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# Geopolitics of Health

## – Subdisciplinary Research of Medical Science and Health Systems Manipulations in the Context of Geopolitics as a Synthetic Science –

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### Abstract

The authors of this paper begin by defining geopolitics as a synthetic science, as well as applied geopolitics, constituted in the theoretical level of geopolitics, in an attempt to point to the existing subdisciplines that are already constituted and which categorical-conceptual and methodological apparatus is used for analysis of special, isolated phenomena, such as identity, cyberspace, emotions, etc. Starting from the fact that geopolitics is a complex synthetic science that develops its theoretical steps forward towards constitution of new disciplinary and subdisciplinary dimensions, the authors strive towards constituting a new, original subdiscipline defined as “geopolitics of health”. We are speaking of a discipline of applied geopolitics (applicative geopolitics) that deals with research of the impact of socio-geographical, economic and political factors on endangering health as a public good in the context of geopolitics as synthetic science. Thus, geopolitics of health is a pioneer subdiscipline of geopolitics that researches, analyses and synthesizes the acquired results in order to distinguish possible abuse of medical science and health system by corruptive individuals, interest groups, health authorities, pharmaceutical industries, legal regulations and official state and international organizations’ policies, which all, in some way, deal with the issue of human health. Using the method of analysis and synthesis, the method of deduction and the geopolitical method, we strive to lay the foundation for further research advances in the context of geopolitics as a synthetic science.

*Keywords:* Covid-19, geopolitics of public discourse, global media, applied geopolitics, new reality

## Geopolitics of Health

### **– Subdisciplinary research of medical science and health systems manipulations in the context of geopolitics as a synthetic science –**

Besides containing evident *political* dimensions, geopolitics as a synthetic science unifies a variety of other sciences and academic disciplines, such as the following: geography (that is, political and economic geography), sociology, culturology, military strategy, defendology, demography, communicology, etc. *Geopolitics begins from an attitude that politics is spatially motivated and territorially oriented* and that it emerges from a symbiosis of political action of a state and the mere geographical space the said country occupies. It stresses the significance of space as a factor for maintaining and expanding communities, and especially emphasizes the significance of the so-called *spatial-geographical and social-geographical factors*, hand-in-hand with political factors when defining geopolitics as a form of *real political behavior of states* in the said spatial surrounding. In the theoretical definition provided by Milomir Stepić, geopolitics is defined as a *synthetic science* that researchers *interdependence of geographical positioning, natural resources and political phenomena* through the analysis of concrete goals and interests of not only states, but also various military, political and economic unions, non-state actors, etc. It represents a sort of *rational methodological and disciplinary mixture of geography, political science and history*, above all, with the goal of detection of realistic behavior of geopolitical subjects in a certain space. It *detects their goals, interests, plans and narratives*, which are sometimes clearly visible and sometimes hidden, and thus must be indirectly decoded from their international behavior and geopolitical discourse (Stepić, 2016, p. 19).

Geopolitics was mentioned for the first time in the work of a Swedish researcher Rudolf Kjellen from the end of the 19th century, due to which we classify it as a relatively young scientific field. The emergence of geopolitics is also linked to the period of global division between three great empires, when it offered a new understanding of the political reality. Given the fact that geopolitics is the key of objective and precise understanding of international relations, we note that it is characterized by disciplinary complexity, theoretical multidimensionality and realpolitik functionality. Therefore, geopolitics is a complex science that deals with

causal relations of *geography and politics*. It synthesizes and analyses the causal relations between physical-geographical and socio-geographical

factors on one side, and political actions, political and international relations, political organizations and processes on the other, while enabling a combined approach to the research topic, dealing with concrete and abstract phenomena; it demands for skills (gr. *techne*), knowledge (gr. *episteme*) and practical wisdom (gr. *phronesis*), with the goal of purposeful reflection on concrete goals and interests of states, state and non-state organizations (Despotović & Glišin, 2021, p. 185).

