

## **Chief Editor's Note**

# **The Humanist Geopolitics**

**Mohammad Reza Hafeznia**

Because of some theories which emphasize on the explanation of the relation between geographical space and power in the direction of control and domination of the world by the great powers, geopolitics was accused that domination seeking behavior of the power is justified by it, and it helps to development of dispute and war, and basically geopolitics is a knowledge which is used by the owners of political power. Perhaps for this reason, somebody believes that geopolitics is an applied knowledge in nature. Also somebody believes that geopolitics is guilty in appearance of the first and second world wars, so they challenge the traditional geopolitics, especially its negative dimension as the imperialist geopolitics. Appearance of the other approaches such as Critical geopolitics, Environmental geopolitics and anti-geopolitics can be evaluated in this direction.

The writer of this text recognizes geopolitics as a branch of political geography with scientific nature, which similar to the other scientific disciplines has two dimensions: Basic and Applied. In the basic approach, scientific theorems, propositions and theories can be produced, so the theoretical knowledge and scientific literature of geopolitics can be developed. According to this approach the writer has compiled and published the book of: "The Principle and Concepts of Geopolitics"(Hafeznia, 2006). The applied dimension, emphasizes on the application of geopolitical knowledge to meet the needs of human societies, and to some extent is under the influence of world view, ideology, interest and attitudes of the users. This aspect is the same in the other scientific disciplines, and is not special to geopolitics. In the process of misuse of the knowledge of any scientific discipline including geopolitics the users should be condemned, not the scientific discipline.

All disciplines are engaged in production of science and knowledge about

the world. The produced knowledge is used to meet the various needs of the peoples and societies by the governments and other users. This is a permanent and acceptable process throughout the history of humankind, so it cannot be condemned. Only the misuse of the knowledge and science for self-arbitrating, spoiling the rights of the people or nations, and creation of suffering for them by the users and political players should be condemned.

The knowledge of geopolitics similar to other scientific disciplines is useful and acceptable in nature. So to meet the needs of the humankind, it should be developed. But it should be used by the users and political players especially governments, in the direction of the needs and interests of the people and human beings in all scales; global, regional, national and local.

According to this reasoning, the writer of this text recommends a new approach for application of geopolitical knowledge. He entitles it as "Humanist Geopolitics", and describes it briefly. Humanist Geopolitics as a world view and school of thoughtness believes that the knowledge of geopolitics should be used and applied for creation of peace and security, citizenship rights, meaningful and public justice, public welfare, equality in living standards and development, and respect to the dignity of human beings. So geopoliticians and political geographers must present their recommendations, analyses, explanations and guidance for solving the problems in this direction. Humanist geopolitics prefers the rights of the people and human beings, as compared with the rights of governments and the owners of powers.

Humanist geopolitics no support from the war, conflict, violence, harshness, crisis, poverty, human pains and suffering, social & geographical inequality, and therefore rejects all of them. But it supports from the ways and propositions which help to remove all of them, and development of coexistence and peaceful relations among nations and states, and also protection from the environment for optimum living of human beings and sustainable development. Humanist geopolitics no support from the tyrants, as well as the oppressive actions of the rulers and the owners of power which produce pains and suffering for the people and human beings, until they continue their government and ruling. In the Humanist geopolitics, the philosophy of the governments is people and citizens. So the government is created by the citizens, and the government on behalf of the citizens must take the steps for the following fields:

1. To provide and meet the all services are necessary for their optimum living;

2. To manage all their public affairs inside and outside the state;
3. To arrange peaceful relations and coexistence with other nations and states.

In the School of Humanist Geopolitics, the wish and the view of the majority of the people and citizens are important, and the government is surrendered to the citizens, and always is exposed to the freely and peaceful critique of the people. The government via forming a set of public and formal mechanisms, continuously measures its legitimacy. Whereas its legitimacy to be reduced or fall, so voluntarily leaves the political power, and keeps away itself from using the military, violent and harshly methods and politics against the people and citizens. In this school, the relations between the citizens and government is regulated in the framework of thought interchange and critical and constructive dialogue, and both of them keep away themselves to use harsh full methods and mechanisms against each other. In other words political power must be replaced and to be transferred peacefully.

Humanist geopolitics apparently seems to be idealistic. At first it may be true, but in the long time the ideals can provide a social context for support from them, and then appear as the common values and public wishes of the citizen. So the ideal can be changed to the reality. Although the human geopolitics is an idealistic approach, but it is a basic need for human beings as well as for the present situation of the world. This approach is for salvation of the people, who are tired from the war, harshness, violence, crisis, suffering, inequality, poverty, disappointment, demagoguery, falsehood, injustice, oppression and so on. At last, Humanist geopolitics is the moorings of the polity, governments and political players, as well as the owners of power, by the people and citizens for creation an optimum living style which is fit to the dignity of human beings. In other words, creation a world that peace, security, welfare, sustainable development, justice, equality, and philanthropy are its particulars.

**Reference:**

- Hafeznia, Mohammad Reza (2006); Principles and Concepts of Geopolitics (In Persian language), Mashhad: Popoli Publications.