

Science, Technology, and Geopolitics: Assessing National Power in the Modern Era

Dr. Sathisha H N¹, Dr. Shivaiah M²

¹Faculty of Political Science, Mandya University, Mandya

²Faculty of Political Science, G F G C, Tumkur University, Tumkur

ABSTRACT

Science and Technology functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology as the central agency shaping a nation's research policies, budget allocations, and technology-driven economic strategies. Policy Formulation, Designing national science, technology, and innovation frameworks. Resource Allocation, Distributing public funds to research labs, autonomous bodies, and academic institutions. Strategic Alignment, Connecting domestic scientific output with geopolitical and economic goals, such as digital infrastructure or green energy transitions. Leadership, Directed politically by a union minister such as Dr. Jitendra Singh in India and administratively by scientific secretaries. National Missions, Implementing targeted programs like quantum missions, advanced computing, and innovation funds. International Diplomacy, Managing cross-border technology pacts and strategic research partnerships.

Keywords: Science and Technology, Geopolitical and Economic Goals, International Diplomacy, International Relations, Socio Economic Programs, Technology Missions Division, Renewable Energy, Quantum Internet Alliance QIA.

INTRODUCTION

Is the study of the effects of Earth's geography on politics and international relations. Geopolitics usually refers to countries and relations between them. According to multiple researchers, the term is currently being used to describe a broad spectrum of concepts, in a general sense used as "a synonym for international political relations", but more specifically "to imply the global structure of such relations"; this usage builds on an "early-twentieth-century term for a pseudoscience of political geography" and other pseudoscientific theories of historical and geographic determinism. At the level of International Relations, Geopolitics is a method of studying foreign policy to understand, explain, and predict international political behavior through geographical variables. These include area studies, climate, topography, demography, natural resources, and applied science of the region being evaluated.

Geopolitics is the study of how physical geography, location, and natural resources influence the power, politics, and foreign policies of countries. It explains how a nation's position on the map shapes its global relationships, trade routes, and security choices. Key Elements of Geopolitics Location, Where a country sits relative to oceans, mountains, and rival nations. Resources, Access to vital goods like oil, gas, fresh water, and minerals. Borders, The physical lines that define state power and sovereignty. Trade Routes, Control over strategic shipping lanes and transport corridors.

- **Development of Technology** - Technical Research Centres Programme, Technology Development and Transfer, National Good Laboratory Practice Compliance Monitoring Authority NGCMA,

Natural Resources Data Management System NRDMS, Climate Change Programme, Joint programme on Electric Mobility and Technology Foresighting, Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems ICPS Division, Patent Facilitation Programme PFP.

- **S and T for Socio Economic Programme** - National Council for Science and Technology communication NCSTC, Science for Equity Empowerment and Development SEED, National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board NSTEDB, State Science and Technology Programme, Patent Facilitation Programme PFP.
- **Scientific Research and Engineering** - Mega Facilities for Basic Research, Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research INSPIRE programme, R and D Infrastructure FIST, SAI-Fs, PURSE, SATHI, Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation SATYAM, Programme for Science Students, Swarnajayanti Fellowships, National Science and Technology Management Information System NSTMIS, Science and Engineering Research Board SERB, Cognitive Science Research Initiative CSRI, VAJRA Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty Scheme.
- **Technology Missions Division** - Technology Mission Programme on Water and Clean Energy, Nano Science and Technology Mission, National Super Computing Mission, National Quantum Mission India.
- **International S and T Cooperation** - Bilateral Cooperation with developed and developing countries, Multilateral and Regional Cooperation, Thematic Cooperation.
- **Women Scientists Programs** - Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions GATI, Women Scientists Scheme.
- **Geo Politics of India** - India's geopolitics centers on strategic autonomy and multi-alignment. As the world's most populous nation and a fast-growing major economy, India balances ties with Western powers like the United States while maintaining independent relations with traditional partners like Russia and asserting its role as a leader of the Global South.
- **Pillars of Indian Geopolitics** - Strategic Autonomy, Refers to India's policy of making independent choices without joining formal military alliances. Multi Alignment, Engaging with competing global centers of power simultaneously to maximize national interest. Geography as Destiny, Protected by the Himalayas to the north and bounded by the Indian Ocean to the south, India acts as a central maritime security provider. China Competition, Managing a tense, contested Himalayan land border while countering Chinese maritime influence in the Indian Ocean through frameworks like the Quad. Western Partnership, Deepening defense, technology, and economic cooperation with the U.S., Europe, and Japan to balance Asian power dynamics. Global South Voice, Positioning itself as a bridge between developed nations and developing countries, offering economic growth, digital public infrastructure, and diplomatic neutrality in global conflict.

