# Theory of Active Geostrategic Faults, Effective on the World Politics

By:

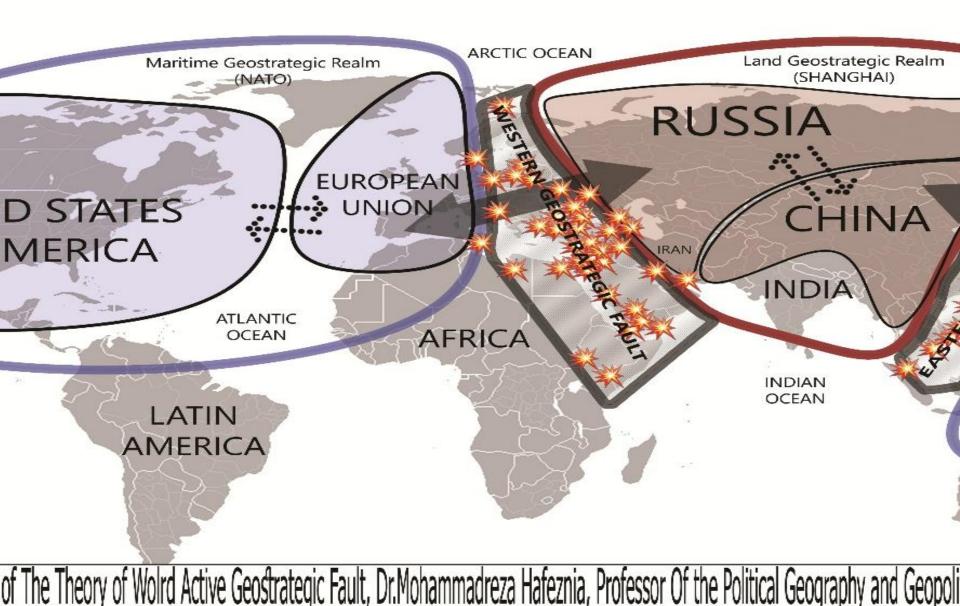
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## • Introduction:

In the framework of the paradigm of competition between maritime and land strategies, there are two geostrategic faults in global scale, located at the West and East of the Eurasia, that seems are the origin of the current and future politics of the world.

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Geostrategic Faults Geopolitics Rivalry



Geostrategic Confrontat

 It seems that USA and the allies of maritime strategy such as European states and NATO members, have surrounded the land of Eurasia, and challenge the land strategy (Russia & China) and its allies, and enforce them to the spatial contraction. In opposite, Russia and China as the main actors of the land strategy try to confront with this challenge, and reach to the spatial expansion.

• It means that in the east of Eurasia, the USA is in contrast with Russia and China, and in the west of Eurasia the USA and NATO are in confrontation with Russia. These faults have geopolitical nature and **philosophy**. Because the actors of the both sides try to increase their geopolitical realm and geographical spaces, and also try to do not allow the rivals to inter to their geographical and geopolitical spaces.

#### A- East Fault:

- located between the lands of Eurasia and Pacific Ocean.
- This fault includes an area from the border of the USA and Russia in the Arctic Ocean and the Bering Strait to the south direction, terminated to the Southeast of Asia.
- This geographical space has geopolitical and geostrategic importance for China and Russia, and it is the Achilles heel of them. So, this space can be used by the USA as a geopolitical and geographical challenge, against China and Russia.

- In this fault, geostrategic confrontation is primarily between the USA and China, and then between the USA and Russia. This space is so vital for Russian military and her strategic navy in Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- Also, this space has vital geostrategic and geoeconomic importance for China and its growing economy. China needs the sea regions of Pacific Ocean for its economic dynamism in order to import energy and raw materials required for economic and industrial activities from different regions of the world, and vise versa to export industrial goods through its neighboring sea areas to the world markets.

• From view point of China, occupation of this space, insecurity in this space or control of this space by rivals, mean threatening her national security and the power of maneuver in global economy. China shows intense and offensive reaction to this issue. Exclusion of China from neighboring sea regions in Pacific Ocean means the collapse of China's economy.