Geopolitics as a complex synthetic science slowly develops its theoretical steps forward towards constituting new disciplinary and subdisciplinary fields (dimensions). We are speaking of a so-called applied geopolitics (some authors call it applicative geopolitics as well), constituted in the theoretical level of geopolitics with basic research task to analyse and synthesise new knowledge about the method how *socio-geographical* factors, in combination with political (cultural, civilizational, political-ideological, economic, institutional, security, etc.) factors impact geopolitical behaviour of political subjects (states, ideological alliances, military blocs, political parties, movements, etc.) in specific geopolitical contexts. Thus, how certain political, economic, security and other issues emerged as a part of political activities of certain international subjects and how they can be resolved. Further steps forward in the same direction slowly constitute *subdisciplinary* fields of research of geopolitical phenomenology that, above all, refers to certain aspects of singular geopolitical behavior (activities) of certain political or social subjects. In this sense, we will mention some concrete examples of possible new subdisciplines of geopolitics, such as the following: geopolitics of identity, geopolitics of poverty (as a part of *economic geopolitics*) (see Despotović & Đurić, 2016), geopolitics of destruction, geopolitics of the Internet (*cyber geopolitics*), geopolitics of health in the context of *geopolitics of globalization*, geopolitics of public discourse in the context of geopolitics of media, etc. Moreover, we can speak also of geopolitics of emotions and geopolitics of soap operas (Mojsi, 2012; Mojsi, 2016) or geopolitics of chaos (Ramone, 1998), geopolitics of food and geopolitics (Petrović Piroćanac, 2008a) of water (Petrović Piroćanac, 2008b), and geopolitics of energy (Petrović Piroćanac, 2010).

Further disciplinary, methodological and theoretical development of geopolitics as a whole will depend, above all, on the need for researching new challenges emerging almost on a daily basis, thus inducing the need for geopolitics to take active participation in their decoding. In such way, as a real and basic

social science, it will maintain the constant need for adjusting its theoretical-methodological matrix to the importance of new research challenges, given that, realistically speaking, natural-geographical factors are increasingly decreasing, that is, losing their significance when faced with social-geographical and political-economic processes of the “post-modern” world (Despotović, 2022, p. 80).

### **Geopolitics of Health – Subdisciplinary Definition**

*Geopolitics of health* is a subdiscipline of *applied geopolitics* (applicative geopolitics) which deals with research of impact of socio-geographical, economic and political factors on endangerment of *human health* as a *public good* in the context of geopolitics as a synthetic science. It analyses the behaviour of states, governments, medical institutions, scientific organizations, higher education facilities, pharmaceutical corporations, the World Health Organization (as an IGO), as well as other organizations, institutions and associations, as well as significant individuals who, upon gaining legal approval, deal with human health, medical treatment of citizens or organize health systems, produce medicine and other means (medicinal and non-medicinal logistics) in order to work efficiently and safely, without causing harm to patients’ health. Thus, geopolitics of health is a pioneer subdiscipline of geopolitics which, as previously defined by subject, researches, analyzes and synthesizes the acquired results in order to distinguish *possible abuse of medical science and health systems* by corruptive individuals, interest groups, health officials, pharmaceutical industry, legal regulations and official state and international organizations’ policies that in any way deal with the issue of human health.

Thus, geopolitics of health researches *political forms and economic-financial methods of endangering health security* of a vast number of citizens, starting from a territorial unit of a certain state, region or pan-space, and especially the types of illnesses with a pandemic potential or the ones that have already achieved such an effect (including chronic and acute illnesses that affect and that might result in death of a vast number of patients). Moreover, geopolitics of health also researches the manipulative role of media acting as a vasa transmission of elites, globalized on a communicational level, that generate social phobias (fears), spread panic, format public discourse, determine limitations of political correctness, as well as approachability or complete lockout of institutions, scientists or individuals whose public appearances or scientific attitudes do not complement the official version of the so-called *new reality* and interests that stand behind it. Geopolitics of health must inevitably tend to research

the previously mentioned processes to the extent to which relevant sources (reliable scientific research and official documentation) are available to it, as well as to distinguish *cryptopolitical dimensions* and *conspiratorial essence of organized endangerment of health of citizens as a mass phenomenon* affecting grand territorial areas (entities). It is not a rare occurrence that we are speaking of an organized endangerment of health conducted by the state institutions, medical organizations, interest groups and greedy individuals who, legally speaking and in terms of legal and professional responsibility, should be the backbone of its preservation. Therefore, they should organize the health system and the supporting logistics, which is supposed to maintain *health* as a basic *public good and interest of citizens* and take measures and steps towards protection of their comprehensive safety and security.

