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978-1-107-02734-3 - The Return of Geopolitics in Europe?: Social Mechanisms and Foreign Policy Identity Crises

Edited by Stefano Guzzini

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THE RETURN OF GEOPOLITICS IN EUROPE?

The end of the Cold War demonstrated the historical possibility of peaceful change and seemingly showed the superiority of non-realist approaches in International Relations. Yet in the post-Cold War period many European countries have experienced a resurgence of a distinctively realist tradition: geopolitics. Geopolitics is an approach which emphasizes the relationship between politics and power on the one hand; and territory, location and environment on the other. This comparative study shows how the revival of geopolitics came not despite, but because of, the end of the Cold War. Disoriented in their self-understandings and conception of external roles by the events of 1989, many European foreign policy actors used the determinism of geopolitical thought to find their place in world politics quickly. The book develops a constructivist methodology to study causal mechanisms, and its comparative approach allows for a broad assessment of some of the fundamental dynamics of European security.

STEFANO GUZZINI is Senior Researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen and Professor of Government at Uppsala University, Sweden.

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Since 2008, I have presented the findings of the general project in lectures at the Hebrew University (Jerusalem) and the universities of St Andrews and Tübingen, as well as at research workshops and seminars at DIIS, Uppsala University, the Instituto de Relações Internacionais (IRI) of the Pontifícia

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