Back to the Future: The Relevance of International Political Thought

Mark Gilbert, Professor of History and International Studies
THE STRUCTURE

MACHIAVELLI
HOBBES AND KANT
TOM PAINE
MAZZINI AND RENAN
JOHN STUART MILL
HOBSON AND SCHUMPETER
RUSSELL, WELLS AND BRYCE
MACKINDER
CARL SCHMITT
E.H. CARR
ARNOLD WOLFFERS
AND THE RELEVANCE OF THIS IS WHAT, EXACTLY?
GLOBAL GOVERNANCE?

THE UNION FOR DEMOCRATIC AFFAIRS

H. G. WELLS

WAR RESISTERS

THE NEED TO OVERCOME NATION STATES ACTING SECRETLY AND ENTIRELY IN THEIR OWN IMMEDIATE INTERESTS.

THE NEED TO HARNESS THE POWER OF SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION TOWARDS PEACEFUL ENDS INSTEAD OF WAR.
HALFORD MACKINDER

THE «WORLD ISLAND»

I.e., the huge landmass of Eurasia and Africa linked by the Middle East.

THE «HEARTLAND». Ukraine, Russia west of the Urals, Central Europe.

«He who controls Eastern Europe controls the Heartland. He who controls the Heartland controls the World Island. He who controls the World Island controls the World.»

Nazi Germany took this seriously. So did Cold War theorists in the USA. So do Chinese and Russian strategists today.

«MARITIME POWERS»
THE PURSUIT OF WELFARE

At the heart of Carr’s thought is the notion of human welfare and its centrality for political organization. It presents a picture of the development of the nation over time.

The Nation as a Possession (Aristocratic Age)

The Nation as a Competitor (Bourgeois Age)

The Socialized Nation (Cause and Consequence of the World Wars)

The Rise of the “Grosse Raum”, Multinational States of which USSR was forerunner.
A PROTEAN WORLD

SAIS PRODUCT OF PERIOD
USHERED IN BY COLD WAR.

SHARED VALUES WITHIN EUROPE
AND ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

GLOBALIZATION, ECONOMICALLY
BUT ALSO TECHNOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS

CONSOLIDATION OF LIBERAL
INTERNATIONALISM BACKED BY
AMERICAN FINANCIAL AND
ECONOMIC POWER.

SUCH «REGIMES» HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN PRECARIOUS.