Geopolitics focuses on political power linked to geographic space, in particular, territorial waters, land territory and wealth of natural resources, in correlation with diplomatic history, in particular the context of a larger power relative to its neighboring states of smaller or similar power. Some scholars have argued that geopolitics should serve as "an aid to statecraft." Topics of geopolitics include relations between the interests of international political actors focused within an area, a space, or a geographical element, relations that create a geopolitical system. Critical geopolitics deconstructs classical geopolitical theories, by showing their political or ideological functions for great powers. There are some works that discuss the geopolitics of renewable energy. The Relationship between geopolitics and geoeconomics is often analyzed by two main schools of thought, the strategic school and the political-

economic school. The Austro-Hungarian historian Emil Reich 1854–1910 is considered to be the first to have coined the term in English as early as 1902 and later published in England in 1904 in his book *Foundations of Modern Europe*.

- **Review of Literature - Theory of Mackinder and the Heartland**, Sir Halford Mackinder's Heartland concept showing the situation of the "pivot area" established in the Theory of the Heartland. He later revised it to mark Northern Eurasia as a pivot while keeping area marked above as Heartland. Sir Halford Mackinder's Heartland Theory initially received little attention outside the world of geography, but some thinkers have claimed that it subsequently influenced the foreign policies of world powers. Those scholars who look to MacKinder through critical lenses accept him as an organic strategist who tried to build a foreign policy vision for Britain with his Eurocentric analysis of historical geography. His formulation of the Heartland Theory was set out in his article entitled "The Geographical Pivot of History", published in England in 1904. Mackinder's doctrine of geopolitics involved concepts diametrically opposed to the notion of Alfred Thayer Mahan about the significance of navies he coined the term sea power in world conflict. He saw navy as a basis of Colombian era empire roughly from 1492 to the 19th century, and predicted the 20th century to be domain of land power.
- **Montesquieu and climate theory** - In *The Spirit of the Laws*, Montesquieu outlined the view that man and societies are influenced by climate. He believed that hotter climates create hot-tempered people and colder climates aloof people, whereas the mild climate of France is ideal for political systems. Considered one of the founders of French geopolitics, Élisée Reclus, is the author of a book considered a reference in modern geography *Nouvelle Géographie universelle*. Alike Ratzel, he considers geography through a global vision. However, in complete opposition to Ratzel's vision, Reclus considers geography not to be unchanging; it is supposed to evolve commensurately to the development of human society. His marginal political views resulted in his rejection by academia.
- **Kissinger, Brzezinski, and the Grand Chessboard** - Two national security advisors from the Cold War period, Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski, argued to continue the United States' geopolitical focus on Eurasia and, particularly Russia, despite the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. Both continued their influence on geopolitics after the end of the Cold War, writing books on the subject in the 1990s - *Diplomacy and The Grand Chessboard*, *American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives*. The Anglo-American classical geopolitical theories were revived. Kissinger argued against the belief that with the dissolution of the USSR, hostile intentions had come to an end and traditional foreign policy considerations no longer applied. "They would argue ... that Russia, regardless of who governs it, sits astride the territory which Halford Mackinder called the geopolitical heartland, and it is the heir to one of the most potent imperial traditions." Therefore, the United States must "maintain the global balance of power vis-à-vis the country with a long history of expansionism."
- **Nicholas J. Spykman's vision of Eurasia was strongly confirmed**, "Geopolitically, America is an island off the shores of the large landmass of Eurasia, whose resources and population far exceed those of the United States. The domination by a single power of either of Eurasia's two principal spheres Europe and Asia remains a good definition of strategic danger for America. Cold War or no Cold War. For such a grouping would have the capacity to outstrip America economically and, in the end, militarily. That danger would have to be resisted even if the dominant power was apparently benevolent, for if its intentions ever changed, America would find itself with a grossly diminished

capacity for effective resistance and a growing inability to shape events." The main interest of the American leaders is maintaining the balance of power in Eurasia.

