
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This book takes a fresh approach to an old concept: statecraft. The venerable art of statecraft has been practised ever since state-like entities first came into being. From the emperors of the Roman Empire to the European monarchs of the Middle Ages, from the rulers of city-states in Renaissance Italy to the hallways of the White House in the United States, statesmen have had to make the necessary decisions to promote the interest of their state and the well-being of its inhabitants.

All statesmen, regardless of the period in which they live, are confronted with three givens: 1) the imperfectability of human nature; 2) the need to interact with other states and to pursue a foreign policy that will allow their state to flourish and remain safe from attack; and 3) the dilemma surrounding the use of force.

Humans are capable of committing horrendous crimes, but they are also capable of behaving morally if they do not suffer from severe injustice and deprivation. Statesmen need to have an insight into human nature and pursue policies that help bring the best out of every human being. How they can do so will be elaborated throughout the book.

In order to interact with neighbouring states and pursue a foreign policy that allows their state to flourish and be safe from attack, statesmen first need to know the geography of the broader area in which their state is located and study the balance of power among surrounding states. They need to know how geographic, economic and demographic factors impact international relations, the study of which is encapsulated in the discipline of geopolitics discussed in Chapter 2 of this book.

Statesmen can employ a broad variety of tools when interacting with other states: negotiation and diplomacy, economic-cooperation agreements and the offering of economic incentives, coercion and the use of military power. How and when these policy tools should be used are questions related to the third constant theme in the

art of statecraft: the dilemma surrounding the use of force – under what circumstances is the use of military power and economic coercion justified?

While the major themes of statecraft have remained the same, the means through which a state's external relations are pursued have evolved. As the world has become more complex, so has statecraft. With the evolution of military technology that allows states to fight wars in far-flung regions of the world, geopolitical calculations today have to be not just regional but also global. Similarly, as a result of states' dependence on natural resources found on other continents and their reliance on trading partners from around the world, the policy calculations of a statesman today usually span the globe. The rapid process of globalisation – and with it the growing interconnectedness of states and people – has also multiplied transnational threats and with them the necessity for states to work together more than in any previous century in order to tackle these threats effectively.

1. Structure of the Book

This book starts off by discussing the traditional concepts of statecraft and geopolitics in Chapters 2 and 3. The remainder of the book will focus on a number of innovative concepts that provide statesmen with new tools for conducting statecraft. These new tools and concepts will prepare statesmen to face the international circumstances of the third millennium more effectively.

Chapter 4 expands geopolitical analysis to include factors that have become highly relevant in international power relationships today. The new concept developed in this chapter is called “*meta-geopolitics*” and deals with seven dimensions of state power – social and health issues, domestic politics, economics, environment, science and human potential, military and security issues, and international diplomacy – that need to be taken into account to understand international power dynamics in a more comprehensive manner. As will be shown, an assessment of state power through the framework of *meta-geopolitics* can alert statesmen to the breadth of often interrelated types of security threats that can emanate from a state. At the end of the book, Chapters 10 and 11 will present case studies that apply the framework of *meta-geopolitics* to evaluate the geopolitical realities, dilemmas and future trajectories of 19 key states and the European Union.

Chapter 5 draws conclusions from the *meta*-geopolitical analysis of key states and identifies the world's most volatile geopolitical area: a north-south corridor that includes the greater Middle East and East Africa, which this study calls the "Tripwire Pivotal Corridor" (TPC). It is argued that, without stability in the TPC, there can be no stability at the international level. This chapter also identifies the problems affecting some of the most unstable states in the TPC, problems that have turned into transnational threats. It also discusses the geopolitical significance of the corridor in terms of both strategic natural resources and crucial maritime passageways. Finally, it identifies a number of pivotal states that have the necessary resources to promote regional stability within the corridor.

Despite increased interconnectedness and porous borders, international politics today remains state-centred. Statesmen, therefore, continue to be tasked first and foremost with ensuring the security of their own state. But the age of zero-sum realpolitik is over. For a state to reap long-term security benefits in today's interconnected world, security must be sought not at the cost of others, but in cooperation with others. Chapter 6 thus briefly summarises the concept of sustainable national security that was at the centre of a previous study by the author. Moreover, it explains the three concepts of multi-sum security, symbiotic realism and transcultural synergy, also discussed in earlier works, which the concept of sustainable national security is based on. These three concepts also apply to 21st-century statecraft.

Chapter 7 outlines the theoretical foundations for how both soft- and hard-power tools should be employed. **Our new concept of "just power" argues that the promotion of justice should be the aim of modern statecraft, not for altruistic reasons, but because it is the only sustainable way that states can promote progress and stability in a globalised world.** Statecraft in the new millennium, therefore, needs to be concerned with promoting the well-being of humans all over the world, regardless of their nationality. This chapter thus argues that the best way for a statesman to promote the interest of his or her own state is to help reduce suffering in the world and to promote justice. Statesmen therefore deal with different levels of interests that need to be reconciled, ranging from state stability to the well-being of individuals and the health of the planet.

Chapter 8 looks at a series of trends that will possibly affect geopolitics in the coming years. Climate change, the melting of the Arctic ice cap, the coming demographic revolution and technological

innovations are only a few issues that are likely to have a strong impact on power relationships between states.

Finally, Chapter 9 identifies eight global interests that a statesman needs to reconcile, a concept referred to as “reconciliation statecraft”. The concept of reconciliation statecraft in many ways summarises the premise of this book: **statecraft in the 21st century should be more about promoting global justice as a national interest of each state than national interests narrowly defined; it should be more about long-term sustainability than short-term gain; and it should focus less on conflicts of interest than on their reconciliation.** We have termed our comprehensive and innovative prescription for conducting statecraft in the 21st century “*neo-statecraft*”. *Neo-statecraft* includes the concepts of *meta*-geopolitics, sustainable national security, just power and reconciliation statecraft defined and discussed in this book. The following study is geared towards a broad audience, including scholars, policy-makers and the interested public. It is our hope that the new concepts introduced in this book will be useful and can be developed and applied further by practitioners and political scientists alike.