
Geofusion - New Geography in the 21st century (Technknowled-geography)

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Abstract

Who will be the winning nations, leaders, communities of this peculiar (geo)moment in the 21st century? The small, or the big, the strong or the fast the centres or the peripheries? The new points of reference may be the countries possessing knowledge and lying on the old peripheries. The way to success requires new aspects, overall knowledge and creativity, because we live in the age of fusion, networks and geoeconomy. In February 2016, in his Tacitus Lectures, Paul Tucker, the former vice president of the Bank of England pointed out harmonization of the monetary, economic and geo-policies as the indispensable constellation to make a country or nation competitive.

The lecture of Geofusion guides the reader with the help of maps in the global world of the 21st century through the quest for the winning nations, communities, leaders and powers of this age. The explorers and the geostrategists of this century are expected to present guidelines of our world full of global social and economic challenges. To do so, new maps are needed which do not miss the wisdom and tools of the old, but complement it with the new structure of knowledge. Using the lately discovered geographic and economic interrelations, the book tries to give a prognosis of the global processes.

The global economic crises of 2008 created a new world and value order, with new actors, new collaborations, new sites where the former centres had become peripheries and the previous peripheries might have become new centres. The former recipes, formulas and dogmas have failed, new ways of thinking and new methods are needed. The 21st century is the age of knowledge, talent, technology and innovation. The currency of this age is the individual idea and innovation. After the age of globalisation this is the new age of technology and the main concern of the book is the role of sites and space in this technology-led age. If we mix technology, knowledge and geography into one expression, the main issue of the book will be on the navigation in the age of tech-knowled(ge)ography.

We live in the age of knowledge, in the age of geoeconomy in a world of fusions. There are fusions in gastronomy, in music, in sciences and in architecture. Fusions are especially important because they come about unexpectedly at the meeting points, i.e. the hubs of networks producing innovations. In case of gastro-fusions, the fusions are said to appear when East meets West. And in this age of fusion, or Geofusion the raw material of the 21st century is going to be data, big data, knowledge, creativity, experiment and service with new agents and new cooperation system. The small will be the big as it is proven in the case of the start-up companies, start-up cities, and start-up nations. We witness a new technological and entrepreneurial revolution in a new Cambrian landmark moment. If we had to highlight

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one map from the 21st century as the most important map then it could be the map of the Internet with its networks and hubs.

Science is facing geopolitics. Urban studies regional issues, sustainability and social geography have appeared in the economic leadership training programs of the University College of London. Stanford launched its global leadership training program of 700 million dollars in 2015 seeking responses to economic-social issues, globalisation and technological challenges. The program of economics is supplemented with geography, communication theory, psychology and political science in the Social Science Faculty of the largest university of Asia, the National University of Singapore. Similar processes have begun at the Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary. The world's leading economic, political and knowledge centres try to redraw the maps of the world, supplying them with their own interpretation sets and legends. The metropolitan regions, like that of Boston, San Francisco, and Bangalore, Singapore wants to turn into hubs unassignable from the data, knowledge and innovation networks influencing all global decisions.

There are always people and human decisions behind geopolitical turning points. The decision-makers, stakeholders, economic, political, scientific and technological leaders of the 21st century will be those who can see the global interconnections and can gather around themselves the hubs of creativity and information flow. Those who will be brave, curious and creative enough to draw strength from the crises and who dare to reconsider the role of spatiality in global decision-making. Those who are looking for the fusions, the new frontiers either physical, natural, or scientific. Those who are building their own networks with other creative hubs and can draw strength from intercultural exchange of experience. They will be the real explorers, global leaders, wanderers of the dynamic maps who, armed with geopolitical view, will reshape the world.

Keywords: geography, geoeconomy, fusion, technology, networks, cities, culture, tourism, creative economy