- **Friedrich Ratzel** - Friedrich Ratzel 1844–1904, influenced by thinkers such as Darwin and zoologist Ernst Heinrich Haeckel, contributed to 'Geopolitik' by the expansion on the biological conception of geography, without a static conception of borders. Positing that states are organic and growing, with borders representing only a temporary stop in their movement, he held that the expanse of a state's borders is a reflection of the health of the nation - meaning that static countries are in decline. Ratzel published several papers, among which was the essay "Lebensraum" 1901 concerning biogeography. Ratzel created a foundation for the German variant of geopolitics, geopolitik. Influenced by the American geostrategist Alfred Thayer Mahan, Ratzel wrote of aspirations for German naval reach, agreeing that sea power was self-sustaining, as the profit from trade would pay for the merchant marine, unlike land power.
- **What is Geo Politics** - The term Geopolitics was coined at the turn of the 20th century by a Swedish political scientist named Rudolf Kjellen and was initially used as a synonym for international politics. However, the actual interpretation of the word suggests geographic influences in political power relationships under International Relationships. It studies the very relationship between politics and the foreign policies of a state under the influence of factors like geography, demography, and economics.
- **The Fundamental Elements of Geo Politics** : To understand how Geopolitics works, it is important to start with its fundamentals. These fundamentals of Geopolitics are derived from several factual elements, such as geography, economics, politics, military, culture, and technology, that are believed to influence the overall region. Let us break it down. Geography, Geography of a state is the central element for Geopolitics. It decides the power dynamics within a country and its need for alliances or reasons for cutting ties with others. Economics, A nation-state heavily relies on its economic position to determine the rate of development, and with the economic condition in shambles, instability and change in power are not too far-fetched ideas.

Politics, Interim national governments of the world use different political tactics to govern their people, maintain authority and distribute supplies and services. Politics is the entity that helps a government maintain power, decorum or global relations. Military, In modern Geopolitics, every nation is more or less investing in the military to protect its borders from neighboring countries with the intention of invading. Having a strong military has a significant impact on the geopolitical matters of a nation. Culture, A part of Geopolitics is based upon the different cultures that reside within a border and understanding their interactions and how they expand to a global level. In other words, a nation's geopolitics can affect its culture and vice versa. Technology, Technology is a recent element of consideration, especially when we are in the midst of this digital reality, where wars are fought on social media and narratives are drawn based on geopolitical assumptions. This may answer the broader question of 'What is Geo Politics' with a well-balanced, globally acclaimed explanation. The elements influencing the Geopolitics of a region are often the same that define its international relations or policies.

- **Geopolitics in the ancient world**, was driven by regional geography, control of river valleys, and access to trade routes. Empires and city-states shaped power through physical borders, logistics, and natural barriers long before modern political science named the concept. River Valleys, Civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, and China rose around rivers for farming and transport.

Seas as Highways, The Mediterranean Sea and Aegean Sea let empires like Athens, Carthage, and Rome move armies and goods quickly. Natural Barriers, Deserts, high mountains, and seas acted as shields, protecting places like isolated Egypt or mountainous Sparta. Major Ancient Power Dynamics The Fertile Crescent, Mesopotamia saw constant fights for rich soil between city-states, Babylon, and Assyria. Greek City-States vs. Persia, Land power met sea power during the Greco-Persian wars, testing logistics and alliances across vast distances. The Roman Mediterranean, Rome unified the entire Mediterranean basin, turning a contested sea into an internal trading lake. The Silk Road- Early trade networks linked China, India, and the West, creating economic dependencies and border-zone politics.

