

Geopolitics

- is the study of the effects of Earth's geography (human and physical) on politics and international relations
- Geopolitics focuses on political power linked to geographic space
- geopolitics is a method of studying foreign policy to understand, explain and predict international political behavior through geographical variables. These include area studies, climate, topography, demography, natural resources.
- Current Trends in Geopolitics of the World
- Rise of Asia, the Industrial Revolution accompanied by European naval expansion and colonialism contributed to the rise of the West, and now the balance is being restored aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis is the rise of Asia.
- Asian countries have also demonstrated greater agility in tackling the pandemic compared to the United States and Europe.
- Consequently, Asian economies will recover faster than those in the West.
- Decline of the US+ Weakening unity of the EU
- +Rise of china+ Failure of multinational institutions+ Instability in west asia.
- The Oceans cover an area of about 361,059,000 sq. km.
- Nearly 61% of the area in Northern Hemisphere and 81 % in Southern Hemisphere are covered by water.
- The overall distributional arrangement of the land and water on the globe is antipodal with the Arctic Ocean around the North Pole and the antarctica encircling the south pole.
- Average depth 3800-4000m

Oceanography/ Oceanology: is the study of the physical and biological aspects of the Ocean. Since (about 71 % of Earth surface) of the earth is covered by water, called BLUE PLANET/WATERY PLANET. .

They contain 97.2 percent of the world's total water. Saltwater accounts for 97.5% of this amount. Fresh water accounts for only 2.5%.

Table 13.1 : Water on the Earth's surface

Reservoir	Volume (Million Cubic km)	Percentage of the Total
Oceans	1,370	97.25
Ice Caps and Glaciers	29	2.05
Groundwater	9.5	0.68
Lakes	0.125	0.01
Soil Moisture	0.065	0.005
Atmosphere	0.013	0.001
Streams and Rivers	0.0017	0.0001
Biosphere	0.0006	0.00004

Table 13.2 : Components and Processes of the Water Cycle

Components	Processes
Water storage in oceans	Evaporation Evapotranspiration Sublimation
Water in the atmosphere	Condensation Precipitation
Water storage in ice and snow	Snowmelt runoff to streams
Surface runoff	Stream flow freshwater storage infiltration
Groundwater storage	Groundwater discharge springs

India's Foreign Policy is related with **Five Arcs and Three Rings.**

Three Rings : India as emerging Power has three Security rings. This rings constitute India's Immediate, Extended and Strategic Neighbourhood respectively.

Innermost ring/ Immediate ring: is from the apprx 800 km Hindukush mountain range stretches from Afghan Pakistan Border from Central Afghanistan to North Pakistan. it divides the valley of Amu Darya (ancient Oxus) to North from Indus river valley to south.

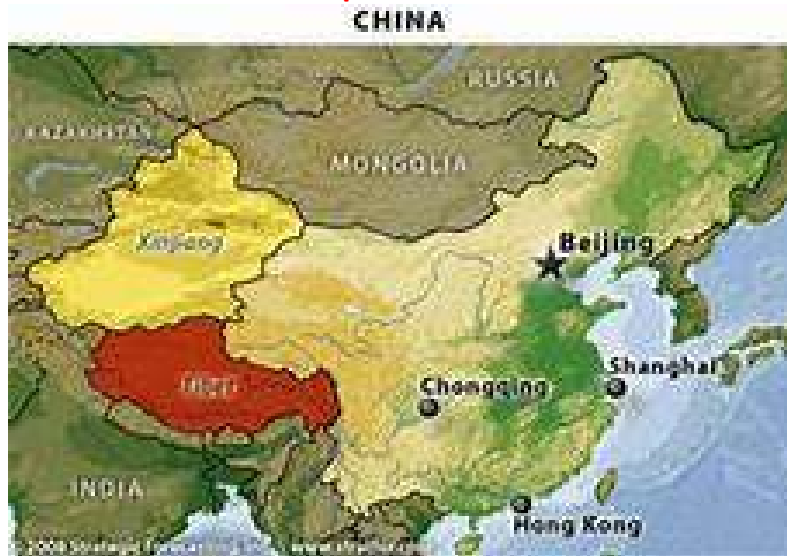
So Innermost Ring is from Hindukush through Himalaya to the Irrawaddy river.

Second Ring/ Extended Ring is from Strait of Aden and Hormuz to the Malacca Strait, the choke point of the India Ocean in the West and East.

