

# The Birth of Eurasian Manifest Destiny: A Comprehensive Exploration of a Geopolitical Concept



## Clash of the Two Americas Volume 3: The Birth of a Eurasian Manifest Destiny by Jason Pinter

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The concept of Eurasian Manifest Destiny is a geopolitical theory that has gained significant traction in recent years, particularly in the context of Russia's and China's growing influence in Eurasia. This article aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the origins, evolution, and implications of Eurasian Manifest Destiny, examining its historical roots, geopolitical underpinnings, and contemporary manifestations. By delving into the ideas of prominent geopolitical thinkers and analyzing key events that have shaped the Eurasian landscape, we will gain a deeper understanding of this complex and multifaceted concept.

## Origins and Historical Context

The origins of Eurasian Manifest Destiny can be traced back to the geopolitical theories of Sir Halford Mackinder, specifically his Heartland Theory. Mackinder argued that whoever controls Eastern Europe and Central Asia, known as the "Heartland," would have the potential to dominate the "World Island," encompassing Eurasia and Africa. This theory emphasized the strategic importance of land power and the vulnerability of sea power to interior lines of communication.

In the 20th century, geopolitical thinkers such as Nicholas Spykman and Zbigniew Brzezinski expanded on Mackinder's ideas, developing the concept of the "Rimland" - the coastal areas surrounding the Heartland. Spykman argued that the Rimland was the key to controlling Eurasia and preventing any single power from establishing hegemony over the continent. Brzezinski, in turn, emphasized the importance of the "Grand Chessboard," encompassing Eurasia and its surrounding regions, as the primary arena for global geopolitical competition.

## **The Rise of Russia and China**

The rise of Russia and China as major global powers in recent decades has reinvigorated interest in the concept of Eurasian Manifest Destiny. Russia, with its vast territorial expanse and its historical legacy as a Eurasian power, has sought to reassert its influence in its former sphere of influence, particularly in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. China, on the other hand, has adopted a more assertive foreign policy and has embarked on a massive infrastructure project known as the Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to connect China to Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The growing presence of Russia and China in Eurasia has raised concerns among some Western policymakers and geopolitical analysts. They argue

that these countries' actions represent an attempt to create a Eurasian sphere of influence that would challenge the existing global order dominated by the United States. This perception has led to the term "Eurasian Manifest Destiny" being applied to the perceived ambitions of Russia and China to establish their dominance over Eurasia.

## **Contemporary Manifestations**

There are several contemporary manifestations of Eurasian Manifest Destiny. One is the development of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), a regional economic bloc led by Russia that includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. The EAEU aims to create a common market and promote economic integration among its member states. Another manifestation is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a security and economic bloc that includes China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The SCO is seen as a counterweight to Western influence in Central Asia and as a platform for promoting regional cooperation.

Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its ongoing support for separatists in eastern Ukraine are also seen by some as manifestations of Eurasian Manifest Destiny. These actions have led to increased tensions between Russia and the West and have raised concerns about Russia's intentions in the region. China's construction of artificial islands in the South China Sea and its increasing military presence in the region have also been interpreted as attempts to assert its dominance in Eurasia.

## **Implications for Global Geopolitics**

The implications of Eurasian Manifest Destiny for global geopolitics are complex and far-reaching. If Russia and China succeed in establishing a

Eurasian sphere of influence, it would represent a major shift in the existing global order. The United States, which has been the dominant global power since the end of World War II, would face a significant challenge to its influence and its ability to maintain its global leadership.

A Eurasian sphere of influence could also lead to increased competition and conflict between major powers. Russia and China, as well as the United States, have competing interests in Eurasia, and their ambitions could clash over issues such as energy, security, and access to resources. This could lead to a more volatile and unstable world order.

The concept of Eurasian Manifest Destiny is a complex and multifaceted geopolitical theory that has significant implications for global affairs. Its origins can be traced back to the geopolitical theories of the 20th century, and it has been revived in recent years due to the rise of Russia and China as major global powers. While Eurasian Manifest Destiny is not without its critics, it remains an important concept to understand in order to grasp the evolving geopolitical dynamics of Eurasia and its implications for the global order.



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