- From the other hand, the USA sees China as her rival from different facets in future geopolitical structure of the world. The US wants to limit and contract China, spatially in neighboring seas like in Pacific and Indian Oceans, in order to keep China in inferiority position. The USA strategy in this space is to contract China spatially.
- China's strategy in this region is military strengthen to confront with threats of USA and her alliances.

- Friction surfaces and points between the USA and her alliances with Russia are mainly located at the North Pole, Bering Strait, Kamchatka Peninsula, and Kuril Islands in the north of Japan.
- The friction surfaces and points between China and USA in this fault are as under:
- 1- Korean peninsula as a region of geopolitical competition (North and South Korea).
- 2- Geopolitical competition between North and South Korea and Japan.
- 3- Territorial conflict and competition in East China Sea between China and South Korea and Japan, as the US allies.



- 4- Territorial claim and sensitivity of China toward Taiwan.
- 5- Maritime claims of China in south China sea, and ignoring of the claims of Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia etc. in the region. In particular Spratly and Paracel archipelagoes, and offensive reaction of China to any claim in this relation. Vice versa, the US supports from the maritime claims of these states as her alliances in the south China sea.
- 6- The presence of the US navy in the seas, straits, waterways, and sea passages around China, and holding military maneuver with her alliances in the region.

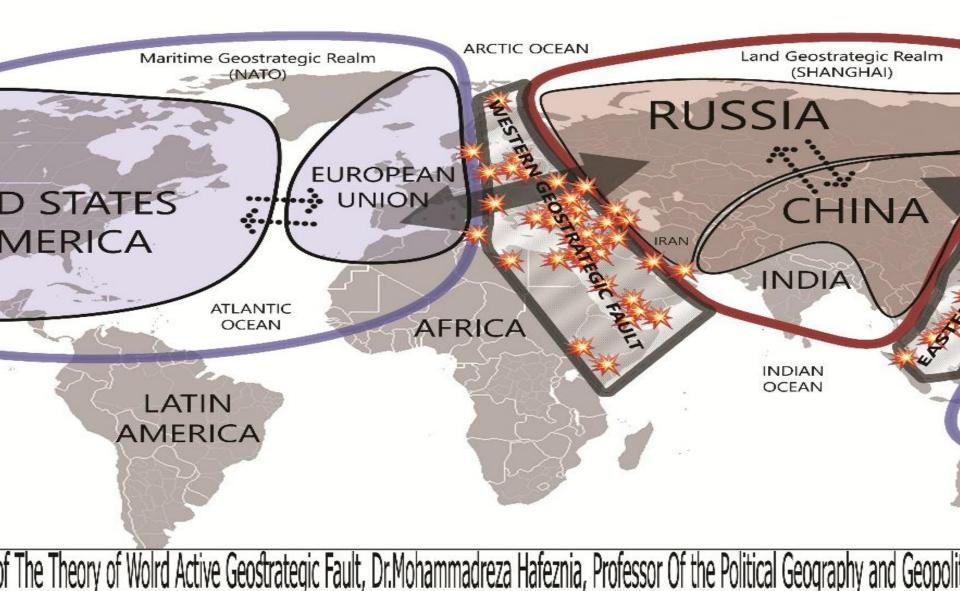
- 7- Expansionism of China in Pacific Ocean, and protect of islands and sea territories that are claimed by other regional rivals, and also holding maneuver in the west of Pacific Ocean and near to the US borders.
- 8- China's sensitivity toward international straits of the region like straits of Korea, Taiwan, Malacca etc.
- 9- Geopolitical and political challenges for China in the regions of Hong Kong, Sinkiang, Tibet, Taiwan, Beijing etc.... that are mostly supported by the USA.
- 10- Former territorializing of China in Hong Kong, Macao, and continuing claim on Taiwan island or country.

• As it is mentioned before, in the east Fault of Eurasia, the US as a leader of maritime strategy and her alliances in Pacific Ocean including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore etc. in geostrategic competition and confrontation with the main states of land strategy, including China, Russia and North Korea.

