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## Geopolitics

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### **Abstract:**

The essence of geopolitics is the analysis of international political relations in the light of conditions and geographical composition, and therefore geopolitical views must differ with the different geographical conditions that change with the change of human technology and the new concepts and forces that this entails for the same earth, and in this McKinder said: "Every century has its geopolitics, and to this day, our view of geographical facts is still colored by our preconceptions derived from the past for practical purposes".

**Keywords-** (The concept of geopolitics).

### **Introduction:**

Geopolitical ideas are as old as human thought in its ancient higher civilizations, and perhaps the oldest explicit idea that reached us is the ideas of the Greek philosopher Aristotle, who emphasized that Greece's geographical location in the moderate "climatic" region had qualified the Greeks for global sovereignty over the peoples of the "cold" north and "hot" south As described by Aristotle in the book Politics, however, geopolitics serves all scientific and practical purposes.

The emergence of the concept of geopolitics was not related to the emergence of the word or term at the end of the nineteenth century. Rather, the idea preceded what is known today as geopolitics by centuries, or in other words, that the practice of geopolitics existed before it was called like this. In sociology, history, geography, travelers, and others, which led to the emergence of the science of political geography later, and after it geopolitics or geopolitics. The emergence of the contemporary concept of the word (geopolitics), aroused the interest of a number of scholars, thinkers, academics, military men and politicians, in various parts of the world, especially at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, but with different, and sometimes contradictory, points of view, from the German school to the Anglo-Saxon schools, Then the French school, the Russian school, and after other different schools, visions and perceptions differ about what geopolitics is, and how every actor in the world can exploit this science or tool in his favor, for influence, control, leadership, and leadership, or in short, for power in general, but the agreement remains, who On the other hand, about the importance of the concept in the analysis of international relations and the interpretation of the phenomena that you know today.

Therefore, the importance of this study is to try to understand one of the most important concepts in international relations at the present time, which is the concept of geopolitics, through which the determinants that control the strategies of the great powers can be revealed.

### **The concept of geopolitics.**

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The concept of geopolitics developed in the nineteenth century and a new content known as geopolitics branched out from it. However, this does not deny that geopolitical ideas are ancient, dating back to the Greeks. However, they did not appear as a science with specific basics until the beginning of the twentieth century, when a group of theories and organizing rules appeared. This science, which links international relations and how to manage them <sup>(2)</sup>.

The conditions that arose after the First World War had a major role in the birth of the science of geopolitics (the science of the politics of the globe), as the war conditions and military preparations played a major role in its creation and development in the era between the two world wars, which led to the close and inseparable link between geopolitics and war at that time <sup>(3)</sup>.

The linguistic structure of the concept of Geopolitics includes two concepts or two words: Geo, meaning land, and Politics, meaning politics, that is, this term means combining geography and politics, which translates as geopolitics <sup>(4)</sup>.

This is similar to the terms describing the land Geography, or the composition of the Earth Geomorphology <sup>(5)</sup>.

The views of the German scientist (Frederick Ratzel) 1844 AD - 1904 AD and professor of geography at the University of Leipzig are the link and the starting point for each of the political geography and geopolitics <sup>(6)</sup>.

As Ratzel occupied a central place in the science of geopolitics with more than one title, he was the pioneer of the subject or subject, and he was one of the first geographers to propose the basic concepts of German geopolitics <sup>(7)</sup>, so Ratzel was considered the “father” of geopolitics even though he did not use that term <sup>(8)</sup>.

Therefore, Ratzel was the first to study and treat the place and the site in a fundamental way compared to countries. He also emphasized the existence of strong links between continental

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<sup>2</sup> Hossam El-Din Gad El-Rab, Political Geography, The Egyptian Lebanese House, Cairo, Egypt, 2009, pg. 191

<sup>3</sup> Muhammad Mahmoud Ibrahim al-Deeb, Political Geography, A Contemporary Perspective, The Anglo-Egyptian Bookshop, Cairo, Egypt, 5th edition, 2008, p. 64

<sup>4</sup> Abd al-Razzaq Abbas Hussein, Political Geography, with a focus on geopolitical concepts, Asaad Press, Baghdad, Iraq, 1976, pg. 386

<sup>5</sup> Dawlat Ahmed Sadeq et al., Political Geography, Anglo-Egyptian Bookshop, Cairo, Egypt, 5th edition, 1975, pg. 24. Hossam El-Din Gad El-Rab, Political Geography, a previously mentioned source, p. 21

<sup>6</sup> Musa Al-Zoubi, Geopolitics and International Relations Research in geopolitics and in various international affairs and relations, Al-Assad Library, Damascus, 2004, p. 46.

