

AP Human Geography

Essential Models

And

**Vocabulary
Scrap Book**

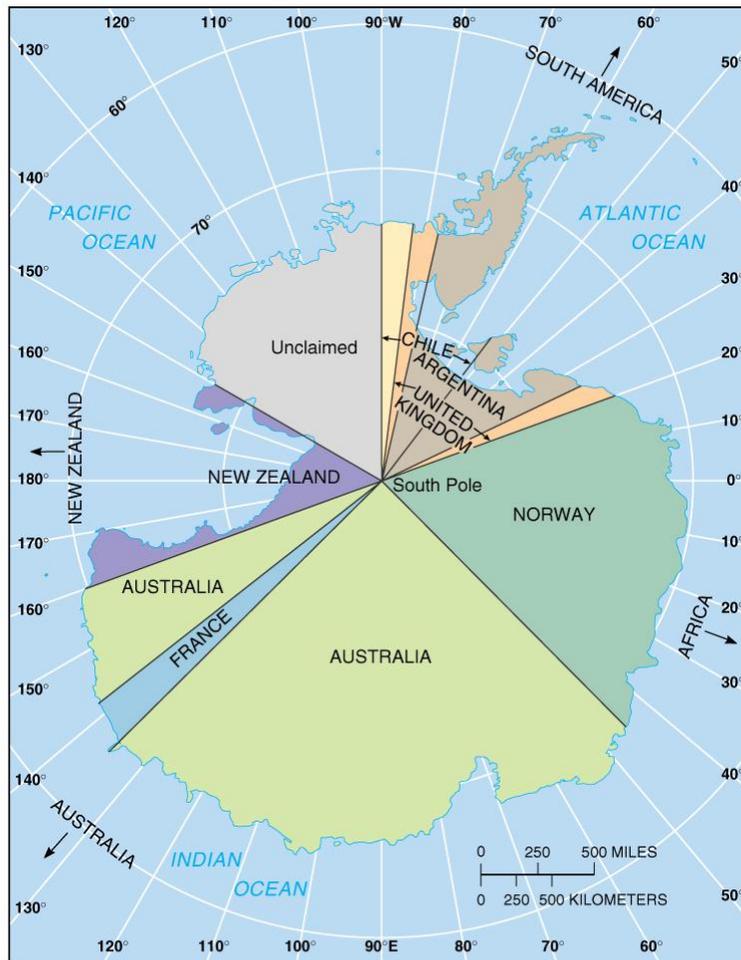
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Political Organization Of Space



Halford MacKinder's Heartland Theory



Summary:

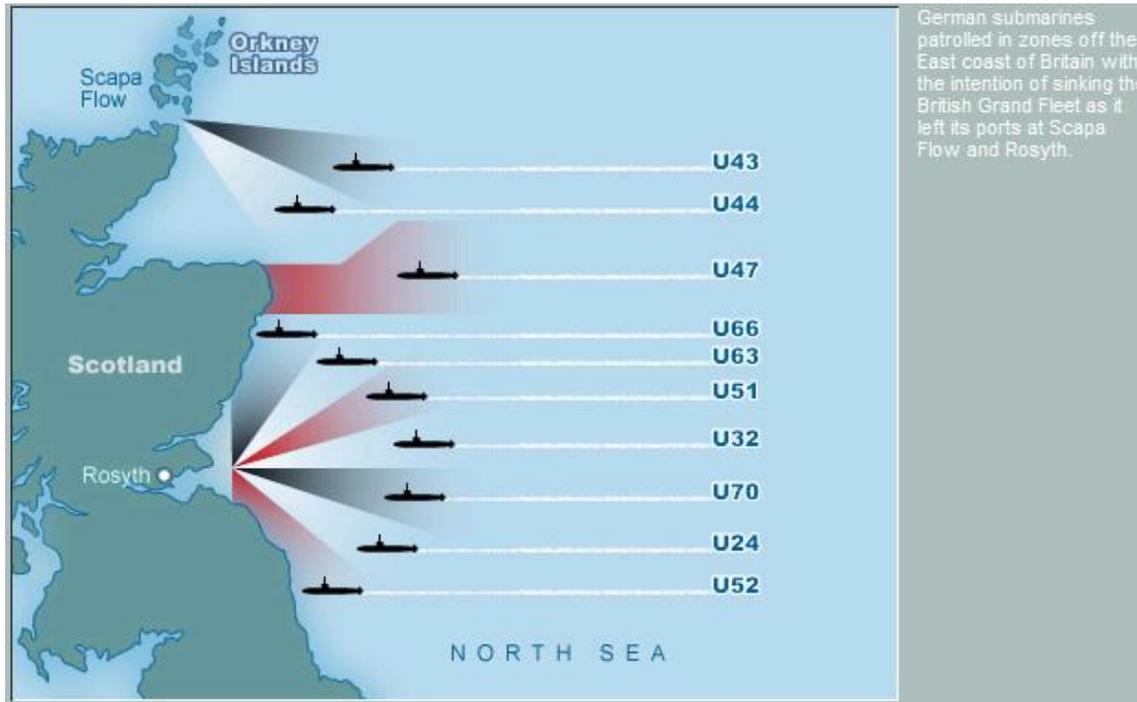
Mackinder summarized his theory as:

"Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland;
who rules the Heartland commands the World-Island;
who rules the World-Island controls the world."