### **B- West Fault:**

This fault is located at the west of Eurasia, and includes an area from Barents Sea in Arctic Ocean and Scandinavia peninsula to the South direction terminated to the horn of Africa and the West of Indian Ocean. The space has different geographical features like sea, lake, state, gulf, peninsula, cape, strait, waterway, island, river, canal, mountain, etc. which have geostrategic values from viewpoints of regional and global powers.

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• Rival geostrategic actors of the west fault include: the USA, EU and Britain with the centrality of NATO as a maritime strategic complex from one hand, and Russia and its classic alliances (as a heritage of land strategy in the Cold War era) from the other hand. Beside this, Russia has attracted Iran as a new alliance and has strengthened its relation with Iran, in the field of economic and military cooperation, and corporation in the military operations in the Middle east, specially in Syria.

- Five places and spaces have strategic importance for Russia to guarantee its geostrategic maneuver, to confront with the threat of rivals, in particular with the NATO & USA. So, Russia will seriously try to protect of them. These places and spaces are as under:
- 1- North Caucasus region,
- 2- Kuril island in Pacific Ocean and north of Japan,
- 3- Kaliningrad in the shore of Baltic sea,
- 4- Crimea peninsula in Black Sea,
- 5- East shores of Syria in Mediterranean Sea, in particular Tartus and Lazekhieh.

• In opponent, the USA and her allies try to make control of these spaces. This issue is the main sources of geostrategic competition and confrontation between the US and NATO with Russia. (Like military conflicts in the Caucasus; the Black Sea and Ukraine; the Baltic sea and countries of Lithuania, Belarus, Poland and Kaliningrad; East Mediterranean, Syria and ...).

- Critical regions and friction points (flashpoints) between Russia and the USA & NATO and their alliances in this fault are as under:
- 1- Geopolitical competition and territorializing in Arctic Ocean by Russia, the USA and NATO.
- 2- Expansion of NATO to the east and near to Russian borders and annexation of former Warsaw member states, and in opposite Russia's resistance in this relation.
- 3- Strategic and military deployment of the US, NATO and Russia in Baltic Sea, Kola Peninsula, Skagerrak Strait, Kaliningrad and the states of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Scandinavian Peninsula.



- 4- Strategic and military deployment of the Russia and US & NATO in Belarus from one hand, and Poland and Germany from the other hand.
- 5- Geopolitical competition and military conflicts of the parties in Ukraine along with territorial separatism and autonomy in Eastern Ukraine and the division of Ukraine country to the two influence areas.
- 6- Crimea annexation to the Russia, and oppositeness of the US and NATO and their allies with this issue.

- 7- Geopolitical and military competition between Russia and the US and NATO in Black Sea, along with separatism crisis in the East of Georgia, NATO military maneuvers with the participation of Bulgaria and Romania as former members of the Warsaw Pact and current members of NATO and EU.
- 8- Geopolitical crisis of Caucasus region including Chechnya, Ingushetia, Dagestan, Ossetia, Abkhazia, Karabagh and competition and conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as internal political crises in Caucasus countries.

- 9- Geopolitical competition to control the straits: the Bosphorus, the Dardanelles, Suez Canal, Bab-el-Mandeb.
- 10- Internal, regional and neighborhood geopolitical and political crisis of Turkey and its vulnerable location, because it is located at the geographical gravity of West Fault and meeting point of the world and regional geopolitical inputs (UN, US, Russia, Caucasus, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Kurdistan, Greece, Israel).
- 11- Geopolitical and political crisis in Lebanon.

- 12- Geopolitical and political crisis and military conflict of Israel and Palestine in Gaza strip and the West bank, and the challenge of recognition of each other.
- 13- The crisis of Muslim states with Israel on deny to recognition of this regime.
- 14- Jerusalem geopolitical crisis and conflict between of Muslims, Christians and Judaists over control of this small space, as well as recent policy of USA toward recognition it as the capital of Israel.
- 15- Sea and territorial disputes and hydro politics crisis between Israel and the neighboring countries, especially Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia.

