



Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations

By Saul Bernard Cohen

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Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations By Saul Bernard Cohen

The author argues that the era of a world dominated, and precariously balanced, first by the American and Soviet superpowers and then by the United States alone, has run its course. The international system is now divided and better balanced by a number of major powers, each of which dominates its geopolitical region. He posits that whether certain areas become Gateways or Shatterbelts is the key question influencing global stability. For example, American influence within the Middle East is rapidly declining both because of the *push* of the Arab Spring and the *pull* of U.S. self-sufficiency in oil and natural gas. The United States is likely to give way to Russia, China, India and Japan as the main external players in the Middle East Shatterbelt. Cohen analyzes especially the current forces favoring accommodation, including the economic benefits of globalization, the common battle against terrorism, and the need to contain Iran and Venezuela, as well as to stabilize certain key failed states. Geopolitics 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 global geopolitical map.

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Editorial Review

Review

[*Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations*] provides accurate and well-structured information on geopolitics/international relations all around the world and hence makes a valuable reading for undergraduate students. For graduate students and scholars who specialize in Geopolitics, the book contains numerous interesting concepts and perspectives. These should be applied and refined in further research. (*Die Erde*)

The third updated edition of *Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations* is a pick for college-level social science and geography holdings alike, and comes from an author who assembles a geopolitical model to help readers understand the importance of geography to international relations. It blends geographic and human elements with political background and details that embed geopolitical theory in everyday life and world experiences, comes from one of the world's leading political geographers, and strives to avoid jargon so that it can reach a wider audience. This revised textbook considers the world changes brought about by economic, demographic and political forces since the end of the Cold War, and it discusses the different, changing, fluid geopolitical features of different countries and regions and how they interact. College-level readers will find this an involving, specific text. (*California Bookwatch*)

I first learned about geopolitics from Saul Cohen's classic book, *Geography and Politics in a World Divided*. Cohen continues as the preeminent expert on geopolitics of our era. In this new edition of *Geopolitics*, he provides an unbiased and insightful overview of the world as it exists today, its axes of organization, and its tension points. The writing is clear and compelling as Cohen makes geopolitical theory accessible to all interested readers. Above all, Cohen reaffirms the overwhelming significance of a geographical perspective in understanding how the modern world operates and how it is likely to change in the future. All geographers, foreign area specialists, engaged citizens, and especially policy makers would do themselves an enormous favor by reading this book and absorbing its wisdom. (David Kaplan, Kent State University)

Saul Cohen has put together a remarkable geopolitical *tour du monde* that will help readers appreciate the relevance of geography to international relations. Unlike some recent geopolitical accounts that represent geography as a static, largely physical set of influences, Cohen emphasizes the dynamic mixture of physical and human geographical elements that bear on the tumultuous geopolitical world we inhabit. Avoiding jargon-laden prose, Cohen's book is as accessible as it is wide-ranging. Its empirical detail will expand readers' understanding of current events, and the author's unabashed willingness to offer his own interpretations of the geographical circumstances that bear on those events will likely stimulate reflection and discussion. (Alexander B. Murphy, University of Oregon)

Written by one of the world's leading political geographers, this fully revised and updated textbook examines the dramatic changes wrought by ideological, economic, sociocultural and demographic changes unleashed since the end of the Cold War. Saul Cohen considers these forces in the context of their human and physical settings, and explores their geographical influence on foreign policy and international relations.

About the Author

Saul Bernard Cohen is University Professor of Geography emeritus at Hunter College, City University of New York, and past director of the Clark University Graduate School of Geography.

Users Review

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Joshua Canfield:

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