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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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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107027343

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First published 2012

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

The return of geopolitics in Europe? Social mechanisms and foreign policy identity crises / edited by Stefano Guzzini.

pages cm. – (Cambridge studies in international relations ; 124)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-02734-3

1. Europe–Foreign relations–1989– 2. Geopolitics–Europe–History–20th century. 3. Geopolitics–Europe–History–21st century. I. Guzzini, Stefano.

JZ1570.R48 2013

327.4–dc23

2012018839

ISBN 978-1-107-02734-3 Hardback

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book has been far too long in the making. Accordingly, from the very start, I need and want to underline how much gratitude I owe to the authors in this volume, who have continued revising their chapters over the years in the light of the evolving research project. They did so even when they could not win any ‘brownie points’ with a mere book chapter that had no secure publication outlet for much of the time. Having received no major funding, the project could not buy them out of their normal commitments. Luckily, all of them saw their intermediate or related research results published during that process, mainly as journal articles (see the Bibliography for more details).

Having taken so long, the project has incurred many intellectual debts. Its concept paper was presented at the joint ISA–CEEISA conference in Budapest in June 2003, where it received a spirited discussion by Yosef Lapid (thanks again). Country chapters were presented at panels we organised for the ISA convention in Montréal (March 2004), the SGIR conference in The Hague (September 2004), the CEEISA convention in Tartu (June 2006), and the ISA convention in San Francisco (March 2008). Thanks for all the comments and criticisms from the discussants and the audiences at those events.

Two events have been particularly helpful for advancing the project. The project was part of the EU-financed COST Action A24 (‘The Evolving Social Construction of Threats’), which paid for a workshop meeting of all the participants on 5–6 June 2006 in Copenhagen at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). That workshop proved very important, since the first empirical findings, when discussed together, made it possible to reframe the entire project. Then, more personally, I was granted a fellowship at the Hanse Institute for Advanced Studies (HWK) in Delmenhorst, near Bremen, for the academic year 2007–2008. The opportunity to have time off to conduct research in political and critical geography, as well as interpretivist methodology, was fundamental for the present book. The major part of its introductory chapters was written there. My most sincere gratitude to colleagues and staff at the HWK.

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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Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), the COST Action A24 final meeting in Brussels (June 2008), the 'Uses of the West' conference organised at SAIS, Bologna (November 2008), and at a PhD workshop at DIIS co-taught with Ned Lebow and Janice Stein on 'Foreign Policy Analysis: Revisiting the Role of Ideas, Psychology and Causality' (2011), which was financed by the Danish Polforsk network. I thank all participants for their insightful comments – which I attempted to address, but was unable to do so in all cases.

Several colleagues and friends have been so kind as to take time off from their own work to read parts, and sometimes all, of my chapters for this volume between late 2008 and 2011. I am sure the following list is not complete, for which I apologise to all those I do not explicitly mention. But I owe at least to try to remember the many over the many years. My thanks go to Emanuel Adler, John Agnew, Marco Antonsich, Eiki Berg, Fredrik Bynander, Simon Dalby, Thomas Diez, Stuart Elden, Carlos Frederico Pereira da Silva Gama, Tine Hanrieder, Jef Huysmans, Piki Ish-Shalom, Peter Katzenstein, Friedrich Kratochwil, Victor Lage, Anna Leander, Ned Lebow, Mikkel Runge Olesen, Nick Onuf, Nick Rengger and PerOla Öberg.

Finally, I wish to thank John Haslam at Cambridge University Press for his support and patience. After the first reports, which asked us to go the extra mile, the referee and revision process took some time, but has been very useful for improving the quality of the book. My thanks go also to Louise Clausen and Njeri Jensen for their assistance at DIIS, Catherine Schwerin for her language editing of the first submission, and John Carville for his thorough editing of my chapters for the final submission (and DIIS for providing financial support for the editing).