

Is Geopolitics an intellectual poison?

Condemned as an intellectual poison by the late American geographer, Richard Hartshorne, geopolitics has confounded its critics. Today it remains a popular and important intellectual field despite the persistent allegations that geopolitics helped to legitimise Hitler's policies of spatial expansionism and the domination of place. Using insights from critical geopolitics and cultural history, the contributors focus on how geopolitics has been created, negotiated and contested within a variety of intellectual and popular contexts.

Geopolitical Traditions argues that geopolitics has to take responsibility for the past whilst at the same time reconceptualising geopolitics in a manner which accounts for the dramatic changes in the late twentieth century. The book is divided into three sections: firstly 'Rethinking Geopolitical Histories' concentrates on how geopolitical conversations between European scholars and the wider world unfolded; secondly 'Geopolitics, Nations and Spirituality' considers how geopolitical writings have been strongly influenced by religious iconography and doctrine with examples drawn from Catholicism, Judaism and Hinduism; and thirdly 'Reclaiming and Refocusing Geopolitics' contemplates how geopolitics has been reformulated in the post-war period with illustrations from France and the United States.

Geopolitical Traditions brings together scholars working in a variety of disciplines and locations in order to explore a hundred years of geopolitical thought.

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Critical Geographies Series, edited by Tracey Skelton and Gill Valentine

Critical Geographies offers cutting edge research organised into four themes of concepts, scale, transformations and work. It is aimed at upper-level undergraduates, research students and academic researchers, and will facilitate the inter-disciplinary engagement between geography and other social sciences. It provides a forum for the innovative and vibrant debates which span the broad spectrum of this discipline.

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