

Foreign Policy of Mongolia

Theory and Challenges

Content

- What is a Foreign Policy?
- Understanding our neighbors and region
- Mongolia's immediate neighbors
- Third Neighbor policy
- Challenges
- Q&A

Foreign Policy

A policy pursued by a state in regards to other nations to achieve objectives or maintain/construct a favorable international or regional environment.

What dictates foreign policy?



Neighbors



Russia's perspective



We should acknowledge that the collapse of the Soviet Union was a major geopolitical disaster of the century

- Putin /2005/



- AUTONOMOUS REPUBLICS AND OBLASTS IN THE CAUCASUS**
1. Adygeyskaya AO
 2. Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya AO
 3. Kabardino-Balkarskaya ASSR
 4. Severo-Osetinskaya ASSR
 5. Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR
 6. Yugo-Osetinskaya AO
 7. Adzharskaya ASSR
 8. Nagorno-Karabakhskaya AO
 9. Nakhichevanskaya ASSR (to Azerbaijan S.S.R.)

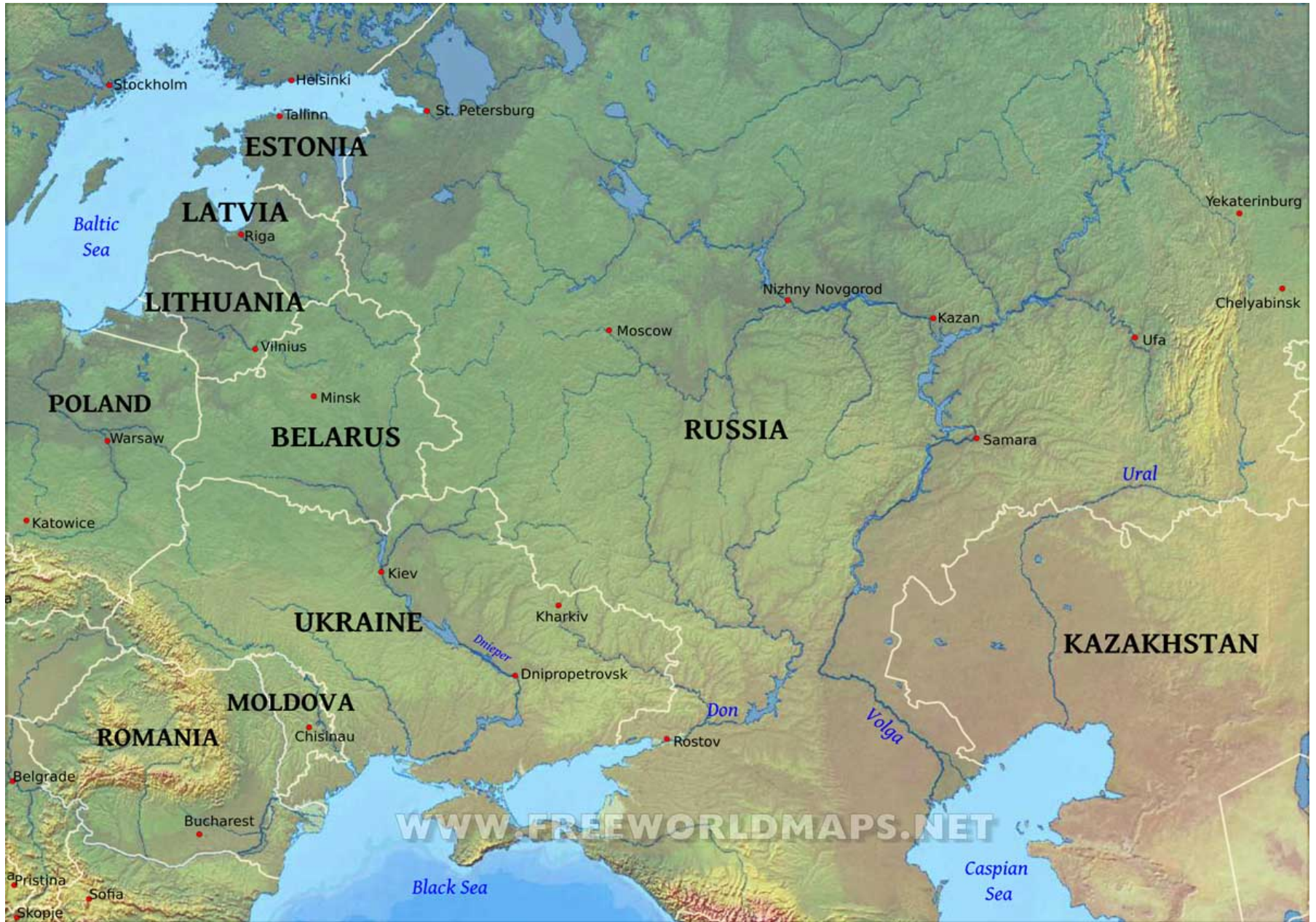
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

BOUNDARY		CENTER
- - - - -	Union Republic (S.S.R.)	o
- - - - -	Oblast, Krai, or Autonomous Republic (ASSR)	•
- - - - -	Autonomous Oblast (AO) or National Okrug (NO)	

All Union Republic administrative centers are shown. The only other centers shown are for oblasts having the same name as their center.

Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative. The United States government has not recognized the incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Soviet Union.





Physical map



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Volga

Irtys

Astana

KAZAKHSTAN

Lake Balkhash

Aral Sea

Syr Darya

Caspian Sea

Baku

Bishkek

KYRGYZSTAN

Tashkent

Tarim

CHINA

TURKMENISTAN

Ashgabat

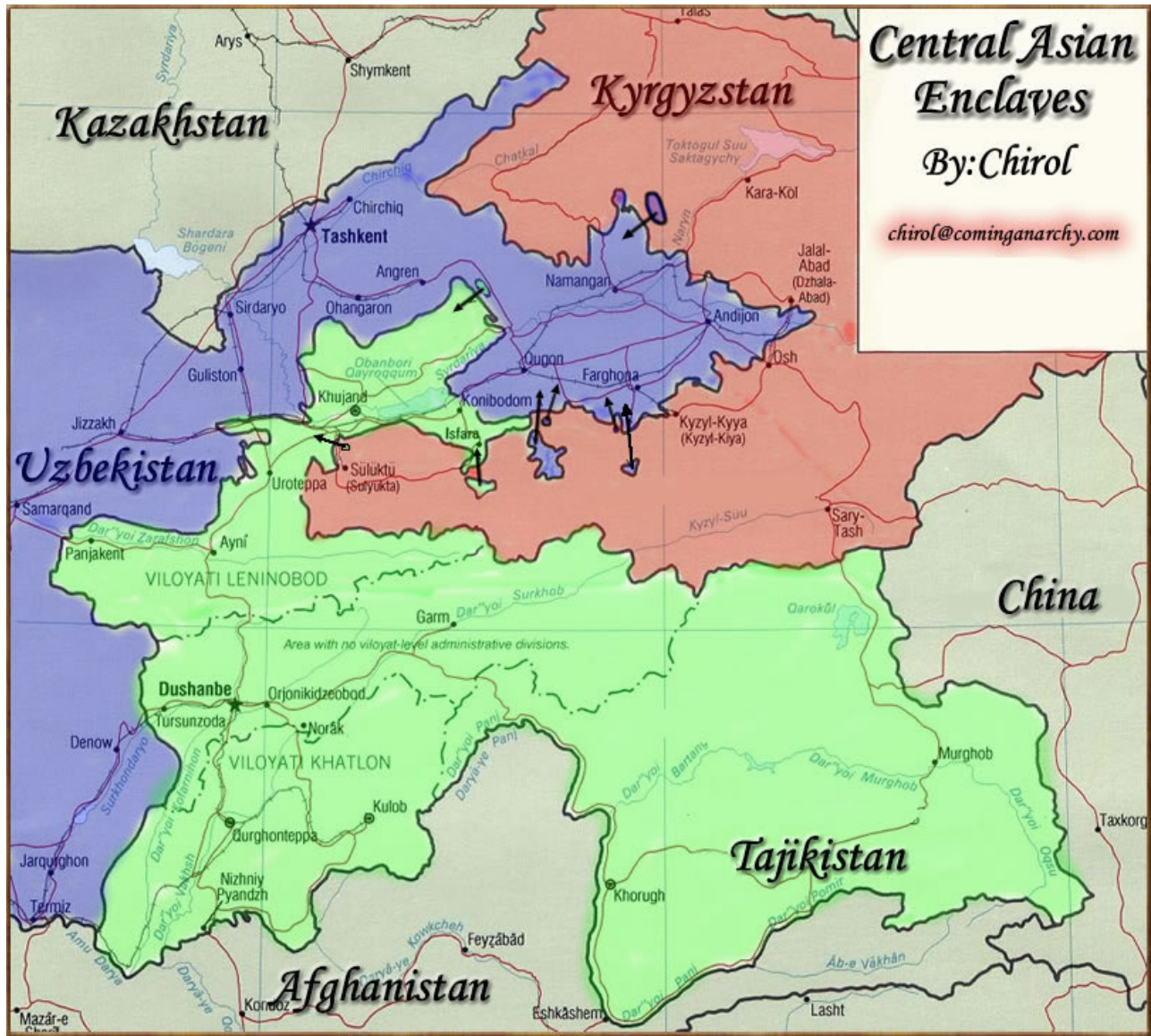
Dushanbe
TAJIKISTAN

AFGHANISTAN

IRAN

Tehran

Kabul



Central Asian Enclaves

By: Chirol

chirol@cominganarchy.com



KAZAKHSTAN

RUSSIA

MONGOLIA

Altai Mountains

Kunlun Shan

Gobi desert

Manchurian Plain

Sea of Japan (East Sea)

Taklamakan Desert

NORTH KOREA

Kunlun Shan

Altun Shan

SOUTH KOREA

Himalayas

Plateau of Tibet

CHINA

North China Plain

Yellow Sea

Yellow R.