- 16- Geopolitical and geostrategic crisis of Cyprus, and conflict between Turkey and Greece as well as Turk and Greece people.
- 17- Geopolitical competition and crisis between Saudi Arabia and Egypt in the Gulf of Aqaba and its islands, Red Sea, as well as supremacy on the Arab and Sunni world and so on.
- 18- Geopolitical competition between the Arab states and Iran with Turkey, in the framework of Ottomanism & Turanism (Turkish) discourse.
- 19- Complicated political and geopolitical crisis in Syria and geostrategic crisis of the east coast of Syria.
- 20- Kurdish regional crisis, especially in Turkey, Iraq and Syria.

- 21- Geopolitical and political crisis of ISIS in Iraq and Syria, along with its local, regional, transregional (Islamic world) and global effects.
- 22- Geopolitical and political crises in Iraq.
- 23- Slept Geopolitical crisis in the Red Sea region, which activated recently.
- 24- Geopolitical competition between Iran and Saudi Arabia and its regional and trans-regional dimensions in Iraq, Syria, East Mediterranean, the Muslim world, etc.
- 25- Political and geopolitical crisis in Bahrain.

- 26- Geopolitical and political crisis between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and the GCC.
- 27- Domestic and regional political and geopolitical crisis of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden, South Yemen, the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb and the Red Sea and Socotra island.
- 28- Geopolitical and political crisis in the north, south and the west of Sudan (Darfur).
- 29- Pirate's crisis and insecurity in the international shipping routes in the Gulf of Aden and waters routes of East Africa.

- 30- Geopolitical crisis in the Horn of Africa between Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia and so on.
- 31- Political and security crisis and failed state with extremist groups such as al-Shabab in Somalia.
- 32- Reflection of the crisis in the Horn of Africa and Somalia, on the insecurity of the states of east Africa.
- 33- Political / social crises and Arabic Revolution in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria etc.
- 34- Human displacement and influx of immigrants & refugees affected by conflict in the Middle East, especially Iraq and Syria to Western Europe via Turkey, Greece, the Mediterranean (sea of death), and Italy.

35- The crisis of refugees from the Middle East, which has been reflected on the internal and regional security of the EU countries, and the growth of right wing parties in European states, which has challenged the integrity, security and existence of the EU.

### Conclusion:

• The motivation of confrontation competition of great powers in the Western Fault, have geopolitical nature philosophy. It means that the two parties are intended to expansionism and territorializing, geographically and geopolitically. Each of them uses political, military, economic, and media methods and tools against each other in the real and cyber spaces.

 Maritime Strategy actors led by the USA, try to influence in the traditional geopolitical areas of Russia, in the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, the Middle East, Persian Gulf, Indian ocean and the East and south of Russia's boundaries. It seems the goal of this action is, implement of the strategy of containment, and to contract Russia spatially, and imprison her within her borders.

• Russia under the leadership of Putin, by adopting an offensive political and operational strategy try to break the US, NATO and Europe spatial contraction strategy against herself. In this strategy, Russia not only emphasizes on the protection of their traditional geopolitical realms in the world (such as Syria, Yemen, Cuba, the Caucasus, Central Asia, etc.), but tries to expand her influence in the neighboring states. Also Russia tries to join to the new regional and international organizations, such as Shanghai, Eurasia, and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa).

The space of the east fault, has vital geostrategic and geo-economic importance for China and its growing economy. China needs the sea regions of Pacific Ocean for its economic dynamism, in order to import energy and raw materials required for economic and industrial activities from different regions of the world, and vise versa to export industrial goods through its neighboring sea areas to the world markets.

From view point of China, occupation of this space, insecurity or control of this space by rivals, mean threatening her national security & interests, and the power of maneuver in global economy. China shows intense and offensive reaction to this issue.

• China's strategy in this region is military strengthen to confront with threats of USA and her alliances, improvement of her relations with the other states in the region, creation an integration among the yellow race states in the Asia-Pacific, to break up the spatial contraction and containment policy of USA.

