

Modern Trends in Geo-Economics and Geopolitics

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Abstract—The article deals with modern trends in geo-economics and geopolitics. Geo-economics takes the leading role in the relation geopolitics - geo-economics. It has been shown that geo-politics increases its influence in the modern world. The areas of Land and Sea are supplemented by air, underwater, near-earth, extraterrestrial, far-out space, virtual, informational and other spaces. The world politics becomes more pluralistic and fulfills itself in the area of the national economy.

Keywords—*geo-economics, geopolitics, geospace, global economy, geopolitical trends, geo-economical trends*

I. INTRODUCTION

Geopolitics and geo-economics are sciences important for the analysis of the contemporary society and trends of its development. Geopolitics is one of the most important areas of politology studying politics' determination by geography, dependence, dependence of state power and their dominance on their location on the Earth's surface, as well as states relations (political, economical, trade, diplomatic, military strategic, cultural) and global balance of power, geopolitical structure of the world. Geo-economics as a part of geopolitics studies economical aspect of geopolitical processes, their dependence on economical factors, economic actions of political actors.

II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From 1980 till 1990 geopolitical analysis is based on studying economical problems. Geo-economics is a concept uniting geo-politics and economics, science studying political issues via economics and geography. Its supporters try uniting issues of global economy, geography, history of economics, politology, and conflictology. Edward Luttwak is a famous American historian, researcher of the modern geo-economy, considers it to be politics based on economical competition. From his point of view politics of big powers nowadays is determined by logics of economics conflicts, political actors are self-sustaining with the help of geo-economical methods [1].

A similar point of view was expressed in 1993 in the article of Samuel Huntington ("Why International Primacy Matters"). He denotes that there will be conflicts of interests in the nearest future between the United States and other main powers based on economical problems. "The idea that economics is primarily a non-zero-sum game is a favourite

conceit of tenured academics ... Economists are blind to the fact that economic activity is a source of power, as well as well being. It is, indeed, probably the most important source of power and in a world in which military conflict between major states is unlikely economic power will be increasingly important in determining the primacy or subordination of states" [2]. On the whole, according to Huntington, contemporary economics becomes a source of power and welfare, thus pushing aside politics from autocratic prerogatives. Developing in this direction, geo-economics requires new methods of economical defence and offence.

Contemporary geopolitical situation is worsened by the following factors: first, emphasizing military component of the politics or geo-strategy by the main powers in conditions of possessing nuclear weapon can result in global nuclear war and the mankind death, second, the main powers understand that military conflicts are useless in acquiring foreign territories, but it is possible to expand its economical and political influence by trading expansion.

Society development trends from the point of view of the political process up to the end of the "cold war" were explained from the point of view of the traditional geopolitics. Luttwak works were the turning point, the so called early geo-economical paradigm, according to which the main rivalry between states becomes economical and not military. In this analysis economical administration is a central element of geo-economics, and geo-economics itself is viewed mainly as foreign policy, providing alternative to geopolitics in achieving geostrategic aims. In particular, V. Hudson (V. Hudson et al.) (1991), determines geo-economics as the strategies of territorial control, which are economically motivated and fulfilled by economical means [3].

But not all authors find these explanations of the political processes acceptable. Sören Scholvin, Mikael Wigell suppose: "The realist assumptions inherent in the early geo-economics paradigm did not appear useful for this liberal era, in which economic integration and cooperation, not conflict, had become the dominant features of international relations. However, while economic interdependence increased rapidly on an international scale in the 1990s, and even more so in the 2000s, so did the challenges and risks, many of which are geo-economic in nature... However, contrary to Luttwak's expectations, geo-economics has not entirely replaced military means of statecraft. Economic and military instruments co-

exist, being used by states depending on what they consider adequate for the specific challenges they are facing” [4].

Other authors speculate in different direction. J. Hsiung (2009) determines geo-economics as transfer from military to economical safety [5]. R. Blackwill and J. Harris (2016) suppose that “today’s most sophisticated geo-economic actors, geo-economic and military dimensions of statecraft tend to be mutually reinforcing” [6]. T. Grosse thinks that geo-economics is a fusion of economical and geopolitical aims and means hybrid strategies of economical and military power [7].