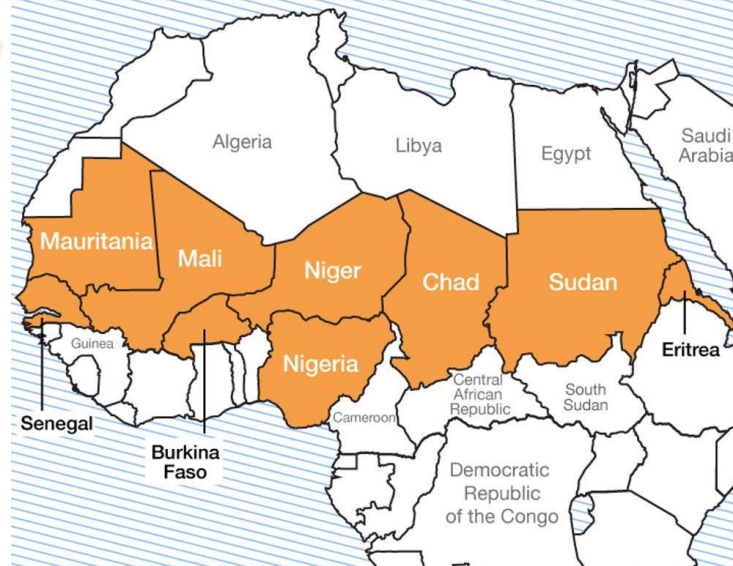
Outermost Ring / Strategic Neighbourhood : From the Suez Canal to Pacific Ocean Rim , the extremities of the Indian Ocean.

Five Arcs: India strategically located at crossroads of Asia where Five arcs Intersect. These are

1. Arc of Growth, Prosperity and Stability expanding from India. Andaman Nicobar Islands to South East Asia and East Asia.
2. Arc of Instability: and Turbulence to India West extending from Pakistan to Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf and the Arab World.. An “arc of instability” was stretching across Africa’s Sahara and Sahel region.
3. Arc of Energy extending from Persian Gulf through Caspian Sea to Russia Siberian Region and Arctic Region.
4. Arc of Communication Comprising the trade and energy sea lines/ lanes of Communication in North India Ocean Region.
5. Arc of Uncertainty- North of India encompassing Nepal, Tibet, Xinjiang region and Central Asia Countries.



Sahel region, Africa



The Sahara Desert is the massive but largely empty region in North Africa that contains the world's second largest desert (after Antarctica).

2. The Maghreb is a region of northwest Africa encompassing the coastlands and Atlas Mountains of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. [Algeria](#), [Libya](#), [Mauritania](#), [Morocco](#), [Tunisia](#)

[Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic](#)

3. The Sahel region covers a belt of grasslands south of the Sahara stretching from Senegal to Sudan.

4. The Sudan region lies just below the Sahel but is slightly more humid and arable.

5. The Horn of Africa is a peninsula in East Africa lies along the southern side of the Gulf of Aden. It encompasses Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Djibouti.

Importance of Ocean in today's Geopolitics:

1. Oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical to sustainable development

2. Oceans contribute to poverty eradication by providing opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and decent work.

3. Over 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal resources as a means of support. In addition, oceans play a crucial role in the achievement of global food security, as well as human health and well-being

4. They are the primary regulator of the global climate, function as an important sink for greenhouse gases, serve as the host for huge reservoirs of biodiversity and play a major role in producing the oxygen we breathe.

5. Oceans, seas and marine resources are increasingly threatened by human activities, including increased CO₂ emissions, climate change, marine pollution, unsustainable extraction of marine resources, and physical alterations and destruction of marine and coastal habitats.

6. the world's oceans are facing major simultaneous pressures, affecting them in such a way that the limits of their carrying capacity are being or have been reached, and that delays in implementing solutions to the identified problems threatening to degrade the world's oceans will incur, unnecessarily, greater environmental, social and economic costs.

7. The international community increasingly recognizes that developing an ocean-based economy—a 'blue' economy for current and future generations—requires the conservation of oceans and seas and their resources, and that they be managed and used in a sustainable manner, inclusive of all sectors and grounded in cooperation and coordinated efforts.

Major strait of the World





Map 1: Geographic Location of Malacca Strait



Source: Malacca Strait cooperation. (2012). Retrieved Jan 11, 2015, from <http://www.marsecreview.com/2012/07/malacca-strait-cooperation/>

Challenges facing maritime security in the Indian Ocean region:

- **Traditional threats include the military presence of belligerent powers and the consequent strategic rivalry**
- **terrorism, piracy, and illegal smuggling**
- **non-traditional threats include the challenges of climate change, such as increasing natural disasters and loss of traditional livelihoods**
- **A close partnership between these island nations and larger littoral countries thus becomes a practical necessity and plays a critical role in maintaining stability in the region.**
- **The Importance of Indian Ocean for India , Economic and Strategic importance.**
- **See notes.**



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