<sup>7</sup> Alexander Dugin, Foundations of Geopolitics, Russia's Geopolitical Future, translated by Emad Hatem, Dar Al-Jadid Al-Muttahidah, Beirut, Lebanon, 2004, p. 75.

<sup>8</sup> Muhammad Taha Badawi, Introduction to the Science of International Relations, Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya, Beirut, Lebanon, 1986, p. 84.

powers and political forces. The large area and the resources it provides play an important role when Ratzel in the emergence and consolidation of political forces (<sup>9</sup>).

His idea of the state as a living organism came to culminate his geopolitical ideas (<sup>10</sup>), for the state for him is not a fixed geographical reality, but rather a living organism that grows and moves towards vital areas that are necessary for its survival and continuity (<sup>11</sup>), which drives him to the need for growth for the state by obtaining the organs it lacks. Even if it prompted her to use force. This view is a purely biological view of the state (<sup>12</sup>). Thus, he sees in the state the same as living organisms subject to the laws of natural selection, and nothing remains of them in the end but the fittest to survive (<sup>13</sup>). Therefore, the growth of the concept of the vital field was also made by Ratzel (<sup>14</sup>), and accordingly Ratzel's work became the necessary basis for all geopolitical studies.<sup>(15)</sup>

However, the first to innovate and invent the term geopolitics was the Swedish scientist (Rudolph Kelin) 1864 AD - 1922 AD, professor of history and government systems at the University of Göteborg in Sweden, who meant by this term "the study of political unity - the state - in its natural environment" (<sup>16</sup>). Kelin mentioned this designation in his book entitled "The State as a Manifestation of Life", which he published in 1917 AD (<sup>17</sup>). And who defined geopolitics in his light as "the theory of the state as a geographical object or phenomenon that occupies a space of land" (<sup>18</sup>). In the sense that it is the flag of the state as a geographical body embodied in place (<sup>19</sup>). The most important thing that this science is concerned with, according to his opinion, is the study of the political unit within the framework of its geographical environment. According to Kellen, geopolitics is a branch of political science that is distinct from political geography. At a time when the goal of geopolitics is a unified state, political geography monitors the globe as inhabited by people (<sup>20</sup>).

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<sup>9</sup> Adnan Safi, Political Geography between the Past and the Present, Academic Book Center, Amman, Jordan, 1999, p. 73.

<sup>10</sup> Muhammad Hegazy Muhammad, Political Geography, The Egyptian Book Organization, Cairo, Egypt, 2nd edition, 1997, pg. 24

<sup>11</sup> Abdul Qadir Muhammad Fahmy, Introduction to the Study of Strategy, Dar Al-Raqim, Baghdad, Iraq, 2005, pg.53

<sup>12</sup> Adnan Al-Safi, Political Geography between the Past and the Present, a previously mentioned source, p. 22

<sup>13</sup> Yusra El-Gohary, Political Geography and Global Problems, University Youth Foundation, Alexandria, 1993, p. 39.

<sup>14</sup> Muhammad Abdel-Ghani, Contemporary Political Geography, The Anglo-Egyptian Bookshop, Cairo, Egypt, 2003, p. 2.

<sup>15</sup> Alexander Dugin, Foundations of Geopolitics, Russia's Geopolitical Future, a previously mentioned source, p. 80

<sup>16</sup> Russell Fifeld, Atzel Percy, Geopolitics, translated by Youssef Magali and Louis Iskandar, Karnak for publication, printing and distribution, Cairo, Egypt, 1942, p. 11

<sup>17</sup> Hossam El-Din Gad El-Rab, Political Geography, a previously mentioned source, p. 191.

<sup>18</sup> Abdel Moneim Abdel Wahhab, Geography of Political Relations: An Applied Study and Analysis of the Science of Geopolitics and Political Geography, Al Wahda Foundation for Publishing and Distribution, Kuwait, Kuwait, 1977, p. 129.

<sup>19</sup> Alexander Dugin, Foundations of Geopolitics, Russia's Geopolitical Future, a previously mentioned source, p. 81.

<sup>20</sup> Russell Fifeld, and Watzl Percy, Geopolitica, a previously mentioned source, p. 11

Therefore, the post-Ratzel era witnessed the birth of one of the most important scholars of the theory of the state as a living being, as well as other ideas related to geopolitics. Kellen was influenced by Ratzel's ideas related to the study of global politics and the nature of governments, which paved the way for Kellen to complete Ratzel's approach in seeing the state as a living being, and agreed with him in That the final stage of the development of the state is the achievement of power <sup>(21)</sup>.