Student Notes:

Any power which controlled the World-Island would control well over 50% of the world's resources. The Heartland's size and central position made it the key to controlling the World-Island

Mahan Sea Power Theory



Summary:

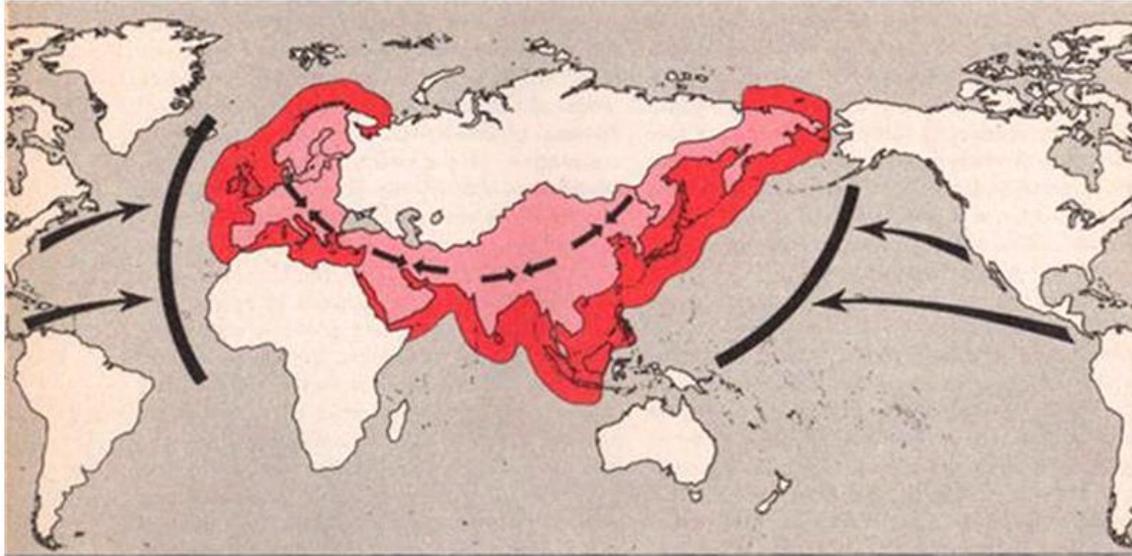
Mahan identified three critical elements of seapower:

- (1) weapons of war, primarily battleships and their supply bases;
- (2) a near monopoly of seaborne commerce from which to draw wealth, manpower, and supplies; and
- (3) a string of colonies to support both of the above. His theories, however, rested on two serious fallacies.

First, his overreliance upon the notion of concentrating forces falsely denied the importance of coastal defense, and undervalued commerce raiding. These assumptions forced strategists to search for a decisive, war winning battle, often in vain. Second, he overstated the strategic benefits of controlling seaborne commerce and colonies. Whereas in peacetime these components of empire frequently contributed to wealth and consequently to long-term strength, in war they often proved to be liabilities. Mahan's timeless principles, as enacted along the lines of late nineteenth century navalism, had the effect of turning America's strategic vision of itself on its side; instead of remaining an unassailable continental power with maritime reach, it became an overstretched maritime power with global vulnerabilities.

Student Notes:

Nicholas Spykman Rimland Theory



Summary:

Student Notes:

N.J. Spykman could be considered as a disciple and critic of both geostrategists Alfred Mahan, of the United States Navy, and Halford Mackinder, the British geographer. Spykman states that historically battles have pitted Britain and rimland allies against Russia and its rimland allies, or Britain and Russia together against a dominating rimland power. In other words, the Eurasian struggle was not the sea powers containing the heartland, but the prevention of any power from ruling the rimland. Spykman recalls Mackinder's famous dictum,

*Who controls eastern Europe rules the Heartland;
Who controls the Heartland rules the World Island; and
Who rules the World Island rules the World,*

but disagrees, refashioning it thus:

*Who controls the rimland rules Eurasia;
Who rules Eurasia controls the destinies of the world.*

Therefore, British, Russian, and U.S. power would play the key roles in controlling the European littoral, and thereby, the essential power relations of the world.