JAPAN

INDIA

East China Sea

Pacific Ocean

Sichuan Basin

Yangtze

Brahmaputra

Mekong

Xi river

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BURMA

South China Sea

TAIWAN

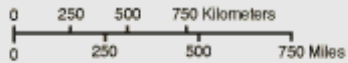
LAOS

VIETNAM

Hainan

Russia

- International Boundary
- ★ National Capital
- ⊙ Oblast Capital
- Road
- Railroad
- Rivers



China's perspective



Taklamakan
Desert

Gobi Desert

Tibetan Plateau

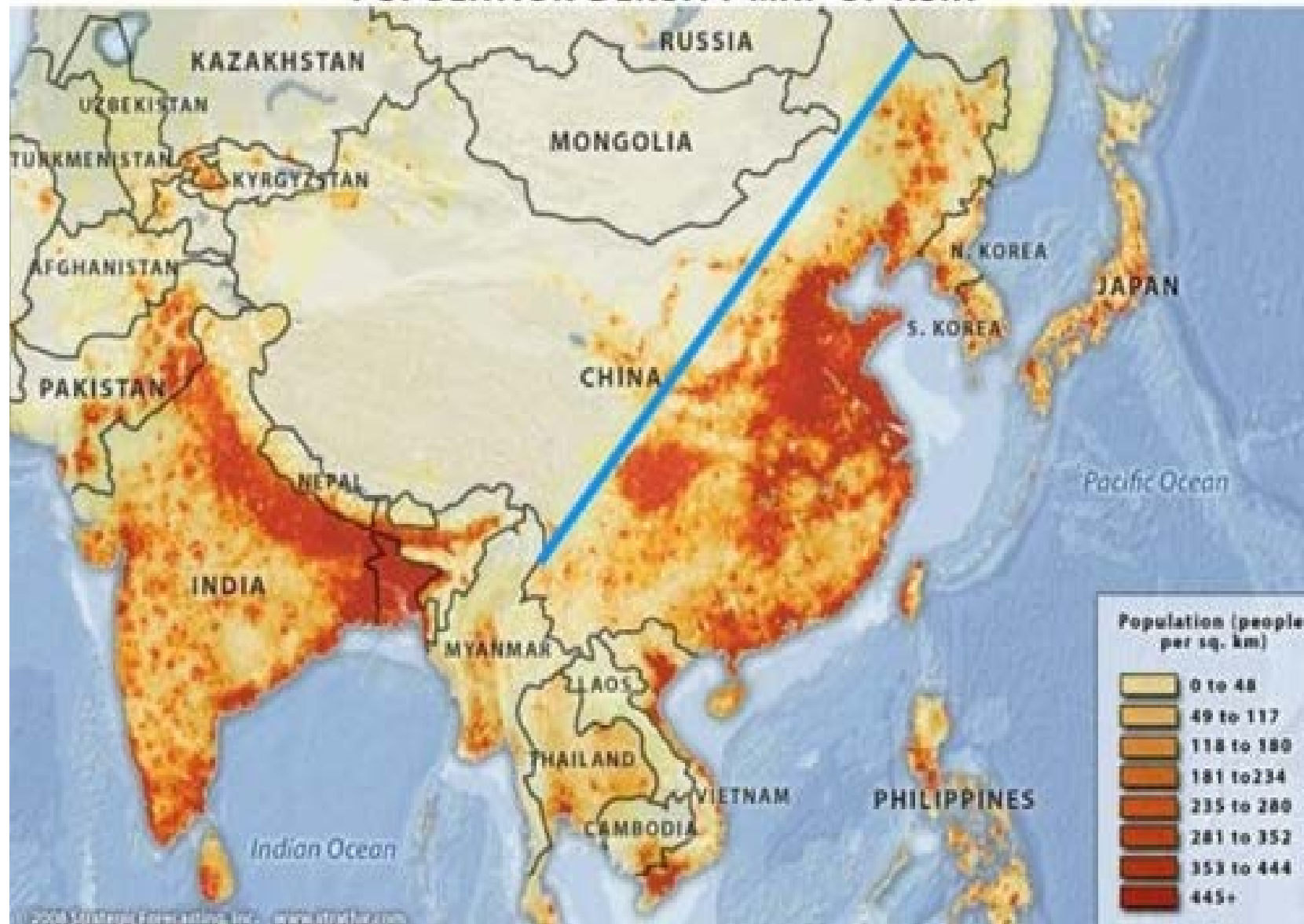
Himalayas

Yellow
River

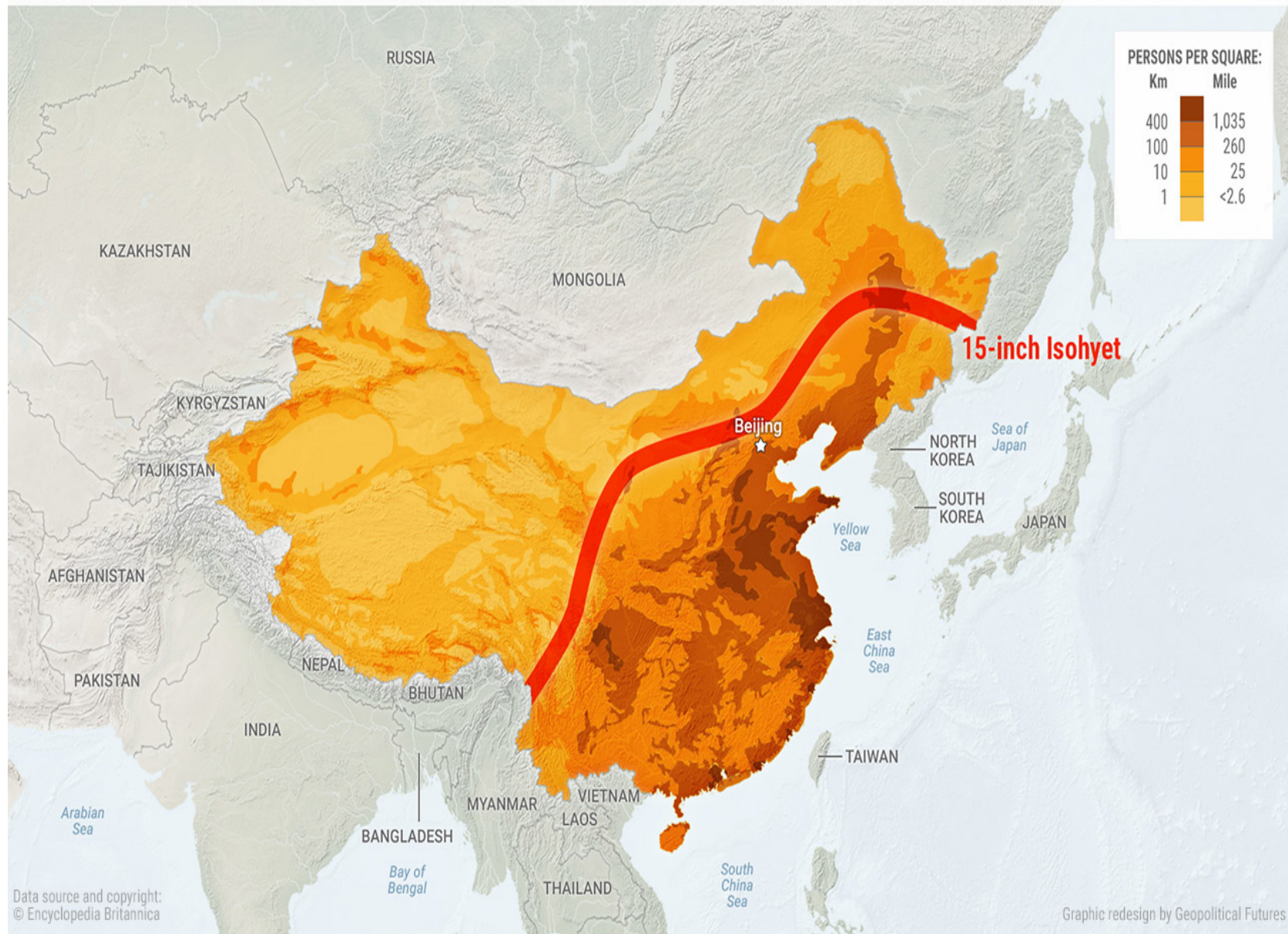