However, Kelin made some modifications to the idea that the state is a living being, as he believes that the state is not only a living being, but also a being with feelings and intellectual and moral capabilities, and he believed that the most important thing the state is concerned with is power, and that the life of the state depends on education and culture Economy, governance and the power of the Sultan <sup>(22)</sup>. In his opinion, geography should be harnessed in the service of the state, which is the supreme purpose of study, thus turning geography in its entirety into geopolitics <sup>(23)</sup>. That is why his views centered on the growth of states organically, and he promised that the land is like the body of the state and the capital is its heart, and that power in the life of states is It is more important than the rule of law, to confirm that international relations are relations of power and that the politics of power prevail <sup>(24)</sup>. To decide that the state uses its political power to achieve two goals: the first is external, related to obtaining natural external political borders. The second is internal, related to achieving unity and harmony among its people at home <sup>(25)</sup>.

And if Kelin had received attention thanks to the precedence in his use of the concept of geopolitics, then this concept developed after that among the Germans after the First World War, when the principle of the state as a living organism prevailed more widely, and “Karl Haushofer” 1869 AD - 1946 AD who was a German military officer, is considered The founder of German geopolitics, as he studied political geography and military sciences in Germany after obtaining his doctorate in 1911 AD, and he assumed a great position in the political, economic and cultural life during the era of Hitler <sup>(26)</sup>. Haushofer was influenced by the views of those who preceded him, especially Ratzel and Kellen. The most dangerous thing in his political philosophy was the call for

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<sup>21</sup> Fayez Muhammad al-Issawi, *Contemporary Political Geography*, University Knowledge House, Alexandria, Egypt, 2000, p. 31

<sup>22</sup> Ali Ahmed Haroun, *The Foundations of Political Geography*, Dar Al-Fikr Al-Arabi, 1st edition, Cairo, Egypt, 1998, p. 23.

<sup>23</sup> Muhammad Riyad, *General Fundamentals of Political Geography and Geopolitics*, The Arab Renaissance, 2nd edition, Beirut, Lebanon, 1979, p. 89

<sup>24</sup> Amin Mahmoud Abdullah, *Studies in the Political Geography of the Contemporary World*, The Egyptian Renaissance Library, Cairo, 1968, p. 39

<sup>25</sup> Muhammad Mahmoud Ibrahim al-Deeb, *Political Geography, A Contemporary Perspective*, a previously mentioned source, pg. 70

<sup>26</sup> Fathi Mahmoud Abu Ayana, *Political Geography*, University Knowledge House, Alexandria, Egypt, 1995, pg.8-9.

German expansion, conflict and total war<sup>(27)</sup>. Which made his writings form a firm foundation for new breakthroughs influenced by Nazism<sup>(28)</sup>.

In 1924 AD, Haushofer's sphere of influence widened following his establishment of the "Munich Institute of Geopolitics" and his publication of the famous German magazine "Geopolitics", of which he was editor-in-chief and the largest contributor to writing in it<sup>(29)</sup>. This led to the science of geopolitics after that receiving wide and serious attention in Germany thanks to Haushofer and the efforts of the Munich Institute<sup>(30)</sup>, and Haushofer defined geopolitics as the study of space from the point of view of the state<sup>(31)</sup>.

Meaning the study of land relations with political significance, and that the natural geographical features of the earth's surface draw the framework for geopolitics, in which the political facts that occur must move if they are to have continued success<sup>(32)</sup>.

As was Haushofer's belief in the biological expansion of the state and the creation of a new vital field in which to breathe, as Haushofer believed that the regional expansion of the state should come through geographical and ethnic influences<sup>(33)</sup>. These ideas constitute an important part of the content of German geopolitics<sup>(34)</sup>. And to become geopolitics, according to what Haushofer reached, "a work guide and the political conscience of the German state"<sup>(35)</sup>. To volunteer the Germans, headed by Haushofer, the science of geopolitics to serve the German Nazi Party under the leadership of Hitler, and the strategic planning of the expansionist war, which provoked a deep reaction of disgust against this science, hence the beginning to distort this science and keep it away from its basic goals<sup>(36)</sup>.

In light of this, what are the most important goals and analytical purposes pursued by this science? Here, the opinions of researchers are divided, as some believe that geopolitical theorizing serves the purposes of reflective research, the purposes of policy planning and propaganda, and other practical

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<sup>27</sup> Muhammad Riyad, General Fundamentals in Political Geography and Geopolitics, a previously mentioned source, p. 90.