• From the other hand, the USA sees China as her rival from different facets in future geopolitical structure of the world. The US wants to limit and contract China spatially, in the neighboring seas of Pacific Oceans, in order to keep China in inferiority position.

## Some points:

1- West Eurasian Geostrategic Fault, is more chaotic and more critical than Eastern Fault. In the Western Fault, major players are Russia and its allies from one hand, and the US, EU and NATO and their alliances from the other hand. But in the eastern fault one actor of the maritime strategy namely the USA is against the two main actors of land strategy, namely China and Russia.

2- Although the main actors within the framework of each of the global geo-strategic realms have common policy and position toward rival structure, but the great powers inside the each of these geostrategic realms, have competition with each other geopolitically, which based on perception of their national interests. It means that within the land strategy, Russia competes with China, and within the maritime strategy, the US competes with the European Union, geopolitically.

3- Geostrategic Faults can be displaced. For example if the European Union to be collapsed, or the geopolitical competition among USA and Europe to be intensified, the western Fault can be transferred to the west and the shores of Atlantic Ocean.

4- In addition to these active Faults, there are other geostrategic faults in the north and south of Eurasia which are not so active.

Such as North Arctic Ocean fault, which is semiactive, and geostrategic confrontation is between Russia with USA and the members of NATO as well. In the south of Eurasia and Indian Ocean there is no such active geostrategic fault. Because China, Russia, USA and NATO have no geographical connection with this ocean. Moreover they have common interest in the region, so there is no important geostrategic confrontation among them.

- 5- Besides the geostrategic faults around Eurasia, there are some active and semi-active **geopolitical faults** in other part of the world.
- For example in Africa there is an active geopolitical fault located in the north of Equator line with the religious, cultural and political nature. Around this fault there are many small scale clashes.

- Also in the American continent there is a semiactive geopolitical fault between the North America and the Latin America with the cultural, ideological, social and economic nature.
- There is another active geopolitical fault in the Mediterranean basin, between Europe and Middle East with religious, cultural, social and political nature.

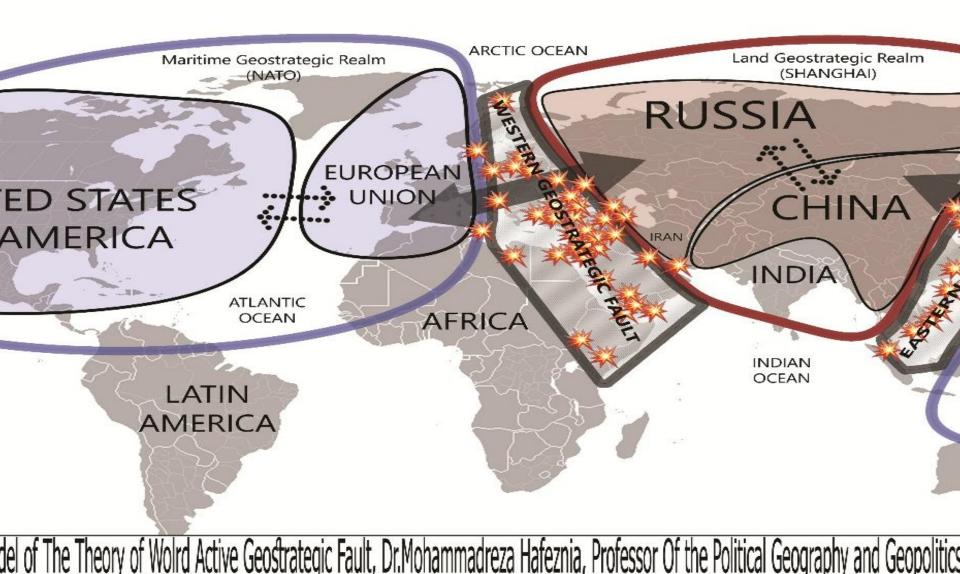
## Thank you very much for your attention and patience

## Reference:

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