations, there was no reaction from Ukraine? Why did the state not prepare for a possible war? There are several reasons for this:

1. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the scientific school of Russia was much stronger than that of Ukraine, because the center of the Soviet Union itself was in Moscow, so Russia managed to develop its own geopolitical doctrine, despite the fact that it is aggressive and justifies the military occupation of territories, in Ukraine the geopolitical doctrine is not still formed.

2. Ukraine as an independent state has existed for only 32 years, and Russia has been an independent and powerful actor in international relations for centuries, so self-identification and a sense of patriotism among Russians is much more higher than among Ukrainians! Unfortunately, patriotism came to the majority of Ukrainians only with the beginning of the war.

3. Residents of the eastern regions of Ukraine, especially those that became self-proclaimed after the events of 2014, Lugansk and Donetsk republics, really had a close relationship with Russia, and it was quite easy to spread the idea of a "Russian World" among them, as it was said earlier, geopolitics performs a socially significant ideological function,

therefore during the years of preparation for the war, Russian propaganda managed to convince the citizens of Russia that the conquest of the territories was justified, and the residents of the territories of Ukraine, neighboring Russia, that they would feel better if Russia invades. Although, it is clear to us, conscious Europeans that this is not normal, we must remember that the influence of the mass media is quite large and modern technologies are able to instill in citizens even ideas with signs of mental deviations!

4. The national idea, Ukraine's understanding of its future tasks, assessment of who is an enemy and who is a friend unfortunately came to Ukraine because of the war, and the lack of a clear national idea leads, as history teaches, to wars and territorial expansion, which Ukraine has experienced.

5. A very important factor why this war took place and why there were World Wars I and II is the fact that Ukraine and Russia lie on the territory of the Heartland, and as geopolitics justifies and history teaches, the struggle is waged for these territories, because whoever owns them, gets world domination! Russia does not need Ukraine as a state, Russia considers the Ukrainian people to be biological garbage, but Russia needs to conquer the Heartland and gain dominance in the Eurasian region and become the only powerful competitor of the USA on the world stage. Therefore, when the world says that we are on the threshold of World War III, it is absolutely true!

The author of the Heartland theory is **Halford John Mackinder** (February 15, 1861 - March 6, 1947) - a British geographer and geopolitician. **Heartland** is a geopolitical concept that claims that control over the heartland makes it possible to control the world. The concept was first used by Mackinder in the article "Geographical axis of history" in 1904, and in 1919 in the work "Democratic ideals and reality" an in-depth definition of the "axis of history" appeared.

H. J. Mackinder paid such attention to the heartland because this region is the largest, richest and most populated, in **general forms a huge economic world and has no direct connection with ocean trade**. Mackinder highlighted Europe and Asia on the world map, calling them the **World-Island. At its center is the Heartland**. It consists of Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, protected by the inner crescent — Siberia, the Himalayas, the Gobi desert, and Tibet.

Along with the description of the heartland, Mackinder formulated the basic idea of the concept:

Whoever controls Eastern Europe controls the Heartland

Whoever controls the Heartland controls the World Island

Whoever controls the World Island rules the World

The Heartland theory was enthusiastically adopted by the German school of geopolitics, in particular by its main proponent, Karl Haushofer. The theory gained particular popularity in Nazi Germany, but H. J. Mackinder himself was extremely critical of such exploitation of his ideas.

The necessity of studying the Heartland was different for both geopoliticians. For H. J. Mackinder, as a British geostrategist, it was necessary to prevent the emergence of competitors of Britain in Europe and Asia, which arose here as young states. For K. Haushofer, the Heartland was important because Germany itself was located near it, and the conquest of the Heartland would give Germany the key to world domination! It is worth mentioning that K. Haushofer saw one of the options for owning the Heartland in the creation of a "Continental bloc (union)" ("**Axis Berlin - Moscow - Tokyo**"), which was supposed to unite the states of Eurasia, such as: Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Russia and Japan, and could form the eastern counterbalance and alternative to the Western Anglo-Saxon world: the British Empire and the USA.