- **Before World War I-** global geopolitics was defined by intense imperial competition, rigid alliance systems, and a declining balance of power among European empires. Rapid industrial growth fueled a race for overseas colonies, while nationalism destabilized multi-ethnic empires in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Imperial Rivalries, European powers competed fiercely for wealth and territories in Africa and Asia, creating constant friction. The Alliance System, Nations split into two armed camps - the Triple Entente Britain, France, and Russia and the Triple Alliance Germany, Austria - Hungary, and Italy - turning local disputes into potential global wars. The Eastern Question and the Balkans, The decline of the Ottoman Empire left a power vacuum in southeastern Europe. Slavic nationalism, backed by Russia, clashed directly with Austro-Hungarian expansion. The Rise of Germany, A unified Germany rapidly grew its industrial and military might, challenging Great Britain's naval dominance and destabilizing the European balance of power.
- **Geopolitics in the shadow of the Second World War-** After the horrors of the Second World War and the rule of the National Socialists, with the simultaneous abuse and utilisation of previous geopolitical definitions, not only did the term geopolitics fall into disrepute, but further research into the topic, at least in German-speaking countries, also largely fell silent. This was mainly due to the fact that a clear delimitation of the ideas of Ratzel and Haushofer did not take place even after the Second World War and the Nuremberg Trials. Only in the USA and also in France was the academic discipline of geopolitics or geopolitique continued. In the 1970s, a new postmodern geopolitics developed in the USA, which still exists today.
- **World War II 1939–1945,** was a massive struggle for global power. It destroyed old European empires, shifted the center of world power to the United States and the Soviet Union, and set the stage for the Cold War. Lebensraum Living Space, Nazi Germany fought to conquer Eastern Europe for land and resources. Imperial Expansion, Japan sought an Asian empire "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" to secure oil and raw materials. Resource Control, Access to oil, rubber, and industrial steel dictated military strategies and frontlines. The Grand Alliance, Capitalist USA and communist USSR joined forces solely to defeat the Axis powers, hiding deep ideological differences. The Rise of Superpowers, Exhausted European powers like Britain and France lost their global dominance. The Division of the World, The Soviet Union occupied Eastern Europe, creating a buffer zone that split Europe into opposing camps. The Cold War, Deep distrust between the US and the USSR replaced wartime cooperation. International Institutions, The United Nations and economic pacts were created to manage global stability and prevent future world wars. Decolonization, Weakened European empires could no longer hold onto overseas colonies, leading to independent nations across Asia and Africa.

- **Science and technology**, now drive global power. Nations use innovations like artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and green energy to gain economic and military advantages, turning tech supply chains and digital standards into core tools of international rivalry and state control. Areas of Tech-Driven Geopolitics Supply Chain Chokepoints, Control over critical minerals, rare earths, and advanced chip manufacturing allows countries to restrict rivals and exert political leverage. Securitization of Research, Governments increasingly limit international scientific cooperation and screen dual-use technologies to protect national security. Data and Digital Sovereignty, Countries enforce strict rules on data localization and cloud infrastructure, fragmenting the once-open internet into regional networks. Standard-Setting Battles, Establishing global rules for emerging fields like AI and telecom ensures economic dominance and interoperability on a global scale. Technological Alliances, Traditional diplomacy is shifting toward specialized tech coalitions where aligned nations pool resources to counter strategic competitors.
- **Technological alliances** are reshaping geopolitics by replacing traditional open trade with "friend-shoring," where superpowers form blocs to secure supply chains for semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and critical minerals away from geopolitical rivals. Drivers of Tech-Geopolitics. Supply Chain Security, Nations are de-risking dependencies on single sources like China for rare earths and chips by creating trusted coalitions such as Pax Silica. Digital Sovereignty, Governments use export controls, industrial policy, and data localization instead of free-market rules to protect national security. Fragmented Standards, Transatlantic and regional pacts - such as EU-US frameworks backed by the Trusted Tech Alliance - aim to align cybersecurity and AI governance among trusted democracies. Transactional Partnerships, Mid-sized powers practice strategic autonomy, selectively joining technology coalitions based on immediate national industrial goals rather than rigid ideological alignment.
- **Major global technology alliances and coalitions** - unite industry leaders cross-border enterprises, and research bodies to shape digital standards, security, and governance. Key international technology alliances include. Trusted Tech Alliance TTA, A global coalition launched by 16 major tech providers including Microsoft, Google Cloud, AWS, Nokia, and Reliance Jio focused on cross-border security, transparent governance, and resilient digital infrastructure. World Innovation, Technology and Services Alliance WITSA, A leading international consortium of information and communications technology ICT trade associations from over 80 countries, acting as the global voice of the digital tech industry. Quantum Internet Alliance QIA, A multidisciplinary European and international network of academic and industrial research organizations building a standardized blueprint for a pan-European quantum internet. Information Technology Industry Council ITI, A premier global advocacy and policy organization representing top international hardware, software, and internet enterprises such as Apple, Intel, and Amazon. Internet Society ISOC, A nonprofit organization that provides governance and structural backing for the Internet Engineering Task Force IETF, which sets core technical architecture standards like TCP/IP. The Linux Foundation, A massive global non-profit consortium enabling open-source innovation by uniting thousands of developers and corporate members across different continents to secure foundational software infrastructure.