Yangtze River

Pearl River

POPULATION DENSITY MAP OF ASIA

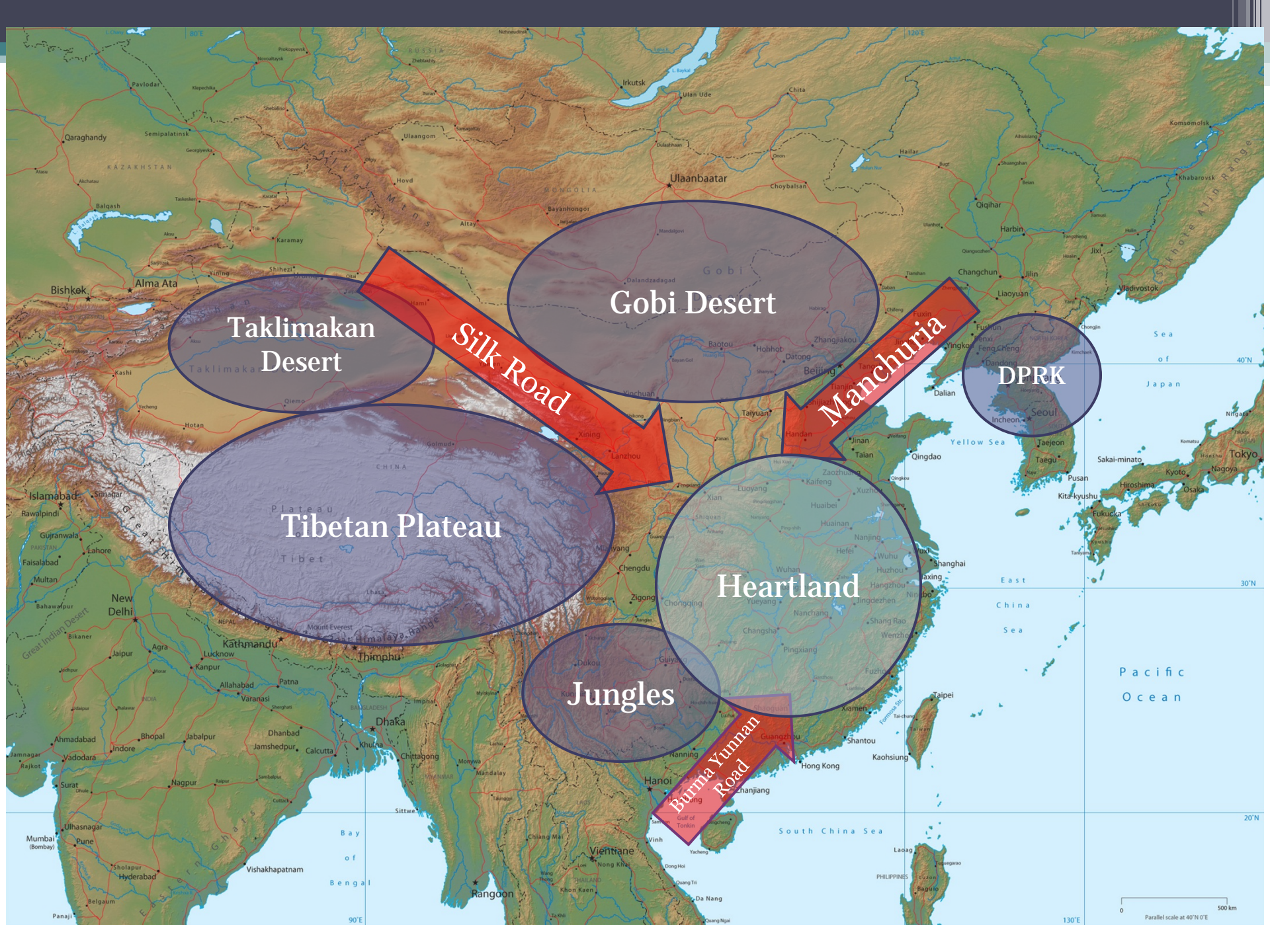


15-INCH ISOHYET AND CHINA POPULATION DENSITY



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Graphic redesign by Geopolitical Futures