K. Haushofer's geopolitical doctrine was based on planetary dualism: opposition between maritime (thalassocracy) and continental (tellurocracy) states. The future of Germany as a great power was seen in the creation of a "continental block" or the **Berlin-Moscow-Tokyo axis**. And although these ideas of Haushofer were used by Hitler, but already in the plan of conquering the Heartland state, he considered Hitler an ignoramus. Due to the use of his works by Hitler, although the author himself denied it, his son was executed, and the family was persecuted. The elderly professor himself spent eight months in the Dachau concentration camp. After his release in 1945, Haushofer returned to Munich, where on March 13, 1946, he committed suicide with his wife, accepting the poison mixture.

!!! Russia is currently experiencing a very similar story in terms of ownership of the Heartland, and the personification of Haushofer for Russia is the image of O. Dugin. By the way, O. Dugin's daughter was also killed on August 20, 2022. A bomb was planted in her car! And as the mass media write, the reason was not only her father's ideological beliefs, but also her own, she is the author of book about the military invasion of Ukraine, "Book Z"! **Ukraine denies involvement in this murder.**

6. Ukraine, despite the fact that it occupies a geographically quite favorable position because it is located at the intersection of important transport routes, is considered a buffer state! And taking into account the fact that before the war it had a number of development problems, both internal and external, it was really quite difficult to form a clear concept of foreign political activity for Ukraine.

In geopolitics, buffer state is a country that lies between two competing or potentially hostile (in a military or geopolitical sense) Great Powers, demarcating them and thus ensuring the absence of common borders and contact of hostile armies.

If Russia captures territory of Ukraine EU and firstly Poland will get common border with aggressive Russia, which for sure will not stop only on Ukrainian territory.

7. Ukraine occupies a rather special position on the geopolitical map of the world, the war will help to change it, and if at the moment Ukraine's only main problem is to win this war and recapture its state's territories, after the end of the war, the state will have new, no less important problems. With whom to start cooperation, to move towards integration with the EU, or to create a special alliance Britain-Poland-Ukraine? Should the country become continental or pay more attention to maritime development? After all, Britain's experience has shown that if Ukraine chooses the path of development as a maritime state, the path to the EU may become closed for it. Another issue to be solved after the war finishes is what should be the geopolitical doctrine of the state and what should be its main ideas? There will be quite a lot of important questions that will arise after the war and that will determine the future of Ukraine.

Therefore, the war that Russia started in Ukraine is not Putin's personal idea, it reflects Russia's geopolitical ideas, concepts and visions of hegemony in the territory of Eurasia, which have been developed for many decades. This is not just a war of one state against another, it is a war for the special territory of the Heartland, the possession of which gives the right to rule the world, which will eventually lead to the long-forecasted World War III. This is a war against democratic values, against the ideas of humanity, against the established law and world order, which is why Ukraine's victory is important not only for Ukraine, but for the entire world community!

TEST QUESTIONS FOR SELF-CONTROL

1. FROM WHICH WORDS OF GREEK ORIGIN IS ETYMOLOGICALLY COMPRISED THE TERM "GEOPOLITICS"

- A) land
- B) the people
- C) the state

2. GEOPOLITICS IS THE SCIENCE OF MULTIFACETED POLITICS OF STATES AND OTHER ENTITIES, AIMED AT STUDYING THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING DATA OF ... IN THE INTERESTS OF MILITARY-POLITICAL, CULTURAL-INFORMATION, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY WITHIN BORDERS RELEVANT FIELDS OF INTERACTION

- A) geospace

- B) geography
- C) state budget

3. THE GEOPOLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE WORLD IN ALL ITS DIVERSITY IS ... THE STUDY OF GEOPOLITICS