<sup>28</sup> Adnan Al-Sayed Hussein, Political, Economic and Population Geography of the Contemporary World, University Foundation for Studies, Publishing and Distribution, 2nd edition, Beirut, Lebanon, 1996, p. 19

<sup>29</sup> Atef Alabi, Economic, Political, and Demographic Geography and Geopolitics, University Institute for Studies, Publishing and Distribution, Beirut, Lebanon, 1989, pg. 344

<sup>30</sup> Kazem Hashem, Al-Wajeez in Strategy, Iyad Press, Baghdad, Iraq, 1988, p. 12

<sup>31</sup> Fayez Muhammad al-Issawi, Contemporary Political Geography, a previously mentioned source, pg. 40.

<sup>32</sup> Muhammad Mahmoud Ibrahim al-Deeb, Political Geography, A Contemporary Perspective, a previously mentioned source, p. 71.

<sup>33</sup> Abdul Hamid Ghoneim, Political Geography and International Relations, Al-Falah Library, Kuwait, Kuwait, 1987, pg. 174

<sup>34</sup> Adnan Al-Sayed Hussein, Political, Economic and Population Geography of the Contemporary World, a previously mentioned source, p. 63.

<sup>35</sup> Atef Alabi, Economic, Political, and Population Geography and Geopolitics, a previously mentioned source, p. 343.

<sup>36</sup> Muhammad Salih Al-Ajili, The United Arab Emirates, A Study in Political Geography, Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, Abu Dhabi, Issue 45, 2000, p. 13

political purposes <sup>(37)</sup>. In light of these divergent visions, there are many definitions that dealt with this concept. There is no single definition acceptable to all for this term. As these or those groups of authors and dictionaries differ among themselves in their identification of the basic material that is studied and dealt with by this science, and its basic scientific principles, and this discrepancy stems from historical circumstances as it stems from the very consistent relationship that links geopolitics with global politics, and with issues of power and prevailing ideologies <sup>(38)</sup>.

Therefore, there were many sections that dealt with the concept of geopolitics, which can be divided into the following:

The first section, linking geopolitics with foreign policy, as "Nicholas Speakman" defined it in its dynamic component as "the basic work of the state's foreign policy, because it is the science that connects the land with politics, so it is necessary to study the location of any country geographically so that it becomes possible to know its foreign policy" <sup>(39)</sup>.

Geopolitics, according to Speakman, focuses mainly on the external behavior of states, as it is the most important tool in international politics defined as an analytical approach and a system of equations that allow together to devise the most influential strategy <sup>(40)</sup>. Therefore, it is linked to the planning of state security policy within the limits of its geographical factors <sup>(41)</sup>. The status of the country in terms of geopolitics for Speakman depends on the stability of its geographical location and its relationship to the global centers of gravity, and since the centers of gravity are in constant change, the importance of the location is also in constant change accordingly <sup>(42)</sup>.

Within this trend also, "John Keefer" defines geopolitics as "consisting of several things, but it is basically a theory of international behavior in which the real and basic mother country is considered. Therefore, it is a basis on which foreign policy is based, and foreign policy itself may be ... that Geopolitics is nothing but the foreign policy of the state from the national point of view" <sup>(43)</sup>.

It was also defined as "the science that deals with the study and analysis of the geographical reality or the spatial framework of the state and its impact on drawing up and implementing its foreign policy in order to achieve its supreme strategic goals" <sup>(44)</sup>. Al-Ayyubi defined it as "the study of

<sup>37</sup> Muhammad Riyad, General Fundamentals in Political Geography and Geopolitics, a previously mentioned source, pg. 66.

<sup>38</sup> Alexander Dugin, Foundations of Geopolitics, Russia's Geopolitical Future, a previously mentioned source, p. 57

<sup>39</sup> Ali Ahmed Haroun, The Foundations of Political Geography, a previously mentioned source, pg. 345.

<sup>40</sup> Alexander Dugin, Foundations of Geopolitics, Russia's Geopolitical Future, a previously mentioned source, p. 105.

<sup>41</sup> Amin Mahmoud Abdullah, Studies in the Political Geography of the Contemporary World, a previously mentioned source, p. 53.

<sup>42</sup> Ali Ahmed Haroun, The Foundations of Political Geography, a previously mentioned source, p. 345.

<sup>43</sup> Abdel Moneim Abdel Wahhab, Geography of Political Relations: An Applied Study and Analysis of Geopolitics and Political Geography, a previously mentioned source, p. 130

<sup>44</sup> Abdul Qadir Muhammad Fahmy, The Introduction to the Study of Strategy, a previously mentioned source, p. 57.

political geography and the natural environment of the state to serve national tendencies, i.e. the study of the relationship between geographical factors and political conditions, as geopolitics is based on the application of geographical principles in order to analyze global politics and study the impact of geographical, economic and human factors on the state's foreign policy" (45).

