

### MACKINDER AND THE IMPORTANCE OF GEOGRAPHY



- Halford MacKinder (1861 – 1947) was a professor of geography at Oxford University and the Director of the London School of Economic
- He was also Member of Parliament in the UK
- He was preoccupied with the idea of Imperialism and he insisted that British public must be educated in geography so that it understand the role of geographical spaces at the global level

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### THE HEARTLAND



Source:  
Klaus  
Dodds,  
Geopolitics:  
A Very  
Short  
Introduction

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### THE PIVOT AND WORLD DOMINATION



- The heartland of the Eurasian landmass was key to controlling the world:
- "The oversetting of the balance of power in favour of the pivot state, resulting in its expansion over the marginal lands of Euro-Asia, would permit of the use of vast continental resources for fleet-building, and the empire of the world would then be in sight. This might happen if **Germany were to ally herself with Russia.**"
- The great inner crescent: Germany, Austria, Turkey, India, and China

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### MACKINDER'S INFLUENCE



- MacKinder overestimated the importance of Russian Heartland and underestimated the growing US power
- The United States and UK were relegated to the less-important "outer crescent"
- For MacKinder, it was key for European powers to understand geography in order to understand the world
- Yet his visual map is in a way biased, putting Heartland at the centre and all other regions outside – a bit like the Sun and the planets in the solar system
- He remains one of the most popular geopolitical thinkers today