A peace treaty is a binding written agreement between sovereign nations or groups that officially ends a state of war or armed conflict. These historic pacts set new borders, manage prisoners, and build frameworks for international cooperation. Historical Peace Treaties Peace of Westphalia 1648, Ended

the Thirty Years' War and created the modern system of sovereign nation-states. Treaty of Paris 1783, Ended the American Revolutionary War and recognized the independence of the United States. Treaty of Versailles 1919, Formally ended World War I between the Allied powers and Germany. Camp David Accords 1978, Led directly to the historic 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty. Core Elements of Peace Treaties Territorial Borders, Redrawing or confirming official geographic lines. Dispute Resolution, Creating peaceful steps to solve future arguments. Prisoners and Refugees, Managing the safe return of captives and displaced people. Economic Terms, Settling debts, reparations, or trade rules.

India acts as a crucial, independent pole in a multipolar world. It balances ties with major powers through a strategy of multi-alignment. It also leads the Global South, drives regional security, and expands its major economic and technological footprint. Strategic Autonomy and Diplomacy Multi-alignment, India works with the West via the Quad and traditional partners like Russia, engaging multiple global centers without joining formal military blocs. Voice of the Global South, India champions developing nations, bridging gaps on global debt, food security, and digital public infrastructure. Multilateral Forums, India shapes international agendas through active leadership in the G20, BRICS, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Security and Regional Power, Indo-Pacific Stability, India serves as a primary maritime security provider, ensuring open sea lanes and counter-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean. UN Peacekeeping, India remains one of the largest troop contributors to United Nations peacekeeping missions globally. Defense and Counter-Terrorism, India builds joint defense production and intelligence networks to counter regional security threats. Economic and Global Governance, Growth Engine, As one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, India influences global trade patterns, supply chain diversification, and green energy transitions. Global Norms, India leads international efforts in digital governance, solar coalitions International Solar Alliance, and climate resilience frameworks.

- **The Role of India In Global Politics** - India is a country with a rich and diverse history. It has had a significant role in world affairs for thousands of years, and that influence continues to this day. India is the second-most populous country in the world, and its economy is growing rapidly. In this blog post, we will take a closer look at India's role in the world today. We will explore the role of India in the present world, and its influence across different continents, and discuss some of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for India on the global stage.
- **Role of India in the Present World**- India is one of the most influential countries in the world today, with a presence across all major continents. Here's a look at some of the key roles of India in the Present World. In South Asia, India is a leading economic power and its cultural and linguistic heritage is widely respected. In East Asia, India has close ties with both Japan and China and is seen as a key player in the region. In Africa, India has been increasing its economic and political ties with countries across the continent. In Europe, India has strong trade ties with many countries and is also a major source of immigrants to the continent. In North America, India is a major destination for students and professionals seeking education and work opportunities. In Latin America, India is seen as a potential partner in areas such as trade, energy and infrastructure development. In the 21st century, India is an increasingly important country on the global stage, with a growing economy and population, and a vast array of resources and talent. As its influence continues to grow, it is likely that India will play an ever-more important role in shaping the world around us.
- **Political Role of India in Present World**- Let's have a look at the political role of India in the present world. India has always been a peaceful country, striving for mutual respect and cooperation

