

“GLOBAL POLITICAL BALANCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY: THE FORMATION OF NEW GEOPOLITICAL CENTERS”

Gulchehra Luqmonova

a student of Group 203 at the Academic Lyceum under ShDPI

Annotation *This article covers the field of geopolitics, which covers the most pressing issues of modern times, and the current trends in them, their characteristics, the factors influencing their formation. In addition, the author's conclusions and suggestions are given at the end of the article.*

Keywords: *geopolitics, national interest, national development, trends, concepts, Nativism, mondialism, Western culture.*

Geopolitics, as a field that determines a state's success in political processes through geographical, historical, socio-psychological, ethnographic, and economic factors, is considered one of the specialized branches of politics that has gained its place in our political life. This relatively young field of politics is today viewed as a science about the art of managing major global political, economic, and other processes.

Even ancient scholars noticed the natural connection between political activity (which they primarily understood as the activities of rulers) and the geographical space in which this activity took place. Indeed, they expressed ideas such as the impossibility of planning political measures without knowing specific geographical factors—such as the length, area, relief, vegetation, climate, rivers and their water barriers, communication routes, and seas—and similar considerations.

Today, the term “geopolitics” is used in two different senses: a narrow one (as a science) and a broad one (as political practice). In the narrow sense, geopolitics is a discipline with its own methodology that studies the dependence of a state's policies on geographical factors on a scientific basis. In the broad sense, this concept refers to the political activities of states that are influenced by factors related to their geographical and territorial location.

Western social-political researchers also interpret geopolitics in different ways. For example, the American Encyclopedia describes the traditional approach to geopolitics as a science that studies “the geographical aspects of political events.” The International Encyclopedia defines geopolitics as a discipline that “studies the relationship between continental and maritime living spaces and politics for the purpose of conducting appropriate foreign policy.”

In the second half of the 1970s, the American scholar K. Gray described geopolitics as a science “about the relations between the physical environment—as perceived, modified, and utilized by humans—and world politics.” According to K.

Gray, “geopolitics concerns the relationship between international political power and geographical factors, encompassing the ‘high politics’ of security and international order; it views geopolitics as a concept reflecting how long-term spatial relationships influence the rise and decline of power centers, and how technological, political-organizational, and demographic processes shape the relative influence of a state.”

At the new stage of contemporary development, geopolitics is being increasingly enriched and filled with unique meaning, making an ever more active contribution to the changes taking place in the modern world.

Different interpretations of geopolitics, as well as the extensive and in-depth engagement of various scholars with this field in different periods, led to the formation of concepts by the founders of different schools. As a result, these concepts gained significant importance in contemporary international relations and in the geopolitics of states. It is therefore worthwhile to analyze and study the scientific and philosophical aspects of some of these concepts.

The reshaping of the world order is also having a serious impact on the international security system. Geopolitical rivalry between the United States and China, as well as rising tensions between NATO and Russia, pose risks of increasing global instability. Energy security, in particular, is becoming an essential component of global political relations. The Russia–Ukraine conflict and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East are directly affecting oil and gas markets. At the same time, climate change and competition for natural resources may also lead to the emergence of new conflicts.

In conclusion, the geopolitical landscape of the 21st century is becoming increasingly complex, and we are witnessing shifts in centers of power. Competition between states for economic and technological leadership is intensifying, and new global players are emerging. At the same time, geopolitical changes are also contributing to the escalation of international security challenges. The formation of a new world order is expected to proceed on the basis of global cooperation and strategic balance, along with the reform of international institutions and the strengthening of the role of regional blocs.

Today, this concept is increasingly noticeable in the geopolitical relations of Central Asia as well. This approach is considered a concept that has taken its place in society in connection with the development of the capitalist system. Based on this, this direction is regarded as an important geopolitical trend in the current globalization process.

In conclusion, various concepts exist in geopolitics within the globalization process, among which Atlantism stands out due to its broad scope. This very direction holds significant influence and importance in the European political system. In these

processes, Atlantism plays a crucial role in shaping political balance and serving the national interests of nations.

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