The second section defines geopolitics in terms of power and aspiration towards the future. Al-Sammak defined it as "that theory that examines the power of the state in relation to the land, or it is the theory of political developments in terms of its relations to the land. It also studies the spatial interrelationships between land, population and technical skills of The state's point of view, as it is concerned with the future situation of the state and drawing what it should be in the future" (46). It was also known as "a dynamic science that draws plans for what the state should be and embraces the philosophy of force" (47). In their book, Fifeld and Percy mentioned the definitions of the Munich Institute of Geopolitics that correspond to this trend, as it was defined as "the theory that examines the power of the state in relation to the earth... It is the theory of political developments in terms of its relationship to the earth, and it is the science that examines the political organizations of the earth's sphere and their formation." It is the scientific basis on which the art of the state's political action is based in its deadly struggle to obtain its vital field" (48).

As for the third section, it tried to combine the two previous trends by defining geopolitics as "the science that studies the manifestations of the connection and interaction between the geographical location of the state, the impact of this location on the state's strength, its foreign policy, and the effectiveness of this policy and its impact in the world" (49).

The fourth section, he defined it in terms of political processes in their general form, as the German Journal of Geopolitics defined in 1928 AD, as "the science of the relationship of land to political processes, and that its subject is based on a broad geographical base, especially political geography, so geopolitics begins with preparing means for political action and setting directions for political life as a whole Thus, it becomes an art, but it is the art of leading practical politics. Geopolitics is the geographical conscience of the state" (50).

And the fifth section, he defined it in terms of studying political problems and trying to find solutions to them, so "Hartschhorn" defined it as "an applied science concerned with studying specific political problems from the point of view of a country, so it is divided into a number of

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<sup>45</sup> Muhammad Zaki Al-Ayoubi, *The Modern Geographical Dictionary*, Dar Al-Ilm for Millions, Beirut, Lebanon, 1988, p. 27.

<sup>46</sup> Azhar Al-Samak, *Political Geography, Foundations and Applications*, Dar Al-Kutub for Printing and Publishing, Mosul, 1988, p. 43.

<sup>47</sup> Amin Mahmoud Abdullah, *On the Origins of Political Geography*, The Egyptian Renaissance Library, Cairo, Egypt, 1976, p.14 Amin Mahmoud Abdullah, *On the Origins of Political Geography*, The Egyptian Renaissance Library, Cairo, Egypt, 1976, p.

<sup>48</sup> Russell Fifield, Atzel Percy, *Geopolitica*, op. cit., pp. 11-12.

<sup>49</sup> Majid Muhammad Shaddood, *Strategy*, Ibn Khaldun Press, Damascus, Syria, 1987, p. 70.

<sup>50</sup> Abdel Moneim Abdel Wahhab, *Geography of Political Relations: An Applied Study and Analysis of Geopolitics and Political Geography*, a previously mentioned source, p. 130

geopolitics as many as the number of independent countries in the world. It is a phrase On applying the methods and knowledge of geopolitics to the problems of international relations.<sup>(51)</sup>

As defined by Automol, it is concerned with the state, not on the basis that it is a rigid concept, but rather as a living being, and that it primarily examines the relationship of the state with its environment - its space - and tries to solve all problems arising from spatial relations <sup>(52)</sup>.

And the sixth section, he associated it with the signification of the science of power, as Dugin defined it as “the point of view of power, which is the science of power and for the sake of power... it is the science of the higher active and alternative political groups” <sup>(53)</sup>. In addition, it is “the science that examines the relationship between politics and the land area, with the aim of transforming geographical data into a scientific repertoire for the leaders and politicians of states.” <sup>(54)</sup>.

While the seventh section defined it as something completely different from what was mentioned, as it associated geopolitics with propaganda, according to the French geographer "Demanjon" it is "a national endeavor intended for propaganda and education, and it is studies aimed at justifying the political goals of a particular country" <sup>(55)</sup> .

And as indicated by "Pierre Georges" in his geographical dictionary that "geopolitics is one of the tools in the political propaganda of theorists at the time of the Third Reich" <sup>(56)</sup>.

As "hitting contemporary inevitability in the connection between place and politics wears the dress of romance and the use of terms and concepts that are not far from being semi-scientific, and this is what makes geopolitical studies tend to be justistic and unscientific in some of their aspects, so they are described as means for the purposes of politics and propaganda" <sup>(57)</sup>.

