**Revisiting the geo-political thinking of Sir Halford John Mackinder: United States-Uzbekistan relations, 1991–2005**

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Abstract

This dissertation asks a simple question: Does Sir Halford John Mackinder's geo-political thinking provide a suitable basis for examining and explaining the bilateral relationship between the United States and the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1991–2005?

This dissertation re-visits Mackinder's geo-political thinking, concluding that it is a living and comprehensive philosophy consisting of two perspectives which were meant to be applied in tandem to each new strategic era. These mutually dependent perspectives include the geo-communal view of man's local interaction with and perception of geography, and the geo-strategic of a state's understanding of, and interaction with, the Heartland (central Eurasia).

Re-visited as such, this dissertation demonstrates the context and origins of Mackinder's geopolitical thinking (chapters 1 and 2), before modeling its explanatory suitability through an analytical narrative of the U.S.-Uzbekistan relationship (chapters 3 and 4). The dissertation also suggests a general set of hypotheses (chapter 2) that summarize and illustrate Mackinder's comprehensive thinking, as applied through the analytic narrative of the U.S.-Uzbekistan relationship (chapter 5).

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