Taklimakan
Desert

Gobi Desert

Tibetan Plateau

Heartland

Jungles

DPRK

Manchuria

Burma Yunnan
Road

Silk Road

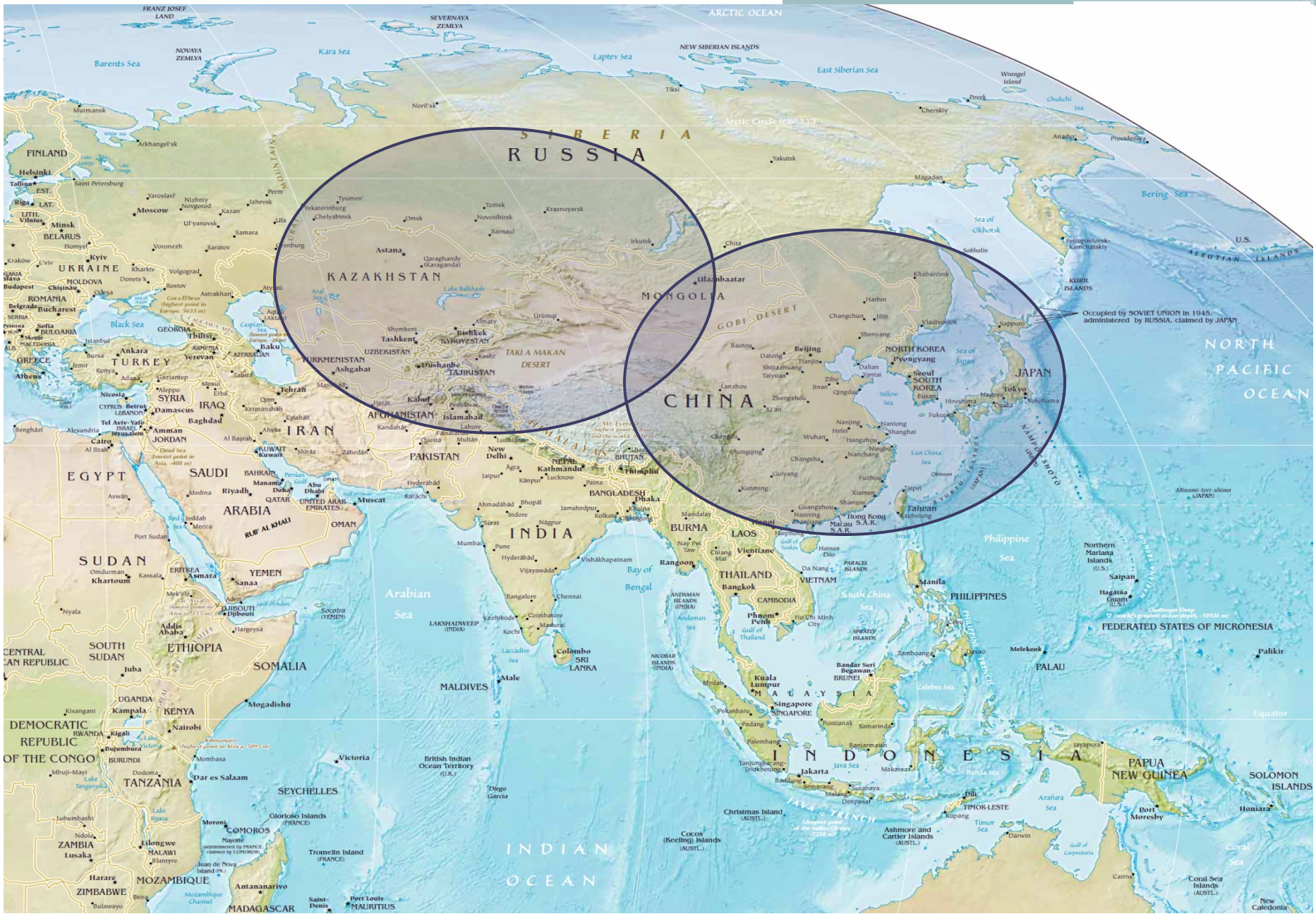
China's Geopolitical Imperatives

- **Maintain internal unity (especially within the Han Chinese regions)**
- **Maintain and exercise control over the buffer regions**
- **Protect the coast from foreign encroachment**

Maintain the Buffer Region

- **Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, 'Manchuria' limits Russia (Soviet Union)**
- **Tibet hinders conflicts with India**
 - **Water source for major river systems**
- **North Korea blocks direct confrontation with the United States**

‘Our’ region



SIBERIA
RUSSIA

CHINA

Occupied by SOVIET UNION in 1945,
administered by RUSSIA, claimed by JAPAN

NORTH
PACIFIC
OCEAN

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

INDIAN
OCEAN

Mongolia's Foreign policy

'peaceful, open, multi-pillar foreign policy'

**You can choose your friends
But not your neighbors**

Immediate
neighbors

'Distant'
neighbors

RF

PRC

USA, FRG,
ROK, Japan,
ROI, ROT

UN, OSCE,
EU, NATO

Mongolia's Relations with Its Neighbors

- National Security Concept

“Good neighbor friendly relations and wide-ranging cooperation with the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China shall be developed [...] ... as well as a general balance of relations with neighbors shall be sought”

- Foreign Policy Concept

“Mongolia’s top priority in the foreign policy to pursue good friendly relations with the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China and to maintain equal and balanced relations while developing extended cooperation with both countries as a good neighbor.”