The examples of abuse of the beforementioned attitudes are consisted in an even wider set of measures for the so-called *global depopulation*. The said measures are more than a century old, but have gained a momentum through the actions of the “Roman club” and similar organizations during the sixth decade of the previous century (based on the quasi scientific stances of social Darwinism, Malthusianism, Eugenics and similar doctrines), which saw an intensified emergence of programs of population number reduction, justified by the problems generated in the fields of food production, water, energy, medicine, technology, etc. (Medouz et al., 1974; Mesarović & Pestel, 1976; Laslo, 1979). Quickly afterwards, in the seventies of the previous century, scientific research were conducted, albeit the results are visible and partially available to the public just nowadays, and especially when speaking of malicious consequences they caused. At this moment, we will mention some of the beforementioned consequences, with the goal of providing a clear illustration of the said processes, without elaborating their deeper exegesis. The National Institute of Health (NIH) of the United States of America introduced during the previously mentioned period a set of activities revolving around recombination of viruses in order to enable, for example, easier spread of malicious diseases or until that moment unknown strains of flu (bird, swine, etc.) by droplets, as well as the use of radiation for acceleration of spread of certain types of malicious diseases, etc. The military components of the health system (especially research laboratories) took quite an active participation in these activities, especially during the presidency of Richard Nixon in the US, when they developed the so-called *oncogenic* viruses as the main transmitters for proliferation of carcinogenic diseases. These, as well as similar activities, prove that the measures for global

depopulation were carefully planned, well-organized, precisely determined and time bound. This was undoubtedly the case with the so-called *Covid-19* (*SARS-CoV-2 virus*) pandemic, which will be elaborated in more detail in the following segment of our paper (Stojanović, 2022, p. 131).

In the end of this segment, we deem ourselves obligated to direct our engaged approach towards reaffirmation of humane and humanitarian component of protection of health and health security in the widest sense. Moreover, we stand for surpassing *neoliberal and profit-oriented model* of organization of the health system and health protection, all in the goal of providing as best medical services to patients as possible. *Healthcare and treatment of patient expenses* must, above all, be charged at the expense of the state and its institutions, as much as the said would be such a big financial endeavor and logistical task. Moreover, this should not be motivated by false humanism of the *new Western left-wing*, but due to the fact that this is, in fact, in the interest of every democratic *national state*, organized on the principle of the rule of law. Thereby, we stress that only *healthy citizens* can support such state (that is, work, pay taxes and fill the budget), but also defend it from the external or internal threats to security and defend the political and legal order. The (post)modern societies will either become *healthy societies* or they will perish all together with its state creations on the periphery of the globalized world, lost in the *dehumanized future of transhumanism, artificial intelligence and a possible end of the history of homo sapiens*.

### **Geopolitics of Public Discourse – The Role of Global Media in the Creation of the “New Reality”**

Geopolitics of public discourse is constituted as a subdiscipline of geopolitics of media (Despotović & Jevtović, 2019) which, as a discipline of applied (applicative) geopolitics, examines the role of media in the global spatial area. Let us remind ourselves that defining public discourse is one of the most significant aspects of social power that is fruitfully being used during the last decades. There is a functional link between language and power, since power is being realized and embodied through language, especially the one existing in public area and media communication. We deem it as quite significant to stress the geopolitical function of language, given that language is “not only a reflection of material power in a society, but it also serves as space in which meanings of social relations are being produced” (Pavličević, 2020, p. 286). It is not a mere symbolic function of a space transferred into geopolitical axis of politics and language understood as an instrument of power of globalizing elites, but a real scope of power in which

coding of meaning of public discourse intended for certain spaces (regional or pan-spaces), or in fact global spaces taken as a whole, is being conducted. Specifically, we will explain it here through the term media propaganda in order to grasp a better understanding of its role in the so-called Covid-19 pandemic.

The media propaganda that was organized through media system of communication represents a planned activity directed towards formulation and spread of predominantly political content. The basic role of such propaganda is depicted in the need for winning over people and their support for certain political subjects, their politics, personal government officials or contents offered to the political public. The power of hegemonistic discourse transmitted through the media is built from the support of a majority of the public (citizens) who accept the offered content as a matter of “common sense”, that is, as a part of the alleged universal corpus of values that are being spread, and without any critical distance and elementary reflection. The power of media is such that it imposes its mobilizational function of acceptance of the existing relations as the main intermediary link, without leaving even the smallest space for its contestation or public debate. The best and most recent example of such domination is imposition of the official version of the so-called Covid-19 pandemic, without any possibility of any, not even the slightest insight or professional penetration into its manipulative contents.

Therefore, the social consensus, as an assumed consent on important values of a community, has undoubtedly turned into the ideological hegemony of globalism, whilst the role of media is dishonorable and reduced to a mere service of power. The reality of practical interests of hegemony are presented before us as universal, or even personal and undisputable truths, thus giving them a distorted image of existence. The communicational procedure of coding – transcoding – decoding is monopolized and under full control of the globalizing elites. Behind everything was and is the hidden structure of hierarchy of hegemonism, with the globalizing elites on the top, followed by the political elites as their transmission points, then the vasa media and academic elites, bureaucratic government apparatus, whilst on the mere bottom of the pyramid are the cooperative masses (the poor peasants), which ignorance and endurance are highly regarded by their new-old masters.

