

Critique on ‘Geography – Globalisation’ essay

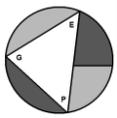
(Critical Response to Babak Rezvani’s and Caspar ten Dam’s “Geography, State and Ethnogeopolitics in the (post) Covid-19 Age of Globalisation”)

I find it easy to agree with most assertions of the author(s) but much in this essay has been said elsewhere as well. There is certainly a need for a reevaluation of geopolitics in the ‘age of globalisation’ which has been successfully pursued by authors like Robert Kaplan. However, his work has been generally uncritically reviewed (much to my regret even in *The New York Review of Books*) and suffers from more failures than a tendency of physical determinism (for example his ignorance of decades of discussion in political geography about the heritage of Mackinder etc.). Kaplan also shows an old deficiency of geopolitics: the bias of the homeland of the author(s).

There is another problem that is not sufficiently elaborated in this essay. The author(s) mention the rise to power of other actors and organisations than the state, but at the same time emphasises the continuity of the state in this age. How these new conditions reshape or reaffirm geopolitics is a question that is not very clearly answered or explored.

The article would have gained in power of persuasion by including an example (or small case study) that shows how ignorance of geopolitics has led to wrong evaluations of current political events.

As it now stands the essay may be well placed as an introductory to a volume of studies in which these aspects are further elaborated, but as



a separate statement it is somewhat unsatisfactory.

- Anonymous

Editorial Note

This critical response—and a few critical responses that stay both anonymous and unpublished on the request of the peer-reviewers in question—happen to concern a much earlier version of the article as published here; thus many of the reviewers' comments have been dealt with and incorporated in this article as published here (insofar as we agree with these comments of course).

- Caspar ten Dam, executive editor

NB: do you have any comments on Rzevani's and Ten Dam's article or the published critical response? Please send these (maximum 3,000 words) to info@ethnogeopolitics.org, or through the contact form at www.ethnogeopolitics.org. These may appear as Critical Responses in the next issue(s) of the journal. Extensive critical responses with source references may be published as full-fledged articles. Please supply your name, contact details, titles and affiliations, including your specialisms and any major publications.