

# MILITARY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

ITSC 201 Winter 2021



# SIR HALFORD MACKINDER



No military experience

A lawyer & amateur geographer

Founding father:

- ◆ the University of Reading
- ◆ the London School of Economics
- ◆ the Geographical Association



# SIR HALFORD MACKINDER

1904:  
“The  
Geographical  
Pivot of  
History”



The ur-text for  
geopolitics and  
geostrategy

Mackinder's  
great  
contribution

# THE TIMES

## The Boer War (1899-1902)

Shook Britain's status

- ◆ Technology
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ Military Power

Is Russia the threat?

What of sea power?





“Who rules East  
Europe commands the  
Heartland; Who rules  
the Heartland  
commands the  
World-Island; Who  
Rules the World-Island  
commands the World.”

---

Halford Mackinder



# THE "PIVOT AREA" THEORY



The Atlantic imperial  
epoch was ending

Size and numbers were  
now decisive

Thus, the "pivot area"  
of the world:

The Eurasian Landmass

# THE "PIVOT AREA" THEORY

The measures of strength were:

- ◆ Raw resources
- ◆ Technology
- ◆ Population

Geography a catalyst or brake



# THE "PIVOT AREA" THEORY

1 The "pivot area" of eastern Europe, Russia and Manchuria

2 The "inner crescent" of Germany, Austria, Turkey, India, and China





# THE "PIVOT AREA" THEORY



3 The “outer or insular crescent” of the Americas, Africa, Australia and Japan

4 The “desert crescent” of northern Africa and the Middle East

# THE "PIVOT AREA" THEORY



5 An “inner crescent”  
of eastern Europe and  
Russia

German direction of  
Russian resources the  
nightmare



“The successful powers will be those who have the greatest industrial base. It will not matter whether they are in the centre of a continent or on an island; those people who have the industrial power and the power of invention and science will be able to defeat all others.”

Halford Mackinder



# THE “HEARTLAND” THEORY



The conclusions were simple:

1. Sea power was waning in relation to land power
2. Mere insularity gave no indefeasible right to maritime supremacy

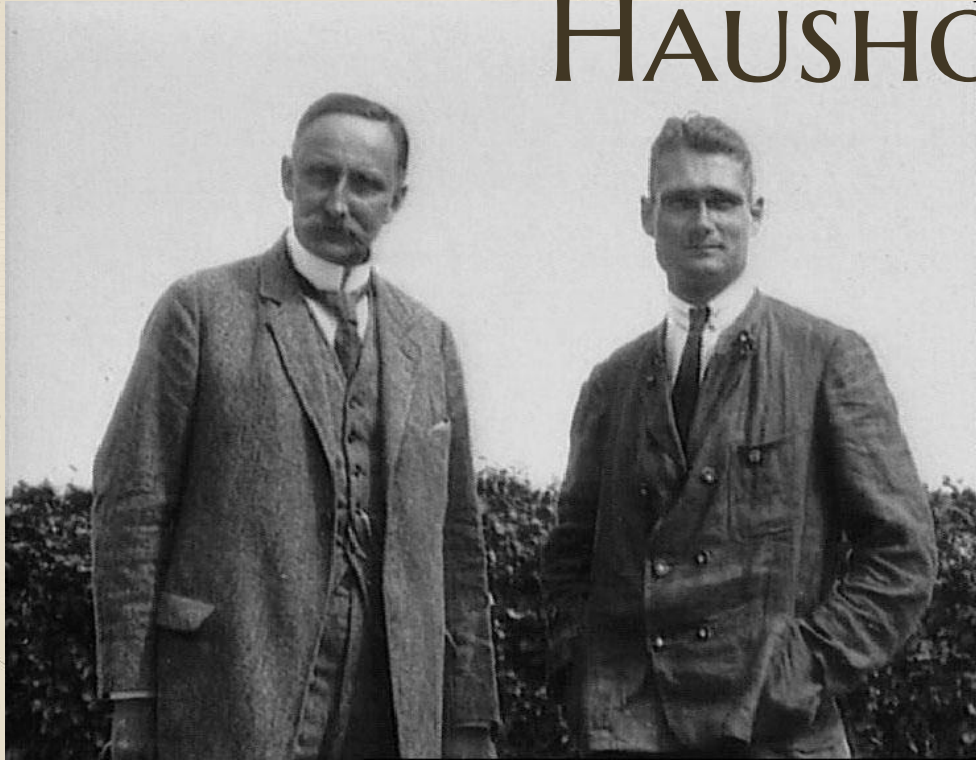
# THE "HEARTLAND" THEORY



Therefore:

Britain's naval power, based on its economic strength, would no longer be supreme when other states with greater resources and manpower overhauled its industrial lead

# FATHER OF GEOPOLITICS: KARL HAUSHOFER



“But my father broke away the seal. He did not see the rising breath of evil. He let the demon soar into the world.”

