

SOME ELEMENTARY THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES ON GEO-POLITICS AND GEO-ECONOMICS *

Jonathan H. Turner

Department of Sociology, University of California,
Riverside, USA

Abstract

Some abstract theoretical principles on geo-politics and geo-economics are offered as a general theoretical scheme for interpreting the nature of relations among societies in different places and historical contexts, but in particular, they are intended to facilitate policy discussions about the nature of relations among societies whose economies and political systems have effects on world system dynamics in Asia. The theoretical principles on geo-politics examine the general conditions leading to the mobilization of power, the use of coercive and administrative power in territorial expansion, the likelihood of success in territorial expansion, the size of geo-political empires, and the collapse of empires. The theoretical principles on geo-economics address the formation of two types of empires, those based upon dependence and those created by free-market dynamics. In closing, the relations between geo-political and geo-economic forces are examined, particularly with respect to the ROC and PRC.

Key Words: world-system, theory, geo-politics, geo-economics, China

Received May 26, 1998; accepted July 14, 1998

* This paper is based on a lecture delivered at the Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, in April 1998.