

Geopolitics Group: “What is Geopolitics” DRAFT at 10-May-23

Geopolitics is the study of the relationship between geography, power, politics and international relations including the behaviour of individual states. Ultimately, it helps us to better understand the future of the planet we live on, and what may help or hinder this being a better habitation for us and other living things. Wow!

To understand geopolitics, it is worth being aware we need to learn as much as we can about the following key concepts:

- **Geographical features:** Understanding the physical features of a country or region, such as its size, shape, location, terrain, availability of natural resources (fertile soil, minerals, hydrocarbons, sun, water and wind) and climate, can provide insights into its geopolitical position and strategic importance. Understanding how human features affect, and are affected by, environmental, and cultural factors such as transportation routes, borders, terrain, population, religion, and ethnicity. “Climate Change” is a crucial element.
- **National interests:** Every country has its own set of goals and objectives, which often include safeguarding its sovereignty, maintaining national security, and expanding its economic and political influence.
- **Power & Resilience:** Power can come from various sources, such as military might, economic strength, technological advancements, or soft power (i.e., cultural influence). Geopolitics examines how different countries use their power to pursue their national interests and achieve their strategic goals.
- **International relations:** The study of how different countries interact with each other on the global stage is a crucial part of geopolitics. This includes examining the role of international organizations, diplomatic relations, alliances, and conflicts.
- **History:** Geopolitics is deeply rooted in history, and understanding the historical context of a country or region can provide insights into its current geopolitical situation.
- **Overall,** studying geopolitics requires a multidisciplinary approach, drawing on various fields such as geography, history, political science, economics, and international relations. The field of geopolitics includes exploring how different regions of the world are interconnected and how changes in one region can impact other regions globally. It involves examining how all of these shape political decision-making, national security strategies, the distribution of power and resources among states, peace, war, progress and survival. The “End Result” is to better understand what has influenced our past, what is influencing our present, and from this gain a deeper understanding what the future may hold and how we as a species may influence this.