Albrecht Haushofer,  
Moabit Sonnet 38, 1945



# FATHER OF GEOPOLITICS: KARL HAUSHOFER



Geopolitics tainted  
by association

The operating logic  
for Nazi aggression

# THE CHARGE



United States Government. (1945-1946). Nuremberg Trials. [Online Image]. Retrieved October 19, 2018 from [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nuremberg\\_Trials\\_retouched.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nuremberg_Trials_retouched.jpg)

U.S. Military Officials:

Karl Haushofer had provided Adolf Hitler and Rudolf Hess with the vocabulary of geopolitics

- ◆ Lebensraum
- ◆ Autarky
- ◆ Heroic Earth



# THE MAN AND HIS TIMES



(No date). Karl Haushofer. [Online Image]. Retrieved October 20, 2018 from <https://www.geopolitica.ru/en/article/itinerary-german-geopolitician-karl-haushofer>

Born in Munich in 1869

Taught at the Bavarian  
War Academy

Observer in Japan  
1908-1910

Read Mackinder



# THE MAN AND HIS TIMES

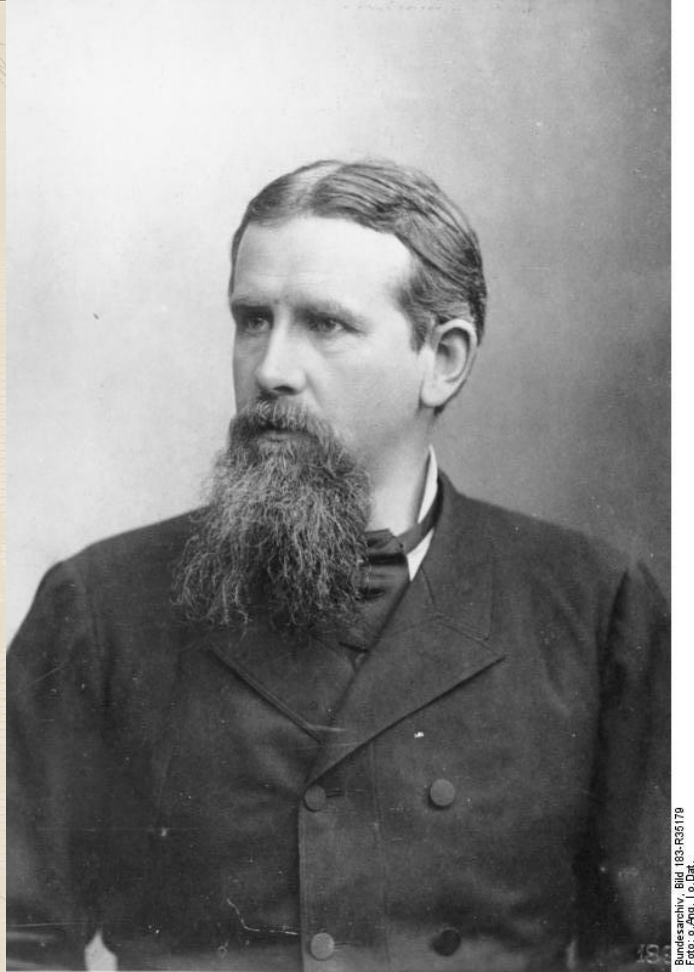


(No date). Karl Haushofer. [Online Image]. Retrieved October 20, 2018 from <https://www.geopolitica.ru/en/article/itinerary-german-geopolitician-karl-haushofer>

Absorbed and  
synthesized  
contemporary theory

A key popularizer of  
geostrategic ideas

5 key influences



# RATZEL

A social Darwinist

State competition  
fundamentally “struggle  
for space”

# RUDOLF KJELLEN



Professor of political  
science at Uppsala  
University

*The State as Life Form*

Lebensraum (space to live)

Autarky (self-sufficiency)

Another social Darwinist



# SIR HALFORD MACKINDER

Took the  
“Heartland”  
concept  
whole



The struggle  
between  
“the robbers of  
the steppe”  
&  
“the sea  
robbers”



# ALFRED THAYER MAHAN

Global capitalist market  
economies

Incessant interaction

Sea communications

Moral and racial  
superiority



# PAN-GERMANISM

Alldeutsch

Dominated  
central Europe

Haushofer  
elevated to a  
“pan-region”

Pan-regions

Each dominated  
by most  
powerful state

Four regions





# PAN-GERMANISM

Americas

The U.S.

