

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Geopolitical constructs of international politics - their cultural & ideological roots

By: Badrun Amershi

The article is about the rise and decline of the conceptions and international arrangements that emanated from Westphalian Treaty of 1648. The author argues that the European experience has been universalized in IR as in other aspects. Endeavors to create international/ regional order before the Westphalian Treaty, as well as the experiences of non-European regions, have, on the whole, been trivialized in IR theory.

Currently, he argues that the post-Westphalian arrangements are crumbling. *"We can say that the world has, so to speak, made a full turn and is now ironically at the same juncture as in 1648- with a multiply fractured world arena, extending well outside the confines of medieval Europe."*

The author's argument in this regard is clear and robust. However, his suggestion regarding the current reality is less solid. He argues that a "multipolar world" is emerging, where the rising powers (China and Russia) endeavor to create "**viable spheres of influence**" which separate the great powers from each other- and keep them at a safe distance." This claim does not consider the changing nature of power and influence. Nowadays, power is largely diffused and difficult to measure, account for, or even identify its source. In a hybrid international environment, the old categories of friend/foe, peace/war, and civil/military institutions are no longer tenable. Moreover, multinational corporations often wield power more than small or middle-range countries, complicating state- or regional-based arrangements. This changing reality, I think, demands a different level of IR theorization.