

### SPYKMAN AND THE EURASIAN HEARTLAND



- Nikolas Spykman (1893 – 1943) was Professor of International Relations at Yale University
- He is considered 'the godfather of containment' but also one of the founders of classical Realism as a theory of International Relations
- He engaged with MacKinder's theory of Eurasian Heartland, but saw it differently to MacKinder

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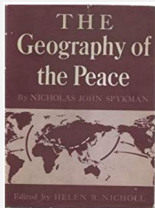
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### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RIMLAND



- Spykman agreed with MacKinder that there is Eurasian Heartland but he disagreed on its significance
- Heartland offered its occupier (Russia) a unique defensive advantage but as such, was not key to controlling the world
- Instead, it was the periphery of Eurasia which was most important, which Spykman called Rimland
- Rimland states (Western Europe, Japan) were destined to be superpowers because they had ideal location to innovate and interact with the wider world

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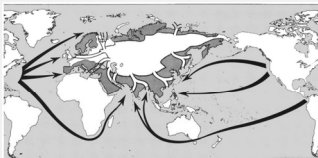
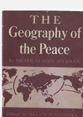
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### RIMLAND AND HEARTLAND

- "The MacKinder dictum "Who controls eastern Europe rules the Heartland; who rules the Heartland rules the World Island; and who rules the World Island rules the World" is false. If there is to be a slogan for the power politics of the Old World, it must be "Who controls the rimland rules Eurasia; who rules Eurasia controls the destinies of the world."



MAP 43. GATES TO THE HEARTLAND

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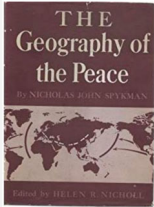
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## OFFSHORE CONTINENTS



- Spykman attributed more importance than MacKinder to the offshore islands and continents:
- "Of the off-shore island groups which lie in the ocean surrounding the continent, the most important for our purposes are Great Britain and Japan because they represent centers of political and military power. These two off-shore island groups, together with the offshore continents of Africa and Australia, complete the picture of the Old World."
- Ultimately, Spykman was more accurate than MacKinder, predicting that the UK, US and Russia would emerge as most important actors