III. MAIN GEOPOLITICAL TRENDS

Modern geopolitics undergoes significant changes. At the birth of geopolitics at the end of XIX – beginning of XX century the world was divided into colonies, semi-colony (for example, China, Persia, whom colonial powers imposed unprofitable agreements or annexed territories) and colonial powers. Freidrich Ratzel, the founder of the geopolitics in his work “Political Geography” (1898) depicted the contemporary world divided among seventeen colonial powers [8], and Erich Obst in 1925 year mentioned 12 colonial powers [9].

But the real development of the world took the different path. After World War I the Empires dissolution took place: Austro-Hungarian, German, Osmanli, British, French Empire, the USSR, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia. After the World War II the decolonization process took place. As the result of these changes the territory of independent states, whose number has increased significantly and equals 200, covers nearly all territory of the planet. This process is the first geopolitical tendency of the modern world.

Contemporary geopolitics changes in changing conditions. Thanks to science, technologies, global warming and other factors assisting in people advancing to the Far South and North, the second tendency takes place – permanent growth of the inhabited land, called by ancient Greeks Oekumene, and an increase of people number, living on the territories took of the sea.

The third tendency and geopolitical feature differentiating the contemporary world from the world of classical geopolitics is sharp increase in population of different countries and overpopulation of the planet. If at F. Ratzel and E.Obst times the population of the Earth was less two billions people then nowadays it is more than seven billions.

The forth important change of the contemporary environment is globalization which resulted in migration processes increase and contacts of different races, ethnoses and confessions.

The fifth feature of the contemporary geopolitics is realization of ecological problems whose number is more than hundred and increases constantly. Some of them are real threats to the humankind on the Earth.

The sixth change in geopolitics is: all territories are divided between independent states – inhabited and uninhabited. There are no free territories.

The world has locked up as contemporary geopolitics say. But the number of territories the issue of the rivalry has increased. Besides geosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere, described by Ratzel, the following are included here.

Submerged area, actively developed by military submarines, fishing boats with highly-productive trawl nets, fish- shrimp- crab- mussel- and so on breeding, pearl breeding equipment, oil and gas drilling platforms and other equipment for deposits extraction, dwellings construction, bridges and other maritime infrastructure;

Aerospace, acquired by the most developed and the reach countries and commonwealths: the USA, the RF, PRC, Japan, EU and others.

Virtual space, the Internet, tele- radio- air, film industry and others. [10]. Besides, struggle for spaces covers:

World currency space. Here, the rivalry between spaces of dollar, euro, yuan, the pound sterling, yen, ruble increases.

Culture space where cinema, theatre, ballet, opera, stage, circus and so on compete,

Tourism space, including tourists’ flows all over the world;

Fashion space, where companies producing fashionable clothes, shoes, accessories, fashion houses compete;

Sport space, where countries compete for the winning the Olympic Games, number of Olympic medals, Champion Titles, bonuses and awards both on the continental and global scale.

So, the area of geopolitics widens in the modern world. Land and Sea spaces are extended by areal, submerged, circumterrestrial, interplanetary, distant space, virtual, informational and other spaces. The world politics is pluralistic and fulfills itself in the area of the world economy.

IV. CONTEMPORARY TENDENCIES OF GEO-ECONOMY

Geo-economy is a part of geopolitics as a science and modern state of geopolitics as a process. Geo-economics itself can be considered a special trend of the contemporary geopolitics. If we talk about geo-economics and geopolitics ratio let’s note that geo-economics is a sub discipline of geopolitics and takes place at the borderline of political and economical sciences. Geo-economics is a geopolitics sub discipline studying economical influence of the states in the world, its division into the spheres of influence, conflict of states’ economical interests on the world arena, dependence of geopolitical status and economical position of the states, in general, division and redistribution of the political-economical structure of the world.

As a structural element of geopolitics, geo-economics studies global market, transborder economical space, development and interaction of economics of different countries, basing on their location and international factors influence. It acts as a territory-organizational tool of creating state geo-economical strategy, determining countries position in global geo-economical space.

