

Geopolitics then and now – how landscapes shape politics

In this seminar we will examine the manifold links between geography and politics. The central idea is to explore geography's power to shape humanity's past, present and future.

From analyzing how geographical structures were key to the rise and fall of former empires to the very current and pressing issue of how China tries to secure and enlarge its powerbase in various parts of the world – the landscapes, the climate and the natural resources of contended regions have often been a decisive factor for how national borders developed.

Possible fields of discussion could be:

- **How past empires developed and collapsed along geographical faultlines** (e.g.: Why did the Roman empire not stretch any further than Hadrian's Wall?)
- **How geography keeps influencing national identity and politics** (e.g.: Is there a link between geography, the British psyche and Brexit?)
- **How current challenges of world politics are linked to geographical questions** (e.g.: Why are some regions so crucial to China's attempt at building a network of trading points around the world?)

Classes will be held in English. German will only be used to address technical issues (e.g. Quoting technique).

Seminar papers can be submitted in English or German.

If you're interested in either geography, history or politics or in all three, you're very welcome to take up this class.