

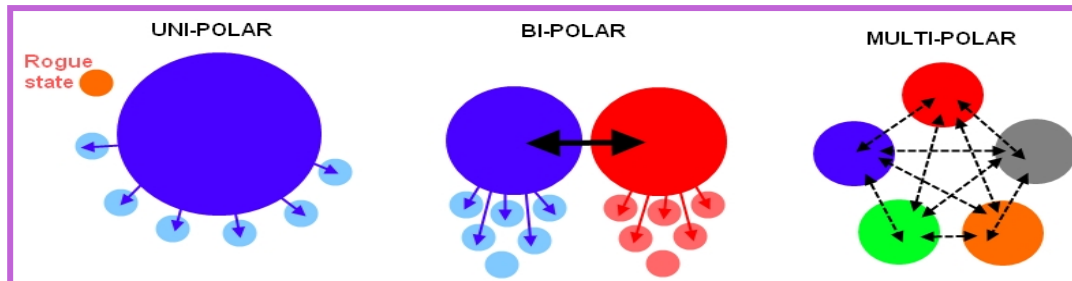
Year 9 – Superpowers

Superpowers are countries with a dominant position in the international system. They have the ability to influence events in their own interest and project power on a worldwide scale to protect these interests.

What should I already know?

- Location of continents and oceans
- Development levels across the world
- Terms HIC, LIC and NEE
- Different ways of measuring development
- How globalisation has influenced the world
- Countries responsible for the speed of globalisation

International systems: The World Systems theory was the brain child of Immanuel Wallerstein in 1974. It saw the division of the world into three parts; the core, the semi-periphery and the periphery. The core meaning those countries which were economically developed such as countries of the Western Europe, the United States of America and Japan.



British Empire 1800-1919	Inter-war period 1919-1939	USA v USSR Cold War 1945-1990	USA globalised era 1990-2030?	Future 2030-
Uni-polar	Multi-polar	Bi-polar	Uni-polar	Bi-polar? Multi-polar?

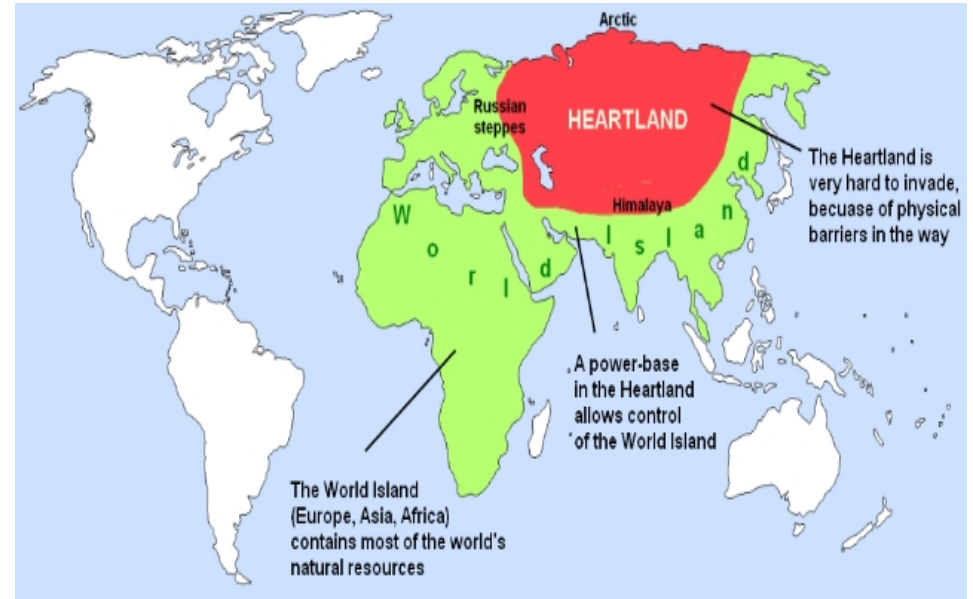
Key vocabulary and definitions

Heartland theory	In 1904, Sir Halford Mackinder published the Heartland theory. The theory proposed that whoever controls Eastern Europe controls the Heartland. It also supported the concept of world dominance.
Hyperpower	Complete global dominance by only one country
Superpower	Globally dominant but more than one can exist
Emerging Power	Globally influential, but only in certain areas
Regional Power	Leads on a continental scale but not global scale
BRICS	the developing nations of Brazil, Russia, India, and China - countries believed to be the future dominant countries
Military	the armed forces of a country.
Soft Power	a persuasive approach to international relations, typically involving the use of economic or cultural influence.
Hard Power	an intimidating approach to international political relations, especially one that involves the use of military power.
Trade	exchange of goods
Urbanisation	When an increasing percentage of a country's population comes to live in towns and cities.
Demographic Transition Model	An explanation for how a country's population changes over time.
Sustainability	Doing something in a way which minimises damage. Colony: A country which is controlled by another country.
Import	Bringing goods or services into a country for sale.
Export	Sending goods to other countries for sale.

The World-Island and the Heartland Theory

Any power which controlled the World-Island would control well over 50% of the world's resources. The Heartland's size and central position made it the key to controlling the World-Island.

“Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland;
 who rules the Heartland commands the World-Island;
 who rules the World-Island commands the world.”



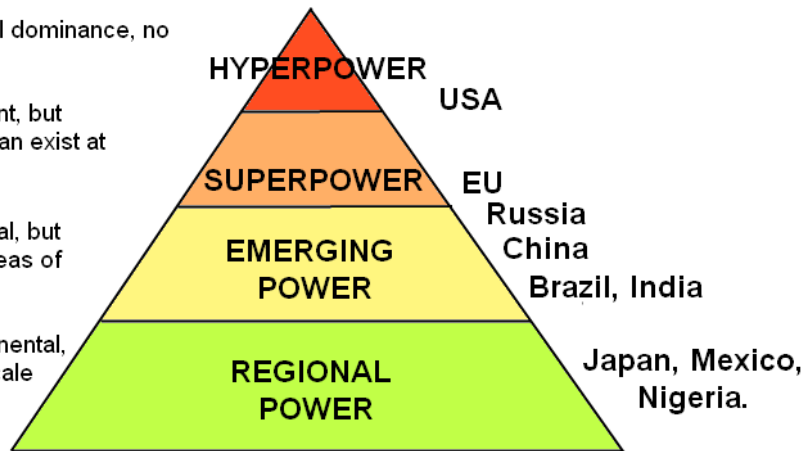
Current powers in the world

Complete global dominance, no rivals.

Globally dominant, but more than one can exist at one time

Globally influential, but only in certain areas of influence

Leads on a continental, but not global, scale



Is the USA a superpower? And what challenges does it face?

The term superpower is used to describe a country that has:

- 1) A large population - the USA has the third largest population in the world (304 million).
- 2) A large strong economy - the USA is the world's largest economy. It produces more wealth each year than any other country (GDP (PPP) \$14.6 trillion).
- 3) Great military strength - The world spends around \$1200 billion a year on its armies, warships... and the USA spends by far the most - almost half the world total.
- 4) Great political influence - The USA is big, strong, wealthy, and a military power. So it has plenty of influence on other countries, such as giving aid to poorer countries or using military force.
- 5) Great cultural influence - American culture travels the world, influencing what people wear and eat.