with all nations. India is one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement NAM and Played an important role in its establishment. The movement was created to ensure that small and newly independent countries would not be drawn into the orbit of either the United States or the Soviet Union during the Cold War. India has also been a strong supporter of the United Nations and has worked to promote peace and security around the world. In recent years, India has become an increasingly important player on the global stage. India is now the world's second-most populous country with over one billion people, and it is also one of the world's fastest-growing economies. India is also a nuclear power and has a large military force. India has been able to use its growing economic and political clout to expand its influence around the world. For example, India has been working to strengthen ties with East Africa in order to counter China's growing influence in the region. India has also been working to expand its economic ties with Latin America and Southeast Asia.

- **Economic Role of India in Present World-** The economic role of India in the present world is significant. The country is currently the world's fastest-growing major economy, with an annual growth rate of around seven per cent. In recent years, India has been a key driver of global economic growth, accounting for about 15 per cent of the world's total economic output. India is also home to a large and rapidly growing middle class. Currently, there are around 300 million middle-class consumers in India, and this number is expected to grow to 600 million by 2030. This growing middle class is increasingly playing a role in global consumption patterns, with Indian consumers becoming an important market for a wide range of products and services. In addition to its economic role, India is also a major political and military power. The country is the world's second-largest contributor to United Nations peacekeeping operations and is a nuclear-armed state with one of the largest militaries in the world. India is also a member of a number of important international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the G20. All of these factors make India a significant player on the global stage. The country's influence is only likely to grow in the years ahead, making it an important country to watch.
- **Some Important Role of Role of India in Present World-** Revive SAARC, The SAARC South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is an organization of eight countries in South Asia. India is a founding member of the SAARC and has always been a key player in the organization. In recent years, however, the SAARC has become largely inactive due to disagreements between India and Pakistan, the two largest members of the organization. India has been working to revive the SAARC in recent years and has proposed a number of initiatives to make the organization more effective. These initiatives include making the SAARC more inclusive, increasing cooperation on regional issues, and improving connectivity between member states.
- **External Aid in Adequate Measure-** India is the second-largest donor of external aid in the world, contributing more than \$70 billion cumulatively to developing countries since independence. India is also a member of various global and regional forums such as the G20, BRICS, and SCO that provide opportunities for it to engage with other major powers and shape global agendas.
- **Self-strength is key-** India's economic growth and its role in the world today are both products of its own strengths. India has pursued an independent foreign policy, built a strong economy, and developed relationships with countries around the world. These factors have given India greater influence on the global stage.

- **A force for peace-** India is also a constructive player in many global peacekeeping efforts. It is the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping operations and has played a significant role in resolving conflicts in its own region.

Conclusion

In conclusion, geopolitics is no longer just about maps, borders, and military power. It now shapes global trade, supply chains, technology, and economic security. Nations protect their interests through economic leverage, digital dominance, and strategic alliances rather than pure physical conflict. Core Takeaways of Modern Geopolitics, From Efficiency to Insulation, Global trade has shifted from prioritizing cheap costs to ensuring secure, reliable supply chains through "friend-shoring". Geo-Economics, Economic tools like tariffs, sanctions, and export controls are primary weapons used to influence other countries. Digital and Data Power, Control over technology, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and undersea internet cables is vital for national security. The Need for Resilience, Countries strive for strategic autonomy, diversifying partnerships to protect themselves from global shocks, energy crises, and market volatility. India is a powerful country with a rich culture and heritage. It is important to understand the role of India in the present world, especially given its growing influence across continents. India is the world's largest democracy, with a population of over 1.2 billion people. The country's integration into the global economy has been accompanied with economic growth during the last decade. India has risen to prominence as a global player. We hope this article has provided you with some valuable insights into India's place in the global community. If you are interested in learning more about Indian history and politics.

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