with Russia



Mongolia-Russia's political relations

1921

Diplomatic
Relations

1993

Agreement
on Friendly
Relations and
Cooperation

2009

Strategic
Partners

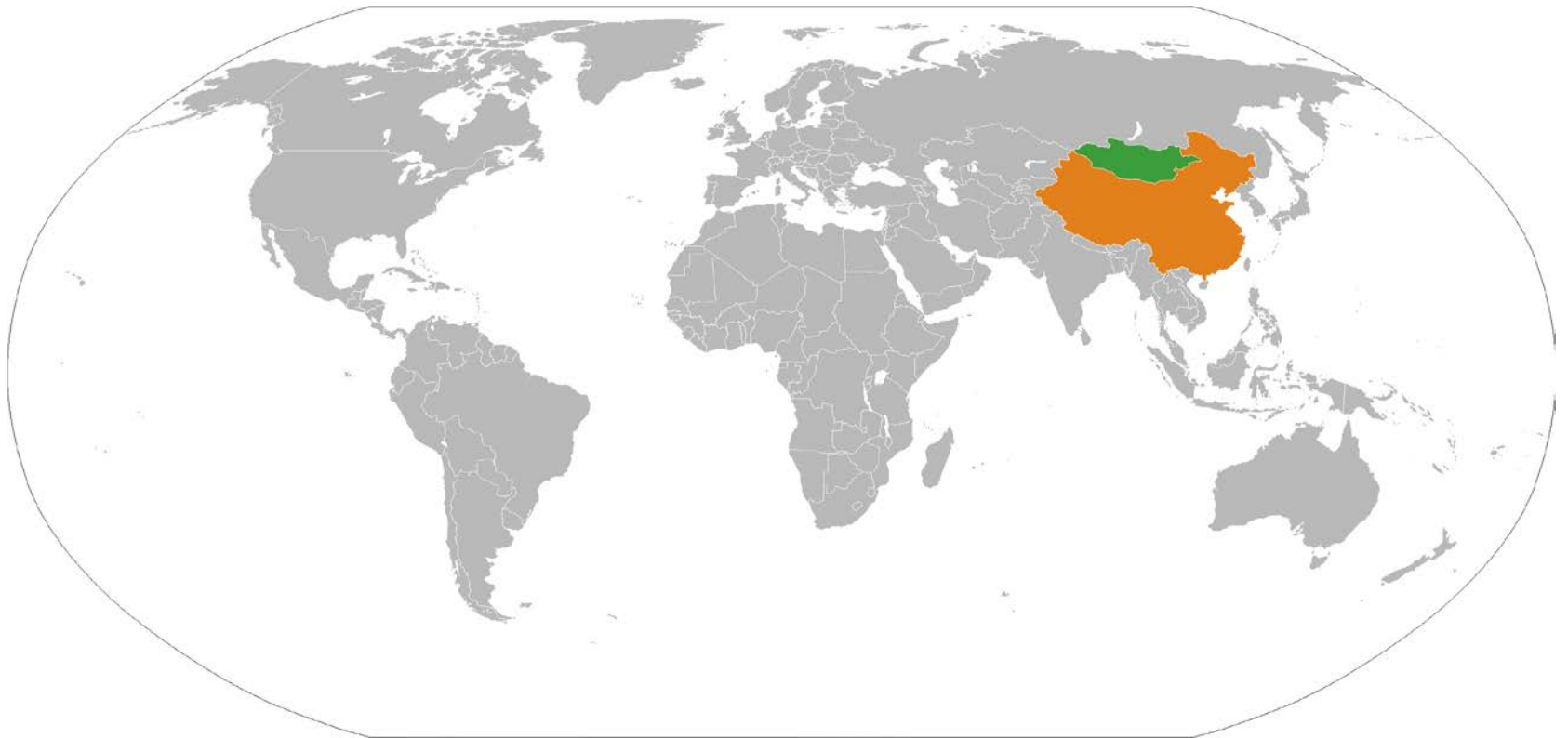




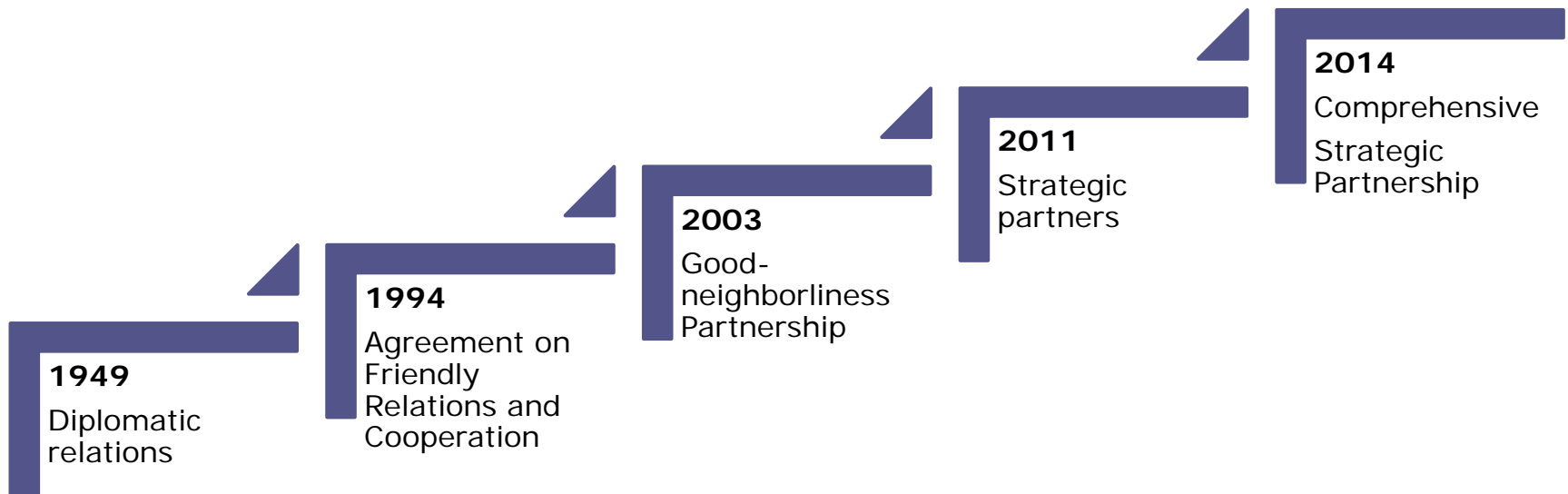
Aa



with China



Mongolia-China political relations







水



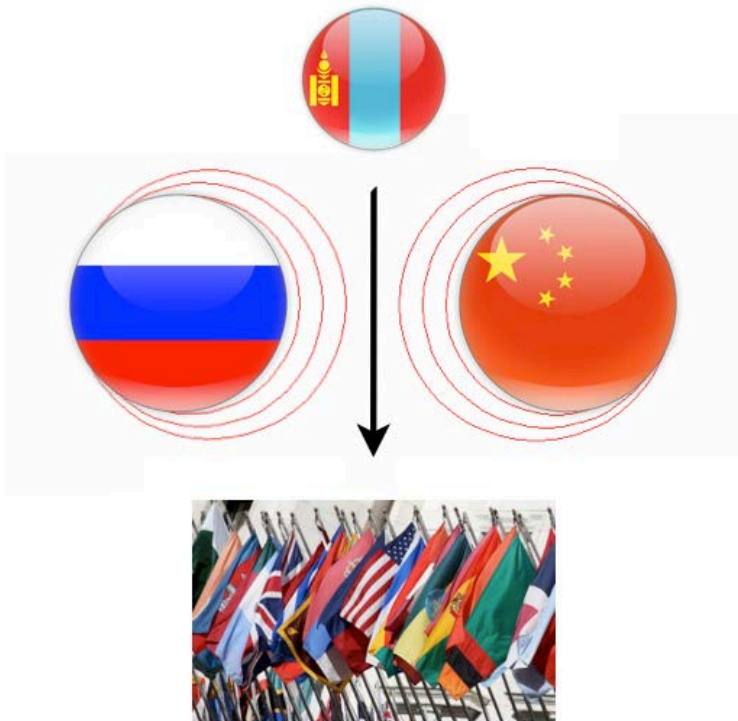






'Third' neighbor policy

“Third Neighbor” Policy



- Balance of Power
- Balance of Threat
- Who are we balancing against?

"Third Neighbor" Policy

- National Security Concept

*"Pursuant to a "Third Neighbor" strategy, bilateral and multilateral cooperation with **highly developed democracies** in political, economic, cultural and humanitarian affairs shall be undertaken"*

- Concept of Foreign Policy

"...will seek to avoid becoming overly reliant or dependent on any particular country."

"...expand bilateral relations with Western democracies."

"... will establish and expand its partnership and cooperation with Western and Eastern countries such as the U.S., Japan, European Union, India, Republic of Korea and Turkey within the framework of its "third neighbor" policy."

The term “Third neighbor”



*In 1990, then-Secretary of State James A. Baker referred to the United States as Mongolia’s **third neighbor**.*



*“...The United States is “proud to be called” Mongolia’s **“third neighbor.”**”*

The Bogd Khaant Mongolia (1911 – 1924)



