

# Review of: "Geopolitical constructs of international politics - their cultural & ideological roots"

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Geopolitical constructs of international politics

The idea of placing current issues in a global historical context is an interesting one, but the brief references to ancient Egypt and the Chinese empire are superficial and add little to current thinking on the cultural and ideological roots of international politics. Reflection is reduced to the Treaty of Westphalia, which, after a period of endless fighting, was founded on the idea that retreat into nation-states could be a factor of relative stability. The author rightly points out the weaknesses of this system: the replacement of state conflicts by internal cultural conflicts, faced with the development of nationalism, but he does not draw any consequences for the current situation. The Westphalian principle of unchallenged state boundaries is no longer intangible, as both the German Reich and present-day Russia have shown. The great powers are separated by very blurred boundaries in their zones of influence, which are permanent sources of conflict. On the other hand, there are ideological roots to the will to conquer (communism, colonialism, capitalism) and cultural roots (religion, status of women), which are not mentioned in this text, and which make the idea of "a well-equipped authority capable of settling disputes" illusory. What is urgently needed is not a new "authority", but the promotion of dialogue at all levels within populations, in a gradual attempt to reconcile cultural and ideological antagonisms,

In short, this text has the merit of opening a debate, but as it stands, it is far too partial and limited.

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