However, what we agree with is that geopolitics has two complementary meanings: the first is the political practice of a country as defined through its geographical features and human resources, and the second is the science that researches that <sup>(58)</sup>.

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<sup>51</sup> Muhammad Mahmoud Ibrahim al-Deeb, Political Geography, A Contemporary Perspective, a previously mentioned source, p. 71

<sup>52</sup> Abd al-Razzaq Abbas Hussein, Political Geography, with a focus on geopolitical concepts, a previously mentioned source, p. 66

<sup>53</sup> Alexander Dugin, Foundations of Geopolitics, Russia's Geopolitical Future, a previously mentioned source, p. 59

<sup>54</sup> Muhammad Riyad, General Fundamentals in Political Geography and Geopolitics, a previously mentioned source, p. 35

<sup>55</sup> Abdel Moneim Abdel Wahhab, Geography of Political Relations: An Applied Study and Analysis of Geopolitics and Political Geography, a previously mentioned source, p. 131

<sup>56</sup> Musa Al-Zoubi, Geopolitics and International Relations Researches in geopolitics and various international affairs and relations, a previously mentioned source, pg. 29

<sup>57</sup> Kazem Hashem Nima, Al-Wajeez in Strategy, a previously mentioned source, p. 11

<sup>58</sup> Peter Taylor and Colin Fant, Political Geography of Our Contemporary World, Global Economy, Nation-State, Localities, translated by Abd al-Salam Radwan and Ishaq Obaid, Al-Seyassah Press, Kuwait, 2002, p. 191.



Thus, the geopolitical theory examines the power of the state and its foreign policy through the ground on which it is located. It looks at the political developments that the state is going through in terms of its relationship to the land, and it considers that the land is closely related to the state's policy. The land here means the geographical space in which the political unit resides. Therefore, the relationship between the geographical location and the power of the state and its policy is called the term geopolitics (<sup>59</sup>).

In the light of these visions, one of the basic premises of geopolitics is the assertion that the geopolitical position of the state outweighs in importance many characteristics of the political structure of this state. With the basic geopolitical principle in the state's relationship to place (<sup>60</sup>).

It shows how politics takes place according to geographical imperatives, that is, how geographical factors, such as climate, terrain, location, and others, have an inevitable role in shaping the policy of states, and therefore any policy that is not based on this science is not destined to survive and develop (<sup>61</sup>).

Therefore, what this science envisages is that it is an analytical tool to assess the political and military weight of the state based on the facts of geography, as it tries to objectively touch the dimensions of spatial politics in the elements of the natural and human environment to determine the relative weight of each of those elements, which enables it to determine the geopolitical weight of the region to be studied. He looks at the geographical area beyond it as a stage,<sup>(62)</sup> a goal, and a playground for strategy, and a target for players on the stage of international politics (<sup>63</sup>).

Geopolitics was also considered useful for war and its military operations, as it expands the horizon of military operations in two directions by adding political strategy to the military strategy, and by preparing in advance the adaptation of the warrior with every natural medium that is expected to become a theater for military operations. Land prepared for use by governments and states (<sup>64</sup>).

This led to the geopolitical analysis being based on two main issues. The first is a description of the geographical situation and its facts as they appear in connection with the various political forces. The second, laying out and drawing the spatial framework that contains the interacting and conflicting political forces (<sup>65</sup>).

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<sup>59</sup> Abdul Qadir Muhammad Fahmy, Introduction to the Study of Strategy, a previously mentioned source, pg. 49.

<sup>60</sup> Alexander Dugin, Foundations of Geopolitics, Russia's Geopolitical Future, a previously mentioned source, p. 212.

<sup>61</sup> Muhammad Taha Badawi, Introduction to the Science of International Relations, a previously mentioned source, p. 84

<sup>62</sup> Azhar Al-Sammak, Political Geography, Principles and Applications, a previously mentioned source, pg. 45.

<sup>63</sup> Muhammad Taha Badawi, Introduction to the Science of International Relations, a previously mentioned source, p. 105.

<sup>64</sup> Atef Alabi, Economic, Political, and Population Geography and Geopolitics, a previously mentioned source, pp. 372-373

<sup>65</sup> Muhammad Riyad, General Fundamentals in Political Geography and Geopolitics, a previously mentioned source, p. 67.

In addition, geopolitics does not study the geographical constituents of the state or studies the spatial relationship between the land and the state as it is only, but rather studies this relationship as it should be from a local national point of view, and it studies global politics as represented by this point of view, and in order to serve it, it uses National and global history to serve these purposes, and draw strategic plans that lead to achieving them <sup>(66)</sup>.

