

The Issue Of The "Great Game" Policy In The Geopolitical Interpretation

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Abstract: *Geopolitics studies the processes related to the geographical location of certain regions and countries, their borders, natural resources, their place in world politics and their geopolitical opportunities and prospects. The most important road in Eurasia, which connects the West with the East and the South with the North, is part of the Great Silk Road in Uzbekistan; The country has strategic resources - oil, gas, gold, uranium and many other underground and surface resources, the state has a favorable natural climate, plays a significant role in the historical development and civilization of mankind. This article analyzes the question of whether any research on regional security should be taken from a geopolitical point of view, the region's location between different geopolitical forces and centers, and H. McKinder's interpretation of the geopolitical process of the "Great Game" in the XIX century.*

Keywords: Geopolitics, Central Asia, "Heartland", geopolitical concept, "Great game", balance of power, buffer zone, Afghanistan, "Eastern problem", khanates

Introduction. According to geopolitical research, all geopolitical processes taking place in Eurasia are aimed at moving to the center of the continent on the basis of historically formed strict laws. The First World War and the Second World War are clear examples of this. Moreover, the arms race that culminated after the next world war also represents a confrontation between two forces that have been going on for thousands of years on earth, reflected in geopolitical research. In the broadest sense, the conflict between 'heartland' and 'Roumland', in other words, the pursuit of the heart of the earth, determines the geopolitical processes that have been going on for hundreds of years today. These processes have been studied by geopolitical scientists through in-depth scientific research, and it is these studies that have served as the theoretical basis for many military actions. The most powerful countries on earth have built their foreign strategy on the basis of geopolitical research, and important foreign policy decisions have been made based on the firm advice of geopoliticians. This can be clearly seen in the example of Helford Mackinder, who lived in Britain in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Literature review

Throughout our research, we set ourselves the goal of what innovations to apply. First, we found it expedient to conditionally categorize the literature on the Big Game policy in terms of the periodic boundaries of the work, that is, to group the literature in terms of language and territory.

The first group includes works by British authors, which are the first "pole" of the "Big Game" policy. It includes documents of the imperialist government, works of the British military, politicians, journalists and historians, as well as periodicals of this period: G. Roulinson, Ch. Mc-Gregor, E.G. Lasi, D. Ulkwart, R. Wilson, G. Pottinger, J. Kinneyr, A. Connolly, A. Byrns, J. Abbott [1] should be mentioned.

We can classify Russian-language sources as the second largest category in the history of the Big Game

policy. Including M.A. Terentev, A.I. Maksheev, M.I. Venyukov, F.F. Martenev, A.E. Snesev, A.N. Kuropatkin, V.A. Bartold, E.L. Shgeynberg, I.Y. Krachkovskiy, N.A. Xalfin, S.Z. Show works of Martirosov, F.Kh. Yuldashbaeva, G.A. Hidoyatov, M.T. Kojekina and I.E. Fyodorova, O.I. Jigalina, S.N. Brezhnev, A.V. Postnikov [2] and others possible.

Research Methodology

Given that the leading scientific concept of the research is a civilizational approach to the problem, the principles of scientific, objective, historical, comparative and critical study of knowledge, systemic principles, culturogenesis were applied in solving the problem.

Analysis and results

By the end of the 19th century, as a result of the exploration of Central Asia by many British travelers, geographers, topographers, historians, and military and government officials, a great deal of scientific information about the region began to be collected. It is this theoretical and practical basis that laid the foundations of a new geopolitical science that emerged in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Among the founders of this science were F. Rattsel, K. Haushofer, A. Mexen, H. Mackinder.

They argue that world politics will now begin to take shape not on the prism of old imperial structures and the civilization mission of whites, but on concepts such as natural boundaries, habitats, naval and continental forces. All of these scholars stressed the global significance of the dominance of the states in the central regions of Eurasia over the rest of the world. As noted above, one of the founders of a new branch of science called geopolitics was the well-known British historian H. McKinder, who in 1904 published his book, *The Geographical Axis of History*. In this book, Mackinder seeks to analyze the rivalry between the regional empire (Russia) and Britain, the queen of the seas, in controlling a significant strategic part of the Eurasian region, Hartland. According to him, in this region,

which covers an area of 50 million square kilometers, the main focus was on the Arctic Ocean region and the Caspian and Aral Sea basins, and the spontaneous establishment of Russian control in these areas was contrary to British interests. According to H. McKinder, a steppe dweller from the Middle East and Central Asia, which is the main venue of the "Great Game", Iran and Asia Minor have the opportunity to use the plains in the struggle for independence. They can also direct their attacks through the Punjab Valley to India, through Syria to Egypt, and through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles to Hungary. McKinder points out that Russia is colonizing the desert areas in the Heartland region. "One of the most dramatic changes in Europe in the last century was the shift of Russian peasants to the south. If in the past Russian villages ended on the border with forests, now this border is connected to the wheat fields of the vast Asian steppes. [3]

H. McKinder writes: "The imbalance of power in favor of Russia and the change of the frontier lines in the Eurasian region impose on the British Empire the need to strengthen its navy as well. If we continue to turn a blind eye to Russia's actions, a world empire will soon appear before us. For this, only the formation of Germany as an ally of Russia is enough. Therefore, the threat of such an alliance, which is likely to be formed, should make France the main weapon of the naval forces on the European continent, after which France, Italy, Egypt, India and Korea must join forces and form a strong alliance. In doing so, the navy supports the army and provides an opportunity to succeed in military operations on land as well. India must play a decisive role in this alliance, which brings together the world's navies. India is backed by a strong British government. In turn, behind this concept was the formation of a map of British military operations stretching from the Cape of Good Hope to Japan through India. H. McKinder pointed out that the problems in the Near, Middle and Far East are due to the unstable situation and relations between internal and external forces in the region, where the wishes of the existing local states are not taken into account at all [4].

The complex situation in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tibet in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries proved the validity of this thesis. Although Mackinder's idea of the Heartland needs to be edited today, its role is still highly valued[5].

Describing British foreign policy in the second half of the 19th century, Mackinder noted that the greatest threat to the British Empire in Asia was Russia, and that Anglo-Russian confrontation underlie 19th-century international relations. He is busy announcing to the public that he is moving towards India's north-western borders. The British navy and the Russian ground forces are on the verge of a confrontation in the international political arena[6]. The importance of H. Mackinder's works and the concept he created is difficult to assess only in terms of Anglo-Russian rivalry and contradictions in Central Asia. Because the scientist does not consider this geopolitical process as a separate, local confrontation, or as a continuation of the

"Eastern problem". H. McKinder assesses the Central Asian region as an important element of the whole system of international relations. Central Asia is not only a fast and tactical base for the armies subjugating India, but is also part of a geopolitical axis that allows it to rule the whole of Eurasia. The Anglo-Russian rivalry in Central Asia must be viewed not only from a traditional imperialist perspective, but also from a geopolitical perspective.

Conclusion/Recommendations

The beginning of the twentieth century is interpreted as a period of attempts by the British and Russian empires to take certain measures to bring their positions on relations in Central Asia closer. As a result of these efforts, on August 31, 1907, Britain and Russia signed the Convention on Iran, Afghanistan and Tibet. This situation, which took place in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was related to the internal and external relations of international forces. It is no coincidence that this diplomatic document aroused controversial assessments by orientologists, who first focused on various aspects of the Anglo-Russian agreement against the backdrop of various trends in European and world politics, from prominent statesmen of his contemporaries to the general public.

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