Right at this moment, it should be clearly noted the fact that the almost neutral term of political correctness hides quite serious forms of social censorship. The mask of political correctness hides the silent conduct of social and political censorship of frightening proportions, directed towards everything in public

discourse which is not in line with the standards of the ruling elite, as a clear proof of their overall power. Obviously, we are speaking of the formation of the new informational and communicational order as a subsystem of the overall order that is being built, and thus the media are put in the service of the elites, and not the citizens who pay for all of that and in whose service, by all means of law, they should be. The so-called micro-opinions are being created on a national level and adjusted to the specifics of the local level in such a way that global interests are protected. This control mechanism was especially obvious in the media discourse that ruled the era of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, no matter the spatial area we are speaking of, whether it is global or local, everything is synchronized and directed towards the same goals (Despotović, 2022, p. 240).

In the fields of education and science as well, the said malicious processes have achieved exceptional efficacy. Abuses of these subsystems, vital for every nation, as well as the overtake of the control over them, was a strategic goal of the globalizing elites and their local Trabants, which worked for the interests of their foreign masters, either as a part of the mere systems of education and science or yet as a part of state and institutional bureaucracy that should follow and offer support services. This level of mutual coordination should also have been clearly recognized during the course of the previously mentioned pandemic, but also in other segments of human health manipulations for the interest of global elites and their business organizations and companies that achieved enormous profits. Let us take as an example the public announcement of annual financial reports of pharmaceutical companies Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, etc., for the year of 2021, and the conspirative context of cryptopolitics (Despotović & Glišin, 2021, p. 72) of instant provision of bare numbers becomes completely visible and clear even to the so-called simple man, who was its typical victim.

Therefore, the basic role of media in the previously defined context is to induce social fears and direct them towards the previously set and controlled goals. Thus, the indefatigable media, day by day, bombed their consumers with numerous information on the number of tested, newly infected, hospitalized patients, patients with hard condition, and especially with the numbers of infected individuals on ventilators and, of course, with bizarre information about the daily lethal results of the pandemic on a national, regional, continental and global level. Not any other illness before has provoked such a media campaign, and the media even simply distracted the attention of their users by the vast amounts of information, not leaving them a single moment for “rest”, not even in the periods when the

alleged pandemic begun subsiding (at least when speaking of the number of infected that were being presented), or some other important events (armed conflicts, terrorist actions, natural disasters, especially the ones that were supposed to convince the audience that they have emerged as a consequence of climate change and are a malicious result of the alleged actions of the humanity, economic and financial crises, etc) could, at least for a short period of time, drive attention from the Covid-19 pandemic. This was being conducted in such a way that the smokescreen of socially induced fears blocked the perception of citizens and hid other malicious processes of allocation of financial resources (through the state health funds arriving from the “pockets” of citizens into the “hands” of the pathologically rich global structures of power) and, in parallel with that, the insufficiently visible measures of depopulation were conducted as well.

The actions and works of numerous scientists and academic structures (except certain honorable individuals), depicted in corruptive financing methods above all, but also personal benefits of such sorts, put science and education in the function of dishonorable and irresponsible endangerment of health of vast numbers of people. Not a small part of them naively and non-critically gave in to manipulation processes only due to the fact that these processes were hidden in the masking notion of the alleged scientific objectiveness and medical foundations. Therefore, out of negligence or naivete, they have become “both victims and executioners” of their sincere care for the health of citizens or, better said, its devastation and comprehensive endangerment.

Decades before the outbreak of the pandemic (on the micro plan), the pathological guild-related connection of medical workers, and especially its highest systemic levels, based on the principle of clans, was easily noticed; the said guild connection has taken off and grown to the level of pseudo-religious forms of manifestation. It is not a rare occasion that it has gained the features of “sect awareness”, nurtured on the myth of excellence, highly present on the Atlantistic West, which allegedly gave them the right to observe the rest of the so-called common, non-guild world or their colleagues on lower positions, with contempt and underestimation. Such organization and behavior generated a variety of negative social capital. Some of the members of the medical guild perceived the medical system predominantly as the means for achieving a higher academic status (followed by the appurtenant social, political and financial attributes) as the final result, directed towards achieving personal benefits. This contemptuous and instrumental relation towards their patients, perceived as the

rest of the so-called “profane world”, is more and more evident, and it tragically depicts to which extent it is possible to compromise the basic mission of the medical profession, founded on the Hippocratic oath. To that extent is stranger the silence of the majority of medical professionals who remained loyal to their high ideals of humanity and knowledge, dedicated to the good of their patients and preservation of their health as a foundation of any other well-being. Let us hope that the times that are coming, albeit riddled with challenges, will still be an opportunity for giving more space for moral refoundation of medical profession and its return to the “old” values, directed towards preservation of health of patients. In one word, an opportunity for the return to the true health system, based on ethical principles.<sup>1</sup>