Geopolitics sponsors the development of the state and sees it as dependent in terms of its nature, potential and extent by the fixed geographical factors, namely the land. Therefore, the study of the close link between the power of the state and the land is at the core of geopolitical theories that address the study of describing the geographical position of the state and its impact on the interacting political forces. That is, the geopolitical analysis is a guide that draws its lessons from the study of the spatial framework in order to harness it in the state's policy and strategies <sup>(67)</sup>.

That is why the emergence and development of geopolitical theories led politicians to pay attention to their significance and link them to national security, as well as their interest in the nature of those theories, because they see the need for a global power to control regions with specific geographical characteristics to be the greatest power in the world <sup>(68)</sup>. Which led to the opinion that geopolitics constitute the first pillar in the formation of the national strength of the state <sup>(69)</sup>. Thus, this term seemed as if it was an abbreviated formula to refer to a general process of managing global competition in order to achieve balance or sovereignty between the competing and competing global forces <sup>(70)</sup>. Therefore, these theories aim to reach a group of basic factors closest to continuity that lead to a strong state model with its comprehensive civilized characteristics <sup>(71)</sup>.

So geopolitics involves scientific features and characteristics in studying reality and analyzing its elements to determine its features and future data, and thus this approach is able to anticipate in the light of geographical facts and spatial elements that govern the state and determine the future path of its movement and what are its goals that it seeks <sup>(72)</sup>.

Accordingly, the human connection with his policies in place is the first topic on which geopolitics is based <sup>(73)</sup>. It defines the study of human relationship with geography - both naturally and humanly - and its effects on political relations between societies (). Therefore, it has a political

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<sup>66</sup> Dawlat Ahmad Sadeq et al., Political Geography, a previously mentioned source, pg. 25.

<sup>67</sup> Kazem Hashim Nehme, NATO, Expansion to the East, Dialogue with the South, and Arab National Security, a previously mentioned source, pg. 15

<sup>68</sup> Omar Al-Farouq Al-Sayed Ragab, The Power of the State, Geostrategic Studies, Madbouly Bookshop, Cairo, Egypt, 1992, p. 71.

<sup>69</sup> Ismail Sabri Muqalled, International Political Relations, A Study in Principles and Theories, a previously mentioned source, pg. 174.

<sup>70</sup> Peter Taylor and Colin Flint, Political Geography of Our Contemporary World, Global Economy, Nation-State, Localities, Translated by Abd al-Salam Radwan and Ishaq Obaid, Al-Seyassah Press, Kuwait, 2002, pg. 94.

<sup>71</sup> Umar al-Faruq al-Sayyid Ragab, International Political Relations, a Study in Principles and Theories, a previously mentioned source, pg. 73.

<sup>72</sup> Abdul Qadir Muhammad Fahmy, Introduction to the Study of Strategy, a previously mentioned source, p. 54.

<sup>73</sup> Alexander Dugin, Foundations of Geopolitics, Russia's Geopolitical Future, a previously mentioned source, p. 59.

content because it contributes to the awareness of the extent to which a group of people adapts to the environment of a particular region of political power, and it helps in defining the national borders of the state (<sup>74</sup>). Although geopolitics is mainly a political science, it derives its roots from geography and its facts, and works to benefit from it to serve specific political plans in most cases,<sup>(75)</sup> but there are differences between geopolitics and geopolitics (<sup>76</sup>). The most important of these differences are:

- 1- It is true that geopolitics is the result of political geography because it drives the facts that this science deals with that make it a material for the political leader to use. However, the difference between them is that political geography takes into account the political unity, and is concerned with an objective analysis of its natural, economic and population environment to explore the impact of that. On its international weight, as for geopolitics, it studies the same, but from the point of view of the state and its demands in the field of foreign policy.
- 2- Political geography is a descriptive and analytical science that deals with spatial relationships related to political unity. As for geopolitics, it deals with this issue, but within the framework of higher national interests and within the framework of international politics (<sup>77</sup>).
- 3- Political geography studies the state from the point of view of the place, while geopolitics studies the place from the point of view of the state (<sup>78</sup>).
- 4- Geopolitics embraces the philosophy of power and draws strategic plans that achieve a policy of control, while geopolitics studies the elements of power impartially unaffected by certain motives (<sup>79</sup>).
- 5- Geopolitics is a dynamic concept as a result of its interest in power relations that are in constant change (<sup>80</sup>). In the sense that geopolitics is mobile, while geopolitics tend to be static (<sup>81</sup>).
- 6- Political geography is the mirror of the state, as it reflects its true image (<sup>82</sup>). That is, it is the realistic picture of the state as a holistic entity based mainly on three elements embodied in:

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<sup>74</sup> Musa Al-Zoubi, *Geopolitics and International Relations Research in geopolitics and in various international affairs and relations*, a previously mentioned source, p. 27

<sup>75</sup> Ali Ahmed Haroun, *The Foundations of Political Geography*, a previously mentioned source, p. 44.