Unit Four: Political Organization of Space

Annexation	To incorporate (territory) into an existing political unit such as a country, state, county, or city
Balance of power	a distribution and opposition of forces among nations such that no single nation is strong enough to assert its will or dominate all the others.
Boundary (ethnographic/cultural)	Boundaries that are imposed by people to delineate places including: An Antecedent boundary that was created before the present day cultural landscape developed, i.e., Malaysia/Indonesia on the island of Borneo. A Geometric boundary that follow straight lines without regard to physical or cultural landscape. A Relict boundary that ceases to exist, however the imprint of the boundary still remains on the cultural landscape, i.e., North/South Vietnam. A Religious boundary delineated by where the majority of inhabitants practice a given religion. A Language boundary delineated by where the majority of inhabitants speak a given language. A Maritime boundary which follows a county's coast line 12 miles into the ocean.
Boundary (natural/physical)	Natural boundaries which existed before the area was populated.
Buffer state	A State lying between potentially hostile larger nations.
Capitol	A building or complex of buildings in which a state legislature meets
Centrifugal Force	Social or economic forces that divide people within the state (Opposite of Centripetal force).
Centripetal Force	Social or economic forces that unify people behind the state (Opposite of Centrifugal force).
City-state	a sovereign state consisting of an autonomous city with its dependencies (Precursor to the Nation-State.)
Colonialism	the control or governing influence of a nation over a dependent country, territory, or people.
Colony	a group of people who leave their native country to form in a new land a settlement subject to, or connected with, the parent nation
Confederation	a league or alliance of states more or less permanently united for common purposes
Devolution	the transfer of power or authority from a central government to a local or autonomous government
Domino theory	a theory that if one country is taken over by an expansionist, esp. Communist, neighbor, party, or the like, the nearby nations will be taken over one after another
Enfranchisement	to grant a franchise to; admit to citizenship, esp. to the right of voting.
European Union	an association of European nations formed in 1993 for the purpose of achieving political and economic integration
Exclusive Economic Zone	A maritime area in which a country claims specific economic rights.
Federal state	Government that is characterized by power sharing between National and Local governments.
Forward Capital	A symbolic relocation of a capital city to a geographically or demographically peripheral location may be for either economic or strategic reasons EG; The Ming Emperors moved their capital to Beijing from more central Nanjing as to better supervise the border with the Mongols and Manchus
Frontier	That part of a country which fronts or faces another country or an unsettled region; the marches; the border, confine, or extreme part of a country, bordering on another country; the border of the settled and cultivated part of a country; as, the frontier of civilization.
Geopolitics	the study or the application of the influence of political and economic geography on the politics, national power, foreign policy, etc., of a state.
Gerrymandering	To divide (a geographic area) into voting districts so as to give unfair advantage to one party in elections.
Hierarchy of Political Administrative Units	(Largest to Smallest) 1) Empire 2) Nation-State 3) Province 4) County
Landlocked state	A state that has no border with the sea.
Microstate	An independent country that is very small in area and population.
NGO	an organization that is not part of the local or state or federal government

(Non Government Organization)	
Reapportionment	The redistribution of representation in a legislative body.
Sovereignty	Supreme and independent power or authority in government as possessed or claimed by a state or community including the use of lethal force.
State	An area organized into a political unit with sovereignty over internal and external affairs.
State (Compact)	Rounded countries with a geographically central Capitol.
State (Elongated)	States which are long and thin, they usually suffer from poor internal communication.
State (Fragmented)	A state divided into several discontinuous pieces of territory.
State (Perforated)	A state that is completely encircled by another state.
State (Prorupted)	A compact state with a large projecting extension usually with a strategic purpose.
Superpower	an extremely powerful nation, esp. one capable of influencing international events and the acts and policies of less powerful nations.
Supra-nationalism	State support of institutions outside or beyond the authority of one national government, as a project or policy that is planned and controlled by a group of nations.
Supra-national Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ N.A.T.O. North Atlantic Treaty Organization :An Alliance of European Nations, The United States, and potential membership by other proximal Westernized countries. ○ E.U. European Union: European countries united in a common economic market, with a common currency, and with a power sharing policy making governing body. ○ A.C.S. Association of Caribbean States ○ U.N. United Nations: World Parliament with non binding governing authority. The Security Council represents the will of the greatest military powers and therefore has the ability to shape the behavior of lesser states when the global political will is present. ○ O.P.E.C. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.
Terrorism	The use of violence and threats to intimidate or coerce, a government and/or a population for political purposes.
UNCLOS	(United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) The United Nations law which establishes 12 mile maritime boundaries. The Median Line Principle applies when coast lines are within 12 miles of each other, the boarder is exactly ½ way between the two coastlines.
Unitary state	A unitary state is a state whose three organs of state are governed constitutionally as one single unit, with one constitutionally created legislature, there is no power sharing with lesser jurisdictions.
United Nations	an international organization, with headquarters in New York City, formed to promote international peace, security, and cooperation under the terms of the charter signed by 51 founding countries in San Francisco in 1945.