

Spykman's Rimland Theory -

- o He wrote - "Geography of Peace" (1944)
- o ~~Acc~~ to Spykman,
- o Spykman's idea was a counter idea to Mackinder's idea.
- o The Pivot area of Heartland acc. to Spykman was a region of disadvantage.
The Heartland fort could be locked within its region.

- o He viewed the Rimland Region - The Inner Crescent of Eurasia with some of Island of Outer Crescent as the advantage
- o Rimland was Coastal Territory which had resources, access of ports of Global Trade, very high mobility & large population base.

- As a counter to Mackinder, Spykman coined a slogan:
 - "Who controls Rimland rules Eurasia & who rules Eurasia controls destiny of the world."
- Acc. to Spykman, Geopolitical struggle was more about consolidating Rimland countries - mix of land & sea power

★ Why it was not officially acknowledged by the USA, USA under its Presidents particularly since John F. Kennedy USA has followed the Principle of Containment of Communism - This was a philosophy made popular by George Kennan who had worked extensively in Russia

o America's strategy can be seen in-

- ① Its positioning in Middle East & its unconditional support to



Israel & partners with S. Arabia

- ② US investments in Iraq Gulf War
- ③ Vietnam War
- ④ Rise of Taliban after Afghan invasion by Russia in 1980's
- ⑤ Syrian War where - Bashar-al- Assad had support of Russia with the US

pushback from Israel

o The new strategy in the use of concept of INDO-PACIFIC also reaffirms the significance of Rimland.

o India's own investments in Chabahar port; India's interest in the Indian Ocean, BIMSTEC; India's outreach to East Africa & its Act East Policy

East Asia

o Rimland's importance in China's Silk Route Strategy & String of Pearls Strategy.



* o In India's Indian Ocean Strategy we can see elements of Rimland concept - India as Net-Security Provider (Military, Env Security, Disaster Mgmt., Piracy, Managing smuggling) & Maritime Domain awareness, India's Deep Ocean Mission, Sagam Nala Project & Project Mausam (Port development) (aims to promote)

(aims to promote
India's soft power
in Indian Ocean Region
- shared cultural
heritage)

• India's Foreign Policy - there is an
element of Mackinder's Heartland theory :-

- Ⓐ India's engagement with Afghanistan
- Ⓑ India's collaboration with Iran w.r.t
Chabahar Zahedan Zaranj Corridor

Ⓒ India - part of INSTC

Heartland's Application relevance
w.r.t India

Analysis of both Theories -

- A very interesting interpretatⁿ of how Geo. impacts Geopolitics
- Mackinder's Prediction were fairly accurate
 - predicting German's Ambition, Rise of Russia, predictⁿ of cold war.

◦ Spykman have seems to have influenced US Policy

Criticisms of Theories :-

◦ Geographical relevance is narrowly interpreted

◦ In these Theories, Locatⁿ has been a dominant consideratⁿ in analysis & evolving geopolitics

◦ Geopolitics have evolved over years -
It has evolved to include many many non military elements. (Sci, Tech., Trade, Development, Cultural elements, Economic aspect etc), Populatⁿ & its culture are as imp elements of Geopolitics now as the conventional Army, Navy etc.)

◦ Mackinder's & Spykman's theory are very conventional based on military conflicts. Modern conflicts include -
Trade wars, Currency wars, Cyber Security & Climate change issues

◦ In contemporary Geopolitics, the role of non-state actors are very imp. & have increased (companies, individuals, MNCs etc)

o Both the theories have been interpreted assuming Earth to be flat - 2D

Surface with America & Russia positioned in left & right corners. As used Mercator's Map that inaccurately depicts location & the size of Temperate countries

o Mackinder also did not consider the missiles & airforce as element of military security [This is surprising because, he had witnessed Role of Airforce right through WW-II]