

UDC 327

**THE PLACE AND ROLE OF RUSSIA IN THE GEOPOLITICAL SPACE OF THE
WORLD**

Seilkhan Balaussa

balausa_95_07@mail.ru

PhD student of the Faculty of International Relations of
Regional Studies Department L.N. Gumilyov ENU, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
Supervisor – Bukeshova G.K.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russia essentially continues to be one of the centers of the world geopolitical process. Despite the economic and technological weakness of modern Russia, its dependence on the external environment, nevertheless, the internal processes taking place on its territory attract the attention of the whole world. Social and political impulses outgoing from Russia do not remain without a heated discussion by the world community. They are reflected in the system of interstate connections, in the disposition of international relations in general. The geopolitical factor has always played an extremely important role for Russia and determined many occasions in its public life. The Russian state is spread over a vast territory of two continents, its geopolitical border in the West runs from the Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea, forming a kind of subcontinent, defined by the term Eurasia. Russia possesses diverse and unique natural resources and vast human resources. Its land and forest tracts have no analogues in terms of volume and quality, as well as its mineral resources. All this, on the one hand, from ancient times made Russia

an attractive object of aggressive encroachments and invasive irruption of other states seeking to expand their territories at its expense and profit from its wealth. On the other hand, it invariably aroused their fears, engendered fear with its power and gigantic size, the mysteriousness and uniqueness of its national interests, a manifestation of unprecedented endurance and resilience.

In the world public consciousness there is an opinion about the "Byzantine deceit" and natural militancy of Russians, their supposedly invariable expansionist aspirations. Expressing this prejudice, the English newspaper *The Financial Times* wrote: " For the outside world, Russia, regardless of any transformations, will always be an inconvenient neighbor. It is too big to be ignored, but too strong to be trusted. It is unlikely that Russia will now become the state that other countries would like to see it. Russia will never become a tamed bear " [1].

A new wave of geopolitical research emerged at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries. In connection with the transformations that have taken place in the world are a and primarily as a result of the collapse of the USSR and the socialist camp. As Z. Brzezinski noted, geopolitical shifts occurred on the "great chessboard", which is the political map of the world, which were the result of the defeat of the USSR in the Cold War and the collapse of the union of national republics. The bipolar world turned into a unipolar one, and only one great power remained in the international arena - the United States. In the post-Soviet space, a "high risk zone" has formed, in this regard, there is a potential possibilities of not only local but also global catastrophes [2, p. 18].

Materials and methods .

When writing a scientific article , the following methods were used : The method of analysis, which made it possible to decompose the subject or the described phenomenon into signs and properties and study it more specifically. The method of analysis made it possible to reveal the influence of Western thought on the development of geopolitical thought. The method of comparative analysis made it possible to study and identify the approaches of Western and Russian scientists - theorists to the problems of geopolitics, to reveal fundamental differences in directions.

The method of analogy was also used, which made it possible, knowing certain properties and characteristics of an object, to draw the line to another, this was useful in describing the development of geopolitics in Russia at different historical stages. As a result , the authors came to certain conclusions .

Discussion .

The works of a number of Western theorists had a significant impact on the development of geopolitical thought during this period. E. Toffler and F. Fukuyama defended the opinion of the unshakable hegemony of the United States in world politics and economics, and proved the universality of the nature of Western culture and way of life. In contrast to such views, S. Huntington and P. Buchanan believe that Western states will not be able to maintain their leading position in the world for a long time due to the loss of moral guidelines and the loss of religious values, a sharp decline in the indigenous population and an increase in the flow of immigrants. Justifying the inevitability of aggravation of contradictions and struggle between the "developed Center" and the "backward Periphery", they predict a series of endless wars along the line of "civilizational faults", believing that the historical future belongs to the East Russian thinkers V. Soloviev , V. O. Klyuchevsky , N. Ya . Danilevsky , GV Vernadsky , I. Ilyin , N. A. Berdyaev made a significant contribution to the theoretical development of the problems of geopolitics. Determining factor of of The Geopolitics, according to the G . The V . Vernadsky's definition, is the geographic environment, which "imposes the stamp of its characteristics on the human communities developing in this environment. The geographic features of Eurasia have largely determined the course of the historical development of the Russian people " [3, p. 260].

