

## Post-Cold War Geopolitics

- The East vs. the West in historical perspective
- “They wish to rule the world by conquest. They mean to seize by armed force the countries accessible to them, and thence to oppress the rest of the world by terror. The extension of power they dream of...if God grants it to them, will be for the woe of the world.”

### Russian expansion 1500-1900:

- expanding at a rate of 55 sq.mi. a day; 20,000 sq.mi. a year
- 1800: 2000mi separate British and Russian empires
- 1900: a few hundred, only 20mi in some places

•Story begins 300 years ago during the reign of Peter I (the Great) . . .

•Russia lags behind Europe → Peter looking for cash to finance modernization → attention turns towards central Asia.

•Reigns of Catherine II (the Great), Paul I, Alexander I

•The start of “The Great Game”

- Problem for Britain:
  - How to defend India from Russian aggression?
  
- Two schools of British thought
  1. Forward School
  2. School of “Masterly Inactivity”
  
- Russian inroads
  - 1893 proposed building of the trans Siberian railroad

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### Russian flux

- Russian regression in early 20th century
  - 1904: Russo-Japanese War
- Russia rebounds
  - WWII: takes back the Baltic states and all of Eastern Europe
  - 1979 invades Afghanistan
- Post-Cold War: Russia weak → West aggressive roll-back campaign

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### Questions

- What type of policy would Kennan advocate?
  
- What is the US/NATO interest in Yugoslavia?
  
- Why did the US invade precisely in the spring of 1999?

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New Great Game: Caspian Oil

- How to get landlocked Caspian Sea oil to market?
- Five littoral states: Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan

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The “Great Game” lineup

Russia – Armenia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, (Iran)

West - Azerbaijan, Georgia, Uzbekistan (Turkey)

China – Kazakhstan

Turkey – Azerbaijan, (West)

Iran – Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan

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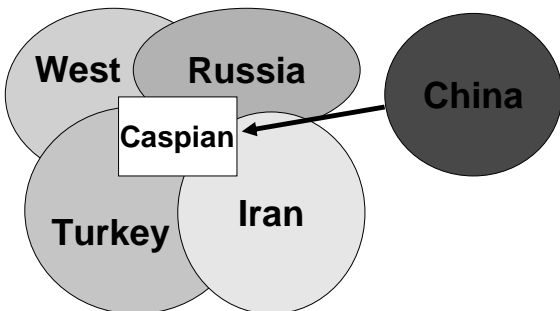
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Geopolitical Interests in the Caspian/Caucasus Shatterbelt

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### Iran?

- At the Rajin' Cajun bar in Baku – where Texas meets the Caucasus - an American executive, between two burritos, does not mince his words: "If I could, I would sign right now with Iran. They are the most trustworthy partners in the region. To talk about terrorism is nonsense: they would never sabotage their own pipelines." This position is still absolute anathema in Washington.

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### Geopolitical Codes in the 1990s

- 1) Noblesse oblige
- 2) US First
- 3) Declinist
- 4) Contingency
- 5) Eagle triumphant
- 6) World of regions
- 7) Anti-imperialism

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