- A) subject
- B) an object
- C) a function

4. FIELDS OF INTERACTION ("FORCE FIELDS") ARE ... OF GEOPOLITIC RESEARCH

- A) subject
- B) an object
- C) a function

5. WHAT FUNCTIONS IS GEOPOLITICS PERFORMING

- A) ideological
- B) management
- C) none

6. WHO WAS THE FIRST TO USE THE TERM "GEOPOLITICS"

- A) R. Challen
- B) Z. Brzezinski
- C) V. Kolosov

7. THE FORMATION OF GEOPOLITICS HAPPENED IN PARALLEL WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE

- A) religious studies
- B) philosophy
- C) political geography

8. GEOPOLITICS STARTS AT ...

- A) the end of the XIXth century.
- B) the middle of the XXIst century.
- C) such a concept does not exist

9. WHAT IS THE NAME GIVEN TO THE STABLE GEOPOLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE WORLD WHICH REFLECTS THE BALANCE OF POWER AT A CERTAIN HISTORICAL STAGE

- A) ecosystem
- B) biosystem
- C) world system

10. WHO CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS NON-STATE SUBJECTS OF GEOPOLITICS

- A) TNK
- B) various associations of citizens
- C) the states of the world

11. WHICH LAWS CAN BE CONSIDERED CLASSICAL LAWS OF GEOPOLITICS

- A) the law of fundamental dualism
- B) the law of increasing the factor of space in human history
- C) the law of synthesis of land and sea
- D) none

12. WHICH OF THE CLASSIC LAWS OF GEOPOLITICS IS MANIFESTED IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL STRUCTURE OF THE PLANET AND IN THE HISTORICAL TYPOLOGY OF CIVILIZATIONS

- A) the law of fundamental dualism
- B) the law of increasing the factor of space in human history
- C) the law of synthesis of land and sea

13. WHICH OF THE CLASSICAL LAWS OF GEOPOLITICS CONCERNS SUCH KEY CONCEPTS OF GEOPOLITICS AS "COASTAL ZONE" OR "RIMLAND"

- A) the law of increasing the factor of space in human history
- B) the law of synthesis of land and sea
- C) the law of fundamental dualism

14. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE MODELING OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE PROPERTIES OF GEOSPACE AND THE BALANCE OF GEOPOLITICAL FIELDS AT DIFFERENT HIERARCHICAL LEVELS

- A) the law of geopolitics
- B) paradigm of geopolitics
- C) a task of geopolitics

15. THE PARADIGMS OF GEOPOLITICS ARE

- A) dualistic, geoeconomic, civilizational and cyclical
- B) geoeconomic, civilizational and cyclical
- C) dualistic, geoeconomic and cyclical

16. WHICH OF THE PARADIGMS OF GEOPOLITICS STUDYES THE ORIGINAL MODELS OF WORLD RULE, BUILT IN THE SPIRIT OF AN OPPOSITION OF TWO FORCES, CENTERS, IDEOLOGIES, SUPERSTATES

- A) cyclical paradigm
- B) dualistic paradigm
- C) geoeconomic paradigm
- D) civilizational paradigm

17. WHICH OF THE PARADIGMS OF GEOPOLITICS IS BASED ON LONG-TERM CYCLES OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY BY M. KONDRATIEV

- A) geoeconomic
- B) dualistic
- B) cyclical
- D) civilizational

18. WHICH SCIENTIST IS CONSIDERED THE FOUNDER OF GEOPOLITICS, BUT WHO DID NOT USE THIS TERM IN HIS WORKS

- A) F. Ratzel
- B) R. Challen
- C) N. Spykman

19. WHICH SCIENTIST IS CONSIDERED THE FOUNDER OF THE FRENCH SCHOOL OF GEOPOLITICS

- A) A. Mehen
- B) Vidal de la Blache
- C) N. Spykman

20. WHO CAN BE CALLED THE "FOUNDERS OF ATLANTISM" AND THE "IDEAL INSPIRATORS OF NATO"

- A) A. Mehen
- B) N. Spykman
- C) P. M. Savytskyi
- D) None

21. WHAT IS THE IDEA OF THE END OF XIX – BEGINNING OF XX CENTURY, WHICH COMBINES THE VIEWS AND WORKS OF SUCH RESEARCHERS AS Y. BACHINSKY AND M. MIKHNOVSKY

