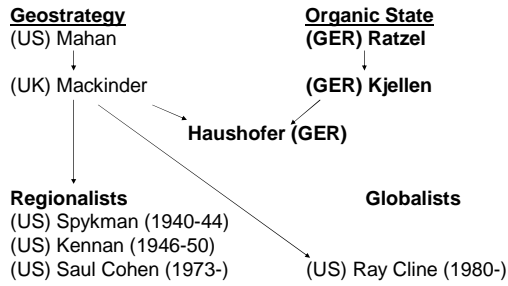


Geopolitics Family Tree



German School of Geopolitics: The Organic State

Germany's geopolitical position vs. that of U.K., France and U.S.

Differing geographies → differing views on geopolitics

Every great power at dawn of 20th century sought territorial expansion. The questions were

- 1) how to do it?
- 2) how to justify it?

2 competing views of the future of German expansion in early 20th century.

1. *Lebensraum* or "living space"

2. *Weltpolitik* or "world politics"

Frederick Ratzel (1844-1904)

- Originally a Zoologist later a journalist → world traveler
- Germany starts setting up Geography departments → need professors → Ratzel becomes chair of Dept. of Geog at University of Leipzig.
- 1897 Ratzel publishes *Political Geography* where he makes the analogy of a state as an organism.

Ratzel's Seven laws on the Growth of States

1. The space of States grows with the expansion of the population *having the same culture*.
2. Territorial growth follows other aspects of development.
3. A State grows by absorbing smaller units.
4. The frontier is the peripheral organ of the State that reflects the strength and growth of the state; hence, it is not permanent.
5. States in the course of their growth seek to absorb politically valuable territory.
6. The impetus for growth comes to a primitive State from a more highly developed civilization.
7. The trend towards territorial growth is contagious and increases in the process of transmission.

Logical conclusions based on Ratzel's "Laws"

- The world is inherently conflictual
- Most of history can be explained by the life cycle of states and the competition for living space
- Powerful states must become larger over time
- The future of the world is with *grossraum (large space) states*
- In order for Germany to become a major world power it must compete for *lebensraum*

Rudolf Kjellen (1864-1922)

- 1899 Coined the term “Geopolitics”
- 1916 published *The State as an Organism* where he picked up on and popularized Ratzel’s ideas

Theory of the State as an organism:

1. State has a “natural” realm or domain
2. State autarky—total self-sufficiency
3. Law of cultural individualization

FOUR IDEALS COMMON TO RATZEL AND KJELLEN

- 1) CONCEPTION OF STATE AS AN ORGANISM
- 2) BELIEF IN SOCIAL DARWINISM/ NEO-LAMARCKISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINISM, BUT REJECTION OF RACISM
- 3) BELIEF THAT THE FUTURE BELONGED TO STATES WITH LARGE TERRITORIES (E.G. U.S, USSR)
- 4) ADVOCACY OF GERMANY AS A WORLD POWER

Karl Haushofer (1869-1946)

Early Biography

- Army: officer, advisory position in Japan
- Ph.D. from University of Munich
- 1919 began career at U of M
- early contact with Hitler

2 institutions associated with Haushofer

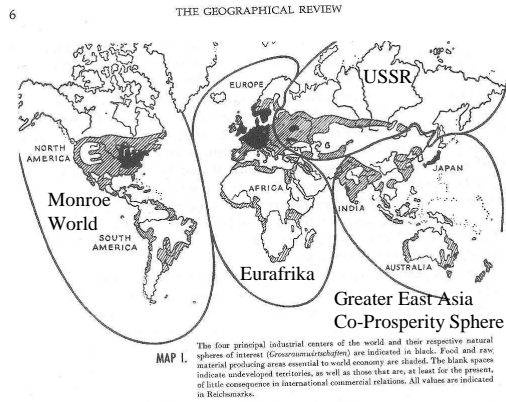
1. The German Academy
2. *Zeitschrift für Geopolitik*

KARL HAUSHOFER (1869-1946)
five principal ideas:

1. CONFLICT BETWEEN LAND-POWER AND SEA-POWER IS FUNDAMENTAL AND INEVITABLE
2. GERMANY'S LEBENSRAUM IS IN CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPE
3. THE WORLD SHOULD BE DIVIDED INTO PAN-REGIONS:
 - a) autarkic, each with 3 economic zones:
 1. core/industrial area,
 2. peripheral/agricultural area,
 3. undeveloped territories, resource reserve
 - b) easy to defend and non-competitive
 - c) held together by dominant culture

KARL HAUSHOFER (1869-1946)
five principal ideas:

4. Moveable frontiers
5. State as an organism



Facts in Review April 1941

Haushofer and Nazis: Common Views

1. Rejected the Versailles Treaty and wanted to re-establish German territory lost in WWI.
2. Hostile towards the Weimar Republic and democracy
3. Wanted to create a greater Germany (*Grossdeutschland*) as the home for all Germans in Europe
4. Believed that because of overpopulation, Germany had to acquire more lebensraum for national development

Haushofer and Nazis: Conflicting Views

- Racial determinism vs. spatial determinism
- Cooperation vs. war with Soviet Union

**HAUSHOFER'S FOREIGN POLICY PRESCRIPTIONS
IN WORLD WAR II**

- 1) ALLIANCE BETWEEN GERMANY AND RUSSIA
KEY TO WINNING WORLD WAR II
--Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, 1939
- 2) GERMANY SHOULD ALIGN WITH JAPAN AND
STRIVE TO CREATE CONTINENTAL-MARITIME
BLOCK STRETCHING FROM GERMANY
THROUGH RUSSIA AND JAPAN
--Anti-Comintern Pact of 1936

Nicholas Spykman (died 1942)

Like *Mahan*:

- 1) Importance of sea vs. land policies
- 2) Realist basis of US foreign policy
- 3) Balance of power

Like *Mackinder*:

- 1) Viewed world as closed system
- 2) Urged US intervention globally
- 3) Considered conflict inevitable
- 4) Believed US needed a new Heartland

Spykman's Legacy

- 1) US active in global affairs
- 2) Interventionist
- 3) Strong navy
- 4) Strategy of rimland containment

SPYKMAN'S USE OF MACKINDER'S MODEL

- Mackinder's concern with Germany's power replaced by the USSR as the Heartland's threat - still is a useful model.
- Mackinder's basis for the Heartland model – railroads being able to mobilize continental resources in a new way – is antiquated, - the era of inter-continental ballistic missiles.
- It matters more that the heartland-rimland theory resonates with people's world-views than being an accurate model.
- The heartland model became an ideological tool for US foreign policy makers.

