



THE SILK ROAD FORUM

It's Not About the 'Heartland'

Approaching Geopolitics through the Study of Geo-Gravitational Centers and Pillars of World Politics



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Wednesday, February 4, 2004, 17:00 – 19:00

Location: Lecture Hall 1, Gamla Torget 3, Uppsala

The Lecture will be followed by a post-seminar informal snack

In the traditional view of geopolitics, the structure of world powers is determined by the dual powers of “Land Power” and “Sea Power”. The perpetual theme of geopolitical studies has been to prevent the overall expansion of land power in the ‘Heartland’, allowing one power to command the Eurasian Continent. This approach, dating to Halford Mackinder’s 1904 publication, has been repeated since, most recently by former U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski in *The Grand Chessboard*. This approach still ordains the United States’ national strategy to sustain its leadership in the world. But the world has changed since the end of Cold War, and the new geo-strategic pattern that is taking shape will see its form determined not by the ‘Heartland’, but by geo-gravitational centric states. In the context of globalization, all powers face common challenges and opportunities, making the pursuit of global stability achievable if the global community is constructed along the lines of a concert of geo-gravitational powers.