Asia

Japan

The Heartland

Russia

Europe

Germany

Haushofer's Vision

Germany directing  
Europe and the  
Heartland

Thus, the world

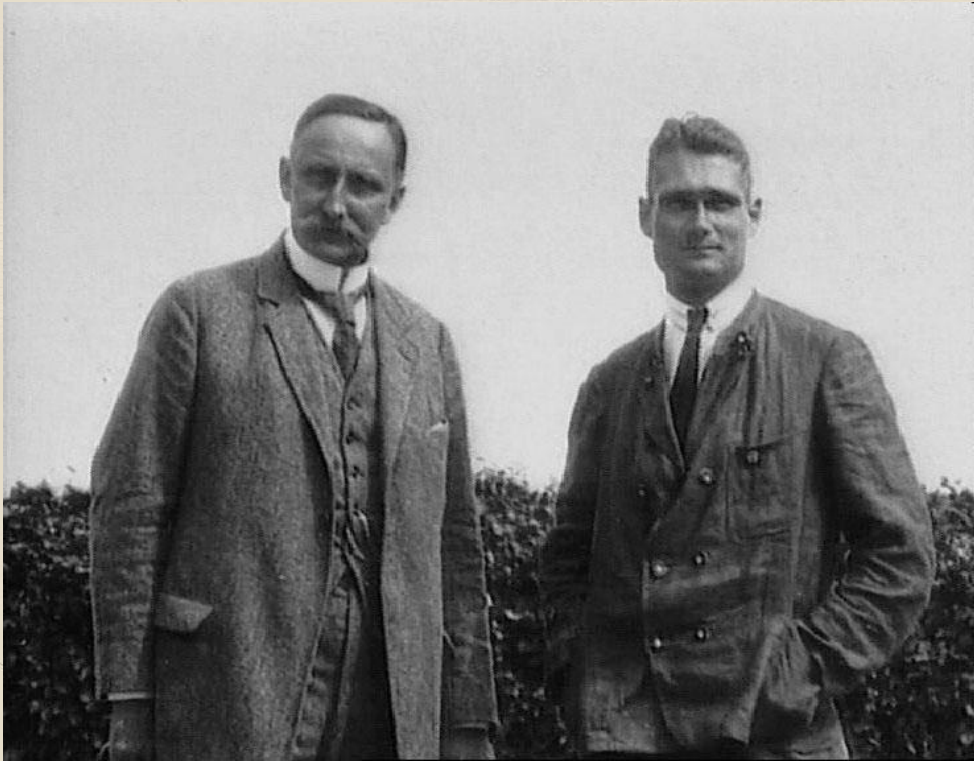


# HAUSHOFER'S CONTRIBUTION

Borders, or Grenzen

Political boundaries a  
temporary halt:

“Everywhere we  
encounter the frontier  
as battlefield.”







# HAUSHOFER AND HITLER

Influence on Adolf Hitler

Important but indirect

Mainly via Rudolf Hess

Refused to join the Nazi  
Party (NSDAP):

“Camouflage”





# HAUSHOFER AND HITLER

Introduced Hitler to  
lebensraum, autarky and  
geopolitics

The “cultured advertising  
executive for the Third  
Reich.”

# HAUSHOFER AND HITLER



Anonymous. (November 1936). Watched by the Japanese signatory, Ambassador Viscount Kintomo Mushakoji, Hitler's foreign affairs adviser Joachim von Ribbentrop signs the Anti-Comintern Pact, 25 November 1936. [Online Image]. Retrieved October 22, 2018 from [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anti-Comintern\\_Pact\\_signing\\_1936.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anti-Comintern_Pact_signing_1936.jpg)

## Influence on Policy

- ◆ The Anti-Comintern Pact
- ◆ The Munich Conference
- ◆ The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact in 1939

# HAUSHOFER AND HITLER



But only so far

*Barbarossa* shattered the  
land-bridge across  
Eurasia

Anonymous. (November 1936). Watched by the Japanese signatory, Ambassador Viscount Kintomo Mushakoji, Hitler's foreign affairs adviser Joachim von Ribbentrop signs the Anti-Comintern Pact, 25 November 1936. [Online Image]. Retrieved October 22, 2018 from [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anti-Comintern\\_Pact\\_signing\\_1936.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anti-Comintern_Pact_signing_1936.jpg)



# FORGOTTEN PROPHET



(No date). Karl Haushofer. [Online Image]. Retrieved October 20, 2018 from <https://www.geopolitica.ru/en/article/itinerary-german-geopolitician-karl-haushofer>

A precarious life in  
Nazi Germany

The post-war collapse

“I want to be forgotten  
and forgotten.”

# FORGOTTEN PROPHET



O.F. Atkins. (November 1972). Meeting at Camp David to Discuss the Vietnam Situation. [Online Image]. Retrieved October 22, 2018 from [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Meeting\\_at\\_Camp\\_David\\_to\\_discuss\\_the\\_Vietnam\\_situation\\_-\\_NARA\\_-\\_194466.tif](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Meeting_at_Camp_David_to_discuss_the_Vietnam_situation_-_NARA_-_194466.tif)

Geopolitics Revived in  
the 1970s

Henry Kissinger's  
*White House Years*

Zbigniew Brzezinski's  
*The Grand Chessboard*



# REFERENCES

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