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Geopolitics and International Relations: Geography and Politics in a World Divided

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then depends on hearing, and hearing on the word of Christ"; and of Rom. 1, 16: "For the proclaimed good news is God's power for the salvation of everyone who believes".

Further, it would seem that the peculiar efficacy of preaching would be determined by the peculiar nature of the word. But the word of Christ in the Church is a word of witness or testimony; and testimony is a word calling for faith. The peculiar efficacy of the word of Christ in the church will be to cause the obedience of faith. This faith is the root and beginning of the salvation which is communicated fully in the sacraments. Thus the ministry of the word is essentially ordered to the ministry of the sacrament. But their efficacy would appear to be different.

J. J. SMITH, S.J.

GEOPOLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GEOGRAPHY AND POLITICS IN A WORLD DIVIDED. By
Saul B. Cohen. New York: Random House, 1963. 347 pp.

This book is of considerable value for the layman and the beginning student of international relations. It could be used as a textbook in a course on geopolitics to good advantage. It is well organized and well written.

Professor Cohen of Boston University begins his study with a brief history of the study of geopolitics starting with Plato and including recent thinkers in the field such as Mackinder, Haushofer, Mahan, Spykman, de Seversky, and Sir John Slessor. He then discusses modern international politics in the context of "geostrategic regions" or "power cores" which have global significance. These include the United States, Maritime Europe, and the Soviet Union. The author concludes his study with an assessment of the "geopolitical regions" which have significance only in a limited area. These include the Middle East and Southeast Asia, and the Southern Continents (Latin America and Africa) and Offshore Asia (the island nations from Japan to Australia).

The best portions of Professor Cohen's book are those dealing with the *geographical* factors of the subject matter. The data and analysis is excellent on the population, resources, economic development, communications systems, and other pertinent elements in each of the important geographical regions. The only defect here is an occasional oversight such as the use of the term "Viet Minh" for

North Vietnam. The former is the name of the Vietnamese Communist forces which fought against the French after World War II under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh. The latter is the nation in former French Indochina which was severed from South Vietnam after the 1954 Geneva conference.

The major weakness of the study is the lack of ability of the author to assess adequately the political factors involved in the role of each geographic region in modern international relations. Combined with this is a limited knowledge of the role of American foreign policy in the contemporary world struggle and the forces against which the United States must contend. Most serious is a failure to understand the important theoretical and political forces in the Cold War. Professor Cohen might have been wiser if he had confined his study to geography only or if he had employed the assistance of an experienced political scientist as a co-author.

Deficiencies in the political analysis abound in many parts of the book. For example, in several places the author opposes the American policy of giving equal weight to every area of the world in containing Communist expansion. Like Walter Lippman, he implies that the United States should select only those geopolitical areas which are vital to the security of the American people and confine its defensive measures only to them. The American armed forces should not be spread too thin. Thus India, Pakistan, Japan, and Western Europe would receive a high priority in the containment policy of the United States while small vulnerable nations such as Laos, Thailand, and South Vietnam would be relegated to a minor role.

This assessment raises a vital question regarding American policy since World War II. It is a question plaguing many Americans and many critics of the United States foreign policy today. Yet those troubled by the global responsibilities assumed by the United States in the Cold War tend to underestimate the important role of Communist ideology in modern international politics. They also tend to ignore the national interest of powerful Communist states such as the Soviet Union and Communist China. Most serious, they do not offer any realistic alternatives to American policies.

In contemporary international politics it is the small nations which are vulnerable geographically and weak politically that are the prime targets of Communist pressure and expansion. It is the larger and more stable nations where Communist pressure has been relatively weak. If the United States did not support small exposed nations such as Laos and South Vietnam, the aggressive forces of international communism would be abetted and a series of diplomatic and military reversals would eventually jeopardize the security of

the very nations that Professor Cohen and others want the United States to defend.

In other parts of the book the author opposes American-sponsored military alliances and military allies. Yet he contradicts himself by upholding the need for the United States to maintain "a global network of military and political alliances" to increase world trade and acquire the strategic materials needed by the United States to support its military strength.

Other weaknesses in the book are apparent but they are less serious. Professor Cohen discusses very well the many forces which keep Western Europe divided and disunited as an independent geopolitical region. Yet he does not explain why he includes Western Europe as a "power core" on the same level of importance as the Soviet Union and the United States. The section on the Middle East and Southeast Asia poses these geopolitical regions as "Shatterbelts" or areas where a direct confrontation is taking place between the two superpowers. Here again the author reveals too much stress on geography and insufficient consideration of politics. Are not the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Angola which are far from these Shatterbelts also areas of confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union? Are not these distant nations involved in the global ideological and political struggle because of actual or possible Communist expansion rather than because of their geographical location? Might not other countries far from the Sino-Soviet periphery such as Venezuela, Haiti, Ghana, Guinea, Tanzania, etc. likely become immersed in this conflict in the future?

The book ends with an appendix written by Professor Andrew Gyorgy also of Boston University on "International Relations: Concept and Application." It discusses the four historical approaches to the study of international relations: the legalistic, the organizational-idealistic, the strategic-realistic, and the contemporary problem approach to the Cold War. It is not clear to the reader just why this brief general discussion of the much wider field of international relations was added at the end of a study on the specific topic of geopolitics. Yet it is also useful and presents additional material that may be helpful to the layman and the new student of the field.

FRANK C. DARLING

THE LORD'S PRAYER AND TODAY'S CHRISTIAN

WE DARE TO SAY OUR FATHER. By Louis Evelyn. New York: Herder and Herder, 1965. 129 pp. The original edition, NOTRE