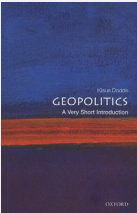


1

DEFINING GEOPOLITICS



• “Geopolitics provides ways of looking at the world and is highly visual as a consequence, readily embracing maps, tables, and photographs (...) geopolitics offers for many a reliable guide of the global landscape using geographical descriptions, metaphors, and templates such as ‘iron curtain’, ‘ThirdWorld’, and/or ‘rogue state’.”

2

GEOPOLITICS IN A HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Coined in 1899 by a Swedish political scientist Rudolf Kjellen
- Early 20th century: relationship between physical earth & politics, consequences for Western imperialism
- 1920s/30s: Associated with Lebensraum and Hitler's policy of territorial expansion
- Cold War: Global US-Soviet contest over the world resources & control
- Post-Cold War: a term used to understand world politics in relation to geography, offering 'big picture', linking local, regional with global

3


POPULAR USES: US FOREIGN POLICY

"Geopolitics is often used to analyse American foreign policy, especially in the 'troubled' or unpredictable regions of the world, such as the Middle East or South-East Asia. For example, we can explore the geopolitical consequences of the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and talk about the rise of ISIS in this context"

4

POPULAR USES: RISE OF CHINA

"'Geopolitics' is also used to talk about the regional and global ambitions of China, especially in the South China Sea. But we can also explore the geopolitics of China's strategy in Africa, Western Balkans or Middle East."



5

POPULAR USES: RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

"More recently' geopolitics' is often used to explore the Russian invasion of Ukraine, including the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the following war in Donbas. We can ask, for example, what is it about Ukrainian geography that makes it so important for Russia?"



6