Refuting the opinion about the allegedly exclusively violent nature of the expansion of the territory of Russia, V.O. Klyuchevsky pointed out that in most cases this happened on a voluntary basis due to the existence of long-term mutually beneficial economic and cultural ties with neighboring

countries, their desire to “ be accepted by the high hand Russian king ”, in order to avoid capture and extermination by some states [4, p . 311].

N. Ya . Danilevsky wrote: “You can also point to the attitude of both the Russian people and the government itself to the peoples subject to Russia, alien to any violence, to such an extent that it often turns into injustice towards the indigenous Russian people. The entire foreign policy of Russia has the same character, also often to the detriment of Russia's interests ” [5, pp . 189-190]. Noting the traditional Russian patience and kindness towards other national communities, F.

Tyutchev even expressed fear that these natural national qualities could in some cases turn into "political cretinism" and negatively influence Russian politics.

D . I of . Mendeleev, based on the experience of the Russian-Japanese war of 1904-1905, emphasized the importance of the geopolitical factor in the context of the demographic imbalance in the Far Eastern region. Predicting the inevitability of pressure on Russia from all sides, he wrote that “... we have for each inhabitant twice as much land as for the rest of humanity ... Wars are waged primarily because of the possession of land, that is, most often in accordance with the tightness of the population. Therefore, we need, among other things, to be on the alert, not to blur in peacefulness, to be ready to meet external pressure ” [6, p . 216-217].

The relevance of such a statement in the light of today's reality is more than obvious. Russia now desperately needs the mobilization of material resources and national spirit for the civilizational development of vast expanses of Siberia and the Far East, in order to resist all possible external claims to them. We must not forget that our population beyond Lake Baikal is now only about 10 million people, and 1.5 billion people live in neighboring China. An urgent and massive influx of the Slavic population here is required. In general, in the geopolitical aspect, the fate of Russia as a great power depends on its ability to exert an increasing influence on the surrounding countries, on its ability to integrate economically and politically revive the former Soviet space.

Modern Russia as a center of power does not fully meet all the criteria. Characteristic features of today's Russia are its sharp weakening in almost all areas of politics, economy, social sphere, culture, the most difficult period of reforms towards democracy, a market economy, an open society with the priority of human rights over the rights of the state bureaucracy.

The consequence of the liquidation of the USSR and the formation of new independent states in the post-Soviet space was a radical change in the geopolitical position of Russia. Its territorial space has decreased by 76%, and its population by 51%. Having been pushed back to the northeastern part of Eurasia, it lost most of the outlets to the world ocean, the most important communication routes connecting it with the West and South. Its resource base, productive capacity, and financial and economic potential have sharply decreased. Russia has found itself surrounded by states that are directly or indirectly under the influence of the United States and its NATO allies, who are creating military bases on their territory, which naturally poses a threat to the vital interests of our country.

The socio-economic difficulties of the ongoing general modernization in Russia gave rise to the opinion about the need to abandon any foreign policy ambitions and geopolitical claims now, to concentrate all forces and attention exclusively on internal problems, on the implementation of "internal expansion". But such a view does not seem to be consistent, meeting the strategic goals of Russia's joining the ranks of the world's leading states on an equal basis with them. Russia undoubtedly remains a great power with special geopolitical interests. They are objective and should be reckoned with and taken into account under any circumstances. Despite all the cataclysms and temporary troubles experienced, Russia continues to possess a powerful material and spiritual potential for effective influence on global world processes.

Research results: The collapse of the Soviet Union had an extremely contradictory impact on the geopolitical situation in modern Russia, and it should also be noted the negative consequences:

1. On the territory of the former union republics of the Soviet Union, new states, not always friendly to Russia, were formed, which significantly changed the geopolitical configuration in Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia;

2. Russia received a new line of state borders, which required multibillion-dollar expenses for their arrangement;

3. the country has lost a number of ports in the Baltic, Black and Caspian Seas, as well as control over a number of sections of export oil and gas pipelines to Europe.

Some experts, on the contrary, highlight the advantages for Russia itself:

1. Retained the role of the leading trans-regional power in the center of Eurasia, has a nuclear missile potential comparable to that of the United States;

2. Retains control over significant segments of the world oil, gas and biological resources market;

3. It is a unique transit corridor between Europe and Asia, controlling significant port infrastructure in the Barents, Baltic, Black and Caspian Seas, in the Pacific Ocean basin;

4. Retained the necessary living space for its development: occupying 13% of the world territory, Russia possesses 35% of all liquid world resources. The continental shelf of Russia makes up 20% of the world's oceans and contains colossal oil and gas reserves.