Contemporary economics is the economics of the global world. Global economics is not just integration of economics of different countries on the global scale. Such “global economy” according to Fernand Braudel exists in the West since 16th century. Globalization of economics is demonstrated in its function as a unified system, based on informational and communicational technologies. The main changes of global economics are in “global nets” appearance. Manuele Castels notes “We can say about global economics because economical agents act inside the global interconnected net overcoming national and geographical borders. But this economics is not politically independent as national governments play an important role in controlling economical processes” [11]. The manufacturing process is divided between different companies in different parts of the world. The net is a flexible and smoothly-running manufacturing system in the form of global corporation, with the elements all over the world. Vertical bureaucracies change into “horizontal corporations”.

Castels’ conclusions coincide in their intentions with geo-economics concepts. In the world economical processes there is a tendency of geo-economics, changing geo-economical structure of the world, which includes:

- goods flow;
- work force flow;
- financial flow;
- tourists flow;
- Sportsmen and fans flow and so on.

Irrespective unified informational and economical space it does not eliminate geopolitical conflicts and geo-economical struggle. As geo-economical tendencies we can name:

- Productive-economic division of the world between the main powers;
- Financial-economical division of the world into the zones of dollar, euro influence; yuan zones, national currencies zones;
- Resource and production division of the world between deposits producing and deposits consuming countries;
- Power division of the world between the power supplying and power consuming countries;
- World division between the main powers producing and consuming arms and military equipment;
- World division between countries producing agricultural goods and countries consuming agricultural goods;
- World division into the countries with favorable climate and tourism infrastructure, accepting tourists and countries providing tourists flows [12].

V. CONCLUSION

General trends of geopolitics and geo-economics are:

- Both geopolitics and geo-economics are the main subdisciplines of politics and economics. We can say that interconnection of politics and geopolitics is congruent to the interconnection of economics and geo-economics.

- Geo-economics and geopolitics together with politics and economics have all the features of sciences and take prominent places in social sciences;
- Both geopolitics and geo-economics develop fast in XXI century, influencing each other. Some scientists consider geopolitics to be leading in this dyad, the others geo-economics.
- Geopolitics and geo-economics ratio is changing significantly in the practical sphere nowadays. If in XIX and XX centuries geopolitics was leading, then at the end of the 20-ieth the beginning of the XXI century geo-economics took the first place;
- The tendency is that geo-economics has been leading recently in the dyad geopolitics-geo-economics;
- Both geopolitics and geo-economics study important socio-political and socio-economical processes of our time and demonstrate global geopolitical and geo-economical trends;
- At the national level and the level of trans-national corporations geo-economics determines geopolitics nowadays;
- Last decade economical sanctions as politics of some states or members of UNO replace military influence of states in solving political issues;
- Explosive growth of trade-economical relations nowadays determines relations and geostrategies of the main powers;
- Increase in number of economical unions and associations of states into trans-national corporations, outruns the growth of political unions and blocks;
- Tempos of trade-economical integration in the modern world are higher than those of the political integration.

Special trends of geopolitics:

- Productive-economic division of the world among the main powers;
- Financial-economical division of the world into the zones of dollar, euro, yuan influence, zones of national currencies;
- Resource and production division of the world between the resources producing and resources consuming countries;
- Power division of the world between power supplying and power consuming countries;
- Division of the world between states-manufacturers and countries-consumes of the arms and military equipment;
- World division between countries producing agricultural goods and countries consuming agricultural goods;
- World division into the countries with favorable climate and tourism infrastructure, accepting tourists and countries providing tourists flows,
- If during the period classic geopolitics of XIX – XX centuries the number of main powers is minimal, then in the modern world there are

about two hundred national states with their own politics;

- If the states of the classical geopolitics were growing empires then modern states are democracies with democratic politics;
- If the states of the classical geopolitics conducted colonial expansion then modern states strengthen their influence in the world,
- Enhancing their authority and improving their international images;
- If the states of the classical geopolitics increased their armies according to the principle “if you want peace- be ready to the war”, then contemporary states, especially after invention of the missile–nuclear and mass-destruction weapon, which serve as certain aggression restricting factor, are more concerned with regulating military conflicts than preparation to the total war;
- If during classical geopolitics the states acted on the land and the sea surface, action in the air had just appeared than contemporary states and non-governmental organizations increased significantly geo-spaces for their action by submerged area, underground area, exploring near-terrestrial and far-out space.

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