

'IMPACT OF GEO-POLITICS ON MARITIME TRADE, SANCTIONS, CONFLICTS AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES'

ORIENTATION TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY
RECRUITED FACULTY OF IMU

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FROM AGE OF EXPLORATION, DISCOVERIES TO MODERN ERA EVOLUTION OF MARITIME POWERS [15th to 18th CENTURY]

1488	1492	1498	1499	1500	1519	1577- 80/ 1588	1776	1789
Bartholomew Diaz rounds Cape of Good Hope	Christopher Columbus discovers the West Indies	Sea route to India found by Vasco da Gama	Amerigo Vespucci charts part of South America	Brazil discovered by Pedro Cabral	Ferdinand Magellan circumvents navigation of the world	Sir Francis Drake round the world voyage/ defeat of Spanish Armada	American Declaration of Independence	Adam Smith's 'Wealth of Nations' published. French revolution

FROM AGE OF EXPLORATION, DISCOVERIES TO MODERN ERA EVOLUTION OF MARITIME POWERS [18th to 21st CENTURY]

1730-1850	1805	1848	1914 – 1918 1939 – 1945	1945 – 1990	Post 1992	2000 Onwards	2020 – 2025
Industrial Revolution, colonization by strong maritime nations	Battle of Trafalgar, Lord Nelson's victory	Communist Manifesto produced by Marx and Engels	World wars	Cold war NATO and WARSAW pact	USSR breaks up in the 90's. USA unilateral power.	USA and allies vs Russia – China and others	Mega digital corporations influence maritime trade

UNDERSTANDING TRADITIONAL GEO-POLITICAL THINKING

FRIEDRICH RATZEL

'LEBENSRAUM' – STATE SEARCHES FOR A LIVING SPACE
'POLITISCHE GEOGRAPHY' - 1897

RUDOLF KJELLEN

FIRST TO COIN THE CONCEPT OF GEOPOLITIK (SWEDEN 1899)

ALFRED MAHAN

1890 'THE INFLUENCE OF SEA POWER ON HISTORY (1660-1783)'

HALFORD MACKINDER

1904 ' THE GEOGRAPHICAL PIVOT OF HISTORY '

KARL HAUSHOFER

TUTORED IMPERIALIST IDEAS TO HITLER
EDITOR ZEITSCHRIFT für GEOPOLITIK ' JOURNAL FOR GEOPOLITICS '.

NICHOLAS JOHN SPYKMAN

ADVOCATED RIMLAND THEORY 'WHO CONTROLS THE RIMLAND RULES
EURASIA, WHO RULES EURASIA CONTROLS DESTINIES OF THE WORLD.

All above are Geo-Political Thinkers and part of Geo-Politicians.

AN INSIGHT INTO MARITIME TRADE IN A NUTSHELL

- ▶ An outline of maritime trade process
 - ▶ Maritime atlas
 - ▶ Maritime geography
 - ▶ Geography of trade – cargoes
 - ▶ Waterways
 - ▶ Maritime choke points
 - ▶ Natural phenomena
 - ▶ Navigational seasonal zones

CONFLICTS

- ▶ The four elements – Population, Territory, Government and Sovereignty
- ▶ Russia – Ukraine War
- ▶ Israel – Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthi And Iran
- ▶ Syria Uprising: Turkey/Israel And Other Proxy Players
- ▶ South China Sea, China – Taiwan Standoff
- ▶ Global Domination – Internal Introspection of US, China And Russia Leadership

SANCTIONS

- ▶ Political boycott using economic weapon to prevent export of all goods or a range of selected goods
- ▶ Trade embargo to cripple a country's economy
 - ▶ Cuba after Castro takes over and thereafter
 - ▶ Arab Israeli blacklisting of ports
 - ▶ South Africa, trade embargo by UN on apartheid
- ▶ Present sanctions apply to Russia, Syria and Iran
- ▶ North Korea entirely closed to international maritime commerce.
- ▶ Fortitude in adversity – Pokhran nuclear test
- ▶ India too faced sanctions. Blessing in disguise. Our nuclear and space programmes developed indigenously.

**Today, idea of geo-economics dominates contemporary geo-politics.
One of the widely used geo-economic instruments is sanctions.**

IMPACT OF GEOPOLITICS CONFLICTS AND SANCTIONS ON MARITIME TRADE

- ▶ Maritime Economics
 - Delays/Disruption Of Supply Chain – Raw Material/ Manufactured Goods
 - International World Trade
 - Contract Of Sale/Goods
 - Contract Of Carriage/ Sea
- ▶ Demand For Shipping
 - Increases - Longer Sea Routes
- ▶ Supply Of Shipping
 - Inelastic Market. Gestation Period for Ship Building required
- ▶ Economies Of Scale
 - Higher Operational Costs and Overheads All Aspects
 - Cost Of Carriage Passed On To End User. Inflation Rises
- ▶ Competitive Shipping Markets - Tankers, Dry Bulk, Liner. Slower Growth
- ▶ International Trade / Balance Of Payment And Exchange Rates Suffers

REGIONAL INITIATIVES BY INDIA AND ITS IMPORTANCE



SUMMING UP

- ▶ Knowledge of history, geography, economics and political scenarios essential to assimilate geopolitics
- ▶ Geopolitics is organic (organic theory of state) and dynamic. One needs to keep up with the times. Change is inevitable. Eg: Bangladesh, Syria
- ▶ Geopolitics and impact on maritime trade to be viewed holistically from a nation's internal neighbourhood, regional and international perspective considering physical and geographical features on a short, medium and long-term strategy.
- ▶ Alfred Thayer Mahan's assertion, 'Whoever controls the sea, controls the world', resonates in modern maritime strategy

References :

- Pears Cyclopedia – 93rd edition.
- Shipping Business – 2020 Edition by ICS
- Economics of Sea Transport and International Trade – 2015 Edition by ICS
- UNCTAD – Review of Maritime Transport 2024
- Ministry of External Affairs, GOI website
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