GEOG 4712 Political Geography

Lecture 7: German Geopolitics

outline

1) Geopolitics
2) Genealogies
3) Germany
4) Generals
5) Geomancy
6) Geniuses
7) Geo-power
key thinkers, redux

Common Ideas: Ratzel + Kjellen
1) State as organism
2) Social Darwinism and Environmental Determinism; Rejection of Racism
3) Belief that future belongs to states with large territories
4) Advocacy of Germany as world power

classical codes + organic states, redux

Ratzel (1844-1904)
Assumptions
1) Natural laws govern human society
2) States must expand territorially; conflict inevitable
3) State as unit of analysis

Principles
1) Social Darwinism
2) State as organism
3) Lebensraum

Kjellen (1864-1922)
1) State has natural ‘realm’/‘domain’
2) States should be autarkic
3) Law of cultural individualization
Lebensraum: Germany should expand into new territories in Central and Eastern Europe

Weltpolitik: Germany should acquire colonies like Britain, France, for trade, development, and raw materials; imperialist mentality

German perceptions
“Major General Professor Doktor”

1) Land vs. Sea Powers
2) Geographic Determinism
3) State as Organism
4) Social Darwinism
5) Cultural Nationalism
6) Lebensraum
7) Pan-regions

Pan regions

1) Autarkic: each with 3 economic zones
   a) Core- industrial areas
   b) Peripheral- agricultural areas
   c) Undeveloped territories- resource reserves
2) Defensible: easy to defend + non-competitive
3) Cohesive: Held together by dominant culture
Haushofer’s Foreign Policy Prescriptions

1) Germans must understand global space; as aid to statecraft
   * “equipment for political action” + “geographical conscience of state”
2) Germany should form continental-maritime bloc with Russia + Japan
   * Anti-Comintern Pact, 1936 (Ger-Jap alliance)
3) Alliance between Germany + Russia
   * Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, 1939
   * Lasted until Operation Barbarossa, 1941

Haushofer + Nazis

Same
1) Reject Versailles
2) Hostile to UK/US
3) Greater Germany for Germans
4) Overpopulation and lebensraum

Different
1) Spatial vs. racial determinism
2) Cooperation vs. war with USSR
3) Haushofer never a Nazi
4) Albrecht’s assassination attempt
expansion

g geomancy
...East European Émigrés

The Search For An Enemy
A look at four of the leading candidates for the role of the US adversary.

Advantages | Disadvantages
---|---

China
- Communist
- Monroe arsenal
- Human rights abuses
- Foreign trade deficit
- Misaligned, thin-skinned populace
- Capitalism making inroads
- World’s largest
- Population of China must hold a compliment of Gs

India
- Brown skin
- Exceptionally nuclear arsenal
- Strategic, club-like religions
- History of regional aggression
- Hindu legacy of terrorism
- World’s second largest
- Marvelous frequent natural disasters thanks to play

Afghanistan
- Brown skin
- Islamic fundamentalism
- Strategic location
- Haven for international terrorists
- Geographically small
- Small population
- Attracts foreign aid

North Korea
- Communist
- Proceeded of Korean War
- Strictly religious
- Developing nuclear arsenal
- Starvation, famines, nuclear armament
- Geographically small
- Small population
- Copying Kamei’s inky joiy

Low-brow?