<sup>76</sup> Fayeze Muhammad al-Issawi, *Contemporary Political Geography*, a previously mentioned source, p. 37.

<sup>77</sup> Yves Lacoste, *The Political Geography of the Mediterranean*, translated by: Zahida Darwish Jabbour, Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 2010, p. 22.

<sup>78</sup> Adnan Al-Sayed Hussein, *Political, Economic and Population Geography of the Contemporary World*, a previously mentioned source, p. 61.

<sup>79</sup> Fayeze Muhammad al-Issawi, *Contemporary Political Geography*, a previously mentioned source, p. 33.

<sup>80</sup> Ammar Hamid Yassin, *The United States of America's Orientation Towards North Africa After the End of the Cold War (A Geostrategic Study)*, PhD thesis (unpublished) submitted to the Council of the College of Political Science, University of Baghdad, 2009, p. 79.

<sup>81</sup> Atef Alabi, *Economic, Political, and Population Geography and Geopolitics*, a previously mentioned source, pg. 374

land, people, and political organization. As for geopolitics, it is the process of drawing a picture of what the state is in the future (<sup>83</sup>). That is, drawing a plan for what the state should be like, unlike geopolitics that studies the state's entity as it really is, and remains content with drawing a picture of the past and present, while geopolitics draws the state's state in the future (<sup>84</sup>).

- 7- Geopolitics makes geography at the service of the state, while political geography sees it as an image of the state (<sup>85</sup>).

From the aforementioned, political geography studies the established facts of the state and seeks to clarify the problems that geography imposes on the state's policy without addressing the solutions. As for geopolitics, it is not satisfied with that because it seeks to find solutions to those problems. When drawing its foreign policy and building its national strategy, but despite all these differences between the goals of geopolitics and geopolitics, it does not mean total separation between them, but there is a high probability that there will be a form of integration between them, given that the science of geopolitics represents the natural extension Geopolitics, and this means that the latter portrays, diagnoses, embodies problems and sheds light on them, so that geopolitics can assume and imagine optimal solutions, or portray solutions that emerge from the reality of its clear image, and then this integration in performance is a reason to move away from the meaning of exposure or contradiction. between their respective functions. Perhaps that was the same reason that prompted the American school to consider geopolitics and geopolitics as one and inseparable thing (<sup>86</sup>).

However, what should be noted is that the essence of geopolitics is the analysis of international political relations in the light of the geographical conditions and structure, and for this reason, geopolitical opinions differ with the different geographical conditions that change with the change of human technology and the implications of that of new concepts and forces for the same land, and in this context Mackinder emphasized that Accordingly, our view of the geographical conditions before the nineteenth century was the view of the geographical conditions and facts stemming from the climatic distributions and regional surface shapes, while the view in the nineteenth century was based on the distribution of continental masses only, but in the twentieth century it was Based on the correlation between the distribution of Earth's surface shapes and movement patterns. As for the beginning of the twenty-first century, it is based on the distribution of population masses and economic integrations (<sup>87</sup>), and work on space control and orientations. Global, and for strategic plans in most cases.

<sup>82</sup> Ali Ahmed Haroun, *The Foundations of Political Geography*, a previously mentioned source, pg. 45

<sup>83</sup> Abd al-Latif Ali al-Mayah, *The Relationship of Geopolitical Geographical Policy to Strategy*, *Strategic Horizons Journal*, The Future Center for Strategic Studies, Issue 1, Baghdad, Iraq, 2000, p. 75

<sup>84</sup> Muhammad Riyad, *General Fundamentals in Political Geography and Geopolitics*, *The Arab Renaissance*, a previously mentioned source, p. 112.

<sup>85</sup> The same source above, p. 112

<sup>86</sup> Salah al-Din Ali al-Shami, *Studies in Political Geography*, *Mansha'at al-Ma'arif*, 2nd edition, Alexandria, Egypt, 1999, p. 33.

<sup>87</sup> Adnan Safi, *Political Geography between the Past and the Present*, a previously mentioned source, p. 59

**Conclusion:**

We can say that getting to know the concept of geopolitics aims to reach an understanding and analysis of international conflicts, especially in our current era known as the era of crises and conflicts. Through this science, the researcher can decipher the international situation depending on the geographical map of the location.

The decision-maker builds his future political perceptions of his foreign policy in light of the interactions of the geographical location.

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