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# William Anthony Hay: Geopolitics of Europe Study Guide

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# WILLIAM ANTHONY HAY: GEOPOLITICS OF EUROPE STUDY GUIDE, 2004
# Steven Alan Samson

http://www.fpri.org/orbis/4702/hay.geopoliticseurope.html

**Study Questions**

1. How did the concept of geopolitics originate and develop? Define it. How does Europe differ from Asia? Why did it escape developing the kind of hydraulic (irrigation-based) despotism characteristic of China, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Central America?

2. **Physical Definition of Europe** Identify some of the topographical features that account for Europe's diversity. What are the major north-south corridors?

3. **Origins of European Geopolitics** How did the dichotomy of East and West originate? Where was Magna Graecia? [From which the name Greece derives, as opposed to Hellas]. What political model is associated with Rome? What factors account for the East-West divide within Europe itself?

4. **Migrations and the Mapping of Europe** What was the *Völkerwanderung* that accompanied and followed the collapse of the Western Roman Empire? Identify some of the more significant migrations or invasions. What was the *Ostbewegung*? What was the *Reconquista* (which was completed in 1492)?

5. **States and Empires** What is significant about Europe's balance of power? What was "ground zero" in the Thirty Years War? Identify some of the unique attributes of the European state system as a "civic association"?

6. **An Atlantic World** In what ways was the conquest of the New World a continuation of Spain's *Reconquista* and an outgrowth of national rivalries? How did the Spanish and English patterns of colonization differ? What shaped eighteenth-century European geopolitics? How did the role of the Atlantic world change between 1776 and 1825? How did the Ottoman (Turkish) invasion of the Balkans change Europe?

7. **Industrial Revolution and the European Strategic Calculus** How did roads, canals, and railroads change power relations in Europe?

8. **Twentieth-Century Geopolitics** What changed with the collapse of three of the old multinational empires following the First World War? Give examples of the "ethnic cleansing" that accompanied the creation of small ethnically divided states like Greece and Turkey? What changes were wrought by Stalin and Hitler? What were some of the hardships that accompanied the reversal of the *Ostbewegung*? How is European integration proceeding?

9. **What Is Europe?** Give four definitions of Europe.

**Review**

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|---|---|---|
| Halford Mackinder | Karl Haushofer | Gulf Stream |
| Magna Graecia | *Völkerwanderung* | *Ostbewegung* |
| *Reconquista* | balance of power | Thirty Years War |
| patterns of colonization | ethnic cleansing | |