One of the most important geostrategic priorities of Russia is the realization of its Eurasian potential. Geographically, the country occupies the central mainland part of the continent called Eurasia. Moreover, it has a multi-ethnic population oriented towards different cultures. At the same time, Russia is a major maritime power, controlling the sea areas of Europe and the Far East. Russia is interested in balanced relations with both its western and eastern neighbors, as well as in the efficient use of transcontinental transit and corresponding export opportunities.

The incompleteness of the formation of the country's modern state system is one of the most difficult internal problems of Russia, which determines the choice of its behavior in the world geopolitical arena. The struggle continues to determine the priorities of national interests, which reflects the contradictions of the current "revolutionary" period, primarily between traditionalists and democrats. The diversity of views is enormous: from the need to restore the USSR, possibly on a wider spatial scale, to the creation of a purely one-national Russian state. There are three internal options for transforming Russia.

The world geopolitical situation in relation to Russia is summarized in the system of Great Spaces (spheres), geopolitical regions and great powers. Here it is necessary to distinguish between two aspects: military (military-strategic) and geo-economic.

1. In the military aspect, the geopolitical environment of Russia potentially contains a set of risks with predictable and unpredictable consequences:

a) in the west - NATO, advancing towards the borders of Russia, practically taking control

of the Balkans and Central-Eastern Europe, i.e. over the former sphere of influence of the USSR;

b) in the east - border China, which has a significant military-technical potential, as well as Japan, which relies on the US-Japanese military alliance.

2. The geoeconomic situation for Russia is characterized by the contraction of the geopolitical space: Russia is surrounded by the economic triad of the world - in the west of the EU (more than 20% of the total GDP of the world); in the east, Japan (about 7% of the world's GDP) and the newly industrialized countries of the Asia-Pacific region (APR) closely related to it; NAFTA adjoins in the extreme northeast of the sparsely populated part of the country; on the southeastern border is China with a dynamically developing economy (the share of its economy in the total GDP of the world will be, according to forecasts, about 18% in 2015, and the USA - 16.5%, Russia - more than 3%).

Thus, the leading military and geo-economic power is the North Atlantic sector. The second Big Space is China with a significant military-strategic complex, a dynamically developing economy, the world's most significant demographic potential, with a desire to dominate the Asia-Pacific region (APR) or at least within the so-called large Chinese economy, which includes, in addition to China, all countries with large Chinese diasporas. The Third Great Space represents the Asia-Pacific region, seen as a huge Pacific ring, which includes the United States. Russia is also admitted to APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum), which seeks to turn the APR into a free trade zone.

By the end of the XX century, the designated large spaces are transforming and interacting under the influence of the general process of globalization. The geopolitics of interaction combined with the processes of globalization of finance, transnationalization of various sectors of the economy, the creation of strategic alliances between TNCs intertwining within the entire geospace, etc. turns into geoeconomics. In view of this, it is important for Russia not only to reform the army to increase its efficiency, but above all to make serious decisions in the field of geoeconomics.

First of all, geoeconomics means a transition to a predominantly export-oriented model for the development of foreign economic relations, which, over time, will give Russia levers of influence on global trends and processes. This model of the country's development assumes that the exporting country orientates itself in export and import to the leading countries. The successor country provides the leading country with goods that it produces cheaper, but at the level of world standards, and often with the help of investments coming from the leading countries. This path was covered by Japan, new industrial countries and China are passing. Conclusion

1. The emergence of geopolitics as a science at the turn of the XIX-XX centuries, is conditioned not only by the logic of the development of scientific knowledge, but primarily by the need to comprehend new political realities.

2. The formation of classical geopolitics took place in the first half of the XX century, thanks to the joint efforts of German, Swedish, Russian, American and British scientists. Their research was based on the search for criteria for the geopolitical power of the state, identification of the features of the development of continental and maritime powers.

3. The geopolitical structure of the modern world is being formed under the influence of such trends as globalization and the formation of geopolitical centers of power, which began to consolidate after the collapse of the bipolar world. In modern conditions, seven main geopolitical centers of power can be distinguished: the USA, Russia, the European Union, China, the Muslim world, Japan, and India.

4. Despite the geopolitical contraction that occurred at the end of the 20th century, Russia continues to occupy one of the leading places in world politics, relying on its unique geopolitical potential, as well as on those geopolitical ideas about its role in the system of international relations, which are contained in geopolitical developments both thinkers of the past and contemporary theorists.

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