### Conclusion

Starting from geopolitics as a synthetic science and its basic theoretical and methodological postulates and pointing to theoretical advances towards the constitution of new disciplinary and sub-disciplinary fields in the context of applied geopolitics, we tried to constitute a new sub-discipline within the framework of applied geopolitics that deals with researching the impact of socio-geographical, economic and political factors on endangering people's health as a public good. The set theoretical framework offers the necessary guidelines for further practical study and analysis of the set subject and research problem, which we consider a significant scientific step forward. An inseparable part of our work is the geopolitics of public discourse, which deals with the role of the media with the aim of decoding and unmasking the intentions of those who create public discourse through the media and mask the facts with numerous information, both in the context of health geopolitics and in the context of other

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<sup>1</sup> A rare, but still brilliant example that illustrates the previously mentioned stance the best refers to doctor Rita Celli from the University in Rome, who proved in her research that the tissues of two Serbs, victims of NATO bombings, consisted 500 times more than the normal quantity of poisonous uranium. With this, she reminded us that there is a medical metrics that proves the entire destructiveness of the NATO bombing in 1999. Let us also remember the Italian case of 8 000 sick Italian soldiers who previously spent time in Kosovo and Metohija, whilst about 400 of them died as a consequence of depleted uranium contamination. The lawyer Angelo Fiore Tartaglia has, for many years now, been battling for the truth and has proven and won in court in more than 180 cases (see: Consequences of NATO Bombing, 2022; U serbov, 2022; Piccin, 2022; [blooddiamonds.org](http://blooddiamonds.org), 2022).

subdisciplines of applied geopolitics.

Given that our focus is on health as a public good in the context, above all, of the Covid-19 pandemic, we attempted to maintain objectiveness of our paper as much as possible, having in mind that the pandemic process is still ongoing, and that the final and relevant scientific proofs of its complex and multidimensional essence will be waited for quite some time, if we even ever reach the final truth regarding its true nature, use and purpose. The purpose which, as it is obvious even nowadays, was medical the least, but more profitable and manipulative, used as one of the numerous measures of depopulation that have, for decades now, been implemented by the globalizing elites, with more or less success. In the end, let us hope that our original theoretical intention to create a new subdiscipline of geopolitics – geopolitics of health resulted, to a great extent, in success.

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## Geopolitika zdravlja

### – *Subdisciplinarno istraživanje manipulacija medicinskom naukom i zdravstvenim sistemima u kontekstu geopolitike kao sintezne nauke* –

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#### Sažetak

U radu polazimo od geopolitike kao sintezne nauke i primenjene geopolitike koja se konstituiše u teorijskoj ravni geopolitike, nastojeći da ukažemo na već postojeće subdiscipline koje su se konstituisale i koje svojim kategorijalno-pojmovnim i metodološkim aparatom služe za analizu posebnih, izdvojenih pojava, poput identiteta, sajber prostora, emocija i slično. Polazeći od činjenice da je geopolitika složena sintezna nauka koja razvija svoje teorijske iskorake ka konstituisanju novih disciplinarnih i subdisciplinarnih dimenzija, nastojimo da konstituišemo novu, originalnu subdisciplinu koju definišemo kao „geopolitiku zdravlja“. Reč je o subdisciplini primenjene geopolitike (aplikativne geopolitike) koja se bavi istraživanjem uticaja društveno-geografskih, ekonomskih i političkih faktora na ugrožavanje zdravlja ljudi kao javnog dobra u kontekstu geopolitike kao sintezne nauke. Dakle, geopolitika zdravlja je pionirska poddisciplina geopolitike koja istražuje, analizira i vrši sintezu dobijenih rezultata kako bi ukazala na moguće zloupotrebe medicinske nauke i zdravstvenih sistema od strane koruptivnih pojedinaca, interesnih grupa, zdravstvenih vlasti, farmaceutske industrije, pravnih propisa i zvanične politike država i međunarodnih organizacija koje se na bilo koji način bave problematikom ljudskog zdravlja. Koristeći metodu analize i sinteze, metodu dedukcije i geopolitičku metodu, nastojimo da postavimo osnovu daljim istraživačkim iskoracima u kontekstu geopolitike kao sintezne nauke.

*Ključne reči:* Covid-19, geopolitika javnog diskursa, globalnim mediji, primenjena geopolitika, nova realnost