

# The Geopolitics of Russia: A Struggle Linked to Geography and Global Dominance

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In June 2021, the most important global political event was the face to face bilateral meeting between President Vladimir Putin of Russia and President Joe Biden of the United States in Switzerland. The focus of the above meeting was to discuss an array of issues that have created an uneasy political atmosphere between Russia and the West for a long time. There was a geopolitical rivalry between Russia and the West for centuries and it was Sir Halford Mackinder's introduction of 'Heartland Theory' in the early twentieth century that laid the foundation for conflict between Russia and the West based on geography. Russia is the world's largest country and based on Mackinder's heartland theory it owns much of the area of the heartland with an abundance of natural resources that can be used to improve its power and thereby dominate the world. Russia as the largest country in the world needs buffer states with a sphere of influence over them to protect it from external aggression and further if it needs to spread its dominance to the rest of the world. However, the United States and the West's decision to expand the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) after the Cold War towards the traditional Russian sphere of influence in Eastern Europe has created a geopolitical struggle between Russia and the West. This paper argues that the ongoing geopolitical rivalry between Russia and the West is connected to the geography of Russia. This is an exploratory research based on secondary sources.

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