- A) the idea of dependence of Ukrainian ethnic lands on neighboring states
- B) the idea of autonomous Ukraine as part of federated Russia
- C) the idea of an independent Ukraine

22. THE AUTHORITY OF WHICH OF THE IDEAS LISTED BELOW BELONGS TO Y. LYPA

- A) "Black Sea Doctrine"
- B) "Adriatic Union"
- C) "Balto-Pontic Federation"

23. GEOSTRATEGY IS ... OF GEOPOLITICS, THE BASIS OF WHICH IS THE DETERMINATION OF THE SUBJECT'S DIRECTION OF FOREIGN POLITICAL AND EXTERNAL ECONOMIC ACTIONS BY GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS AND ITS GEOLOGICAL LOCATION

- A) the law
- B) leading concept
- C) object

24. AFTER THE BAN OF GEOPOLITICS IN THE 30-40th WESTERN SCIENTISTS BEGAN TO DEVELOP ALMOST THE SAME CONCEPTS WITHIN...

- A) geostrategies
- B) ethnopolitics
- C) sociology

25. WHAT IS THE TASK OF GEOSTRATEGY

- A) analysis of the subject's position

B) the study of determination of the subject's position transformation possibilities in the desired direction

C) none of the answers are suitable

CORRECT ANSWERS

1 – A, C

2 – A

3 – B

4 – A

5 – A, B

6 – A

7 – C

8 – A

9 – C

10 – A, B

11 – A, B, C

12 – A

13 – B

15 – A

16 – B

17 – C

18 – A

19 – B

20 – A, B

21 – C

22 – A

23 – B

24 – A

25 – A, B

14 – B

LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR THE EXAM

1. The essence of the concept of world politics.
2. Basic theories and principles of world politics.
3. Geopolitics as a scientific discipline.
4. Modern geopolitical schools and theories.
5. Main categories of geopolitics.
6. Basic laws of geopolitics.
7. Paradigms of geopolitics.
8. History of the development of geopolitics
9. K. Haushofer and his influence on the formation of geopolitics.
10. Z. Brzezinski and his main works.
11. F. Fukuyama and his main geopolitical visions.
12. Leading geopolitical centers of our time.

13. Balance of power as one of the key concepts of geopolitics.
14. Geopolitical doctrine and features of its formation (on the example of states).
15. The French school of geopolitics and its characteristic features.
16. American School of Geopolitics and its representatives.
17. The German school of geopolitics and its characteristic features.
18. Peculiarities of geopolitics of Ukraine.
19. History of formation of geopolitics of Ukraine.
20. Leading classics of geopolitics and their main works.
21. F. Ratzel and his main ideas.
22. R. Kjellen and its significance for the development of geopolitics.
23. A. Mehen and his main works.
24. G. Mackinder and his "geographical axis of history".
25. K. Haushofer and his geopolitical visions.
26. European geopolitical ideas of the XX century.
27. American geopolitical ideas of the XX century.
28. Geopolitics of the late XX century - beginning XXI century, and its main representatives.
29. Geoeconomics. The main categories of geoeconomics.
30. Geopolitical structure of the world. A variety of approaches.
31. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of the USA in the world.
32. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of the USA in Europe.
33. Geopolitical interests of the USA in the post-Soviet space.
34. Geostrategy of the USA in relation to China.
35. Geopolitical and geoeconomic aspects of relations between the USA and Japan.
36. US geostrategy in Southeast Asia.
37. US geostrategy in South Asia.
38. Geoeconomic and geopolitical interests of the USA in the Middle East.
39. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of the USA in Africa.
40. Geoeconomic integration in NAFTA.
41. US geopolitical and geoeconomic control over Latin America.
42. Geopolitical and geoeconomic aspects of the formation and development of the EU.
43. Transformation processes in the EU.
44. NATO: geopolitical principles of creation and development.
45. Geopolitical expansion of NATO, main consequences.
46. Modern geostrategy of NATO.
47. Geopolitics and geoeconomics of Great Britain in Europe and in the regions of the world.
48. Brexit and its consequences for the EU.
49. Geostrategy of France in the international arena.
50. Geostrategy of united Germany in Europe.
51. The role of Germany in NATO and the EU.

52. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of Germany in the regions of the world.
53. Geoeconomic pragmatism of Italy, peculiarities of its geopolitics.
54. Switzerland and its place on the geopolitical map of the world.
55. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.
56. Geopolitical position of Ukraine. Problems of determining the foreign policy strategy of Ukraine after gaining independence.
57. Leading geopoliticians of Ukraine, their main ideas and visions.
58. Modern geostrategy of Ukraine in global geospace.
59. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of Ukraine in the post-Soviet space.
60. "Western" vector of Ukraine's foreign policy.
61. Ukraine's geostrategic vector for integration with NATO; ways of its implementation.
62. Geostrategic vector of Ukraine for integration with the EU; problems of practical implementation.
63. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of Ukraine in the Black Sea region. Ukraine's participation in BSEC.
64. Geoeconomic interests of Ukraine in Asia, Africa, Latin America.
65. Geopolitical position of the People's Republic of China. Geostrategy of the People's Republic of China in the modern world.
66. The concept of "Greater China".
67. Geopolitical and geoeconomic aspects of relations between the People's Republic of China and the USA.
68. Geo-economic interests of the PRC in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.
69. Geostrategy of Japan.
70. Relations between Japan and China.
71. Geoeconomic strategy of Japan in the Asia-Pacific region.
72. Geoeconomic role of the Republic of Korea in the world and Asia Pacific.
73. Regional geopolitical "power center" in Southeast Asia.
74. Geoeconomic integration in ASEAN and the specifics of its implementation.
75. Geoeconomic role of Singapore.
76. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of India in the world.
77. Relations between India and Pakistan.
78. Geopolitical and geoeconomic aspects of relations between India and China.
79. India's geostrategy in the Indian Ocean basin.
80. Pakistan as a "pole of power" in South Asia.
81. Geoeconomic potential of Iran.
82. Iran's geopolitical interests in the Persian Gulf, Transcaucasia, and Central Asia.
83. Geopolitics and geoeconomics of the states of the Persian Gulf basin.
84. Geopolitics of Turkey.
85. Turkey's geostrategic vector for EU integration.
86. The role of Turkey in the Black Sea region and the Middle East.

87. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of modern Israel.
88. Geopolitical situation on the African continent.
89. Geoeconomic interests of African countries. Regional integration in Africa.
90. The influence of Western countries on the geopolitical and geoeconomic space of Africa.
91. North Africa. Geopolitical and geoeconomic role of Egypt.
92. West and Central Africa: geopolitical interests of states.
93. East Africa: geopolitical and geoeconomic situation, interests of states.
94. Geopolitical and geoeconomic interests of South African countries.
95. Geopolitics and geoeconomics of South Africa.
96. Geopolitics and geoeconomics of Latin America. Integration processes in Latin America.
97. Geopolitical and geoeconomic situation in Mesoamerica.
98. Peculiarities of geopolitics and geoeconomics of Mexico.
99. Geopolitical and geoeconomic situation in South America.
100. Geostrategy of Brazil in the international arena.
101. Geopolitics and geoeconomics of Argentina and Chile.
102. The anti-American "axis" in the geopolitics and geoeconomics of certain Latin American states and the peculiarities of its formation.
103. Hot spots of the planet and their influence on the geopolitical structure of the modern world.

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