An official letter sent out by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bogd Khaant Mongolia to France, the UK, Germany, the U.S., Belgium, Japan, Denmark, the Netherlands and Austro-Hungarian Empire on November 18, 1912.

Communism (1924 – 1990)



Mongolian Flag Raised at the United Nations Headquarters in New York for the first time (1961)



Democratic Mongolia (1990 – Present)



COMMUNITY
OF DEMOCRACIES



Asia - Europe Meeting 11
20 YEARS OF ASEM | ULAANBAATAR 2016

Practical Implications

POLITICAL SECTOR:

- Mongolia's nuclear free zone status
- OSCE: a participating country, NATO: a partner across the globe
- Mongolian chairmanship of the Community of Democracies ASEM Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2016

ECONOMIC SECTOR:

- National Security Concept: *"design a strategy whereby the investment of any foreign country does not exceed one third of overall foreign investment in Mongolia"*
- Mongolia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (2015)

CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS:

- Biggest Mongolian communities abroad*
 1. Republic of Korea – 40,000
 2. United States of America – 28,000
 3. United Kingdom – 9,000



Challenges

Immediate neighbors

- Both neighbors are not liberal democracies
- Too much influence
- Very sensitive to changes in IR

'Other neighbors'

- Very little economic interest from Third Neighbors
- Very little participation in economic initiatives
- Non-traditional security threat
- Future of the 'third' neighbor policy

Q&A