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Subject: English

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### **Geopolitics**

Geopolitics, analysis of the geographic influences on power relationships in international relations. The word geopolitics was originally coined by the Swedish political scientist Rudolf Kjellén about the turn of the 20th century, and its use spread throughout Europe in the period between World Wars I and II (1918–39) and came into worldwide use during the latter. In contemporary discourse, geopolitics has been widely employed as a loose synonym for international politics.

Arguments about the political effects of geography—particularly climate, topography, arable land, and access to the sea—have appeared in Western political thought since at least the ancient Greek era and were prominent in the writings of philosophers as diverse as Aristotle (384–322 BC) and Montesquieu (1689–1745). The best-known body of geopolitical writings is the extensive literature of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, much of which focused on the impact on world politics of the new technologies of the Industrial Revolution. Alfred Thayer Mahan, Halford Mackinder, John Seeley, and others applied materialist approaches to contemporary problems. These and other writers tended to mix analysis with policy advocacy, and some exhibited many of the most pernicious racial and class prejudices of the era.

Geopoliticians sought to understand how the new industrial capabilities of transportation, communication, and destruction—most notably railroads, steamships, airplanes, telegraphy, and explosives—interacting with the largest-scale geographic features of the Earth would shape the character, number, and location of viable security units in the emerging global international system. Most believed that the new era of world politics would be characterized by the closure of the frontier, territorial units of increased size, and intense interstate competition; most also thought that a great upheaval was imminent, that the balance-of-power system that helped to maintain order in Europe during most of the 19th century was obsolete, that the British Empire (the superpower

of the 19th century) was ill-suited to the new material environment and would probably be dismembered, and that the United States and Russia were the two states best situated in size and location to survive in the new era. Geopoliticians vigorously disagreed, however, about the character, number, and location of the entities that would prove most viable.

## The past perfect tense

### The past perfect formula

The formula for the past perfect tense is had + [past participle]. It doesn't matter if the subject is singular or plural; the formula doesn't change.

### When to use the past perfect

So, what's the difference between the past perfect and the simple past? When you're talking about some point in the past and want to reference an event that happened even earlier, using the past perfect allows you to convey the sequence of the events. It's also clearer and more specific.

### Functions of the past perfect

The past perfect refers to a time **earlier than before now**. It is used to make it clear that **one event happened before another** in the past. It does not matter which event is mentioned first - the tense makes it clear which one happened first.

In these examples, Event A is the event that happened first, and Event B is the second or more recent event:

Event A	Event B
John <b>had gone</b> out	when I arrived in the office.
Event A	Event B
I <b>had saved</b> my document	before the computer crashed.

<b>Event B</b>	<b>Event A</b>
When they arrived	we <b>had already started</b> cooking.
<b>Event B</b>	<b>Event A</b>
He was very tired	because he <b>hadn't slept</b> well.

### Forming the past perfect

The Past Perfect tense in English is composed of two parts: the past tense of the verb *to have* (*had*) + the past participle of the main verb.

Subject	+had	+past participle
<b>Affirmative</b>		
She	had	given
<b>Negative</b>		
She	hadn't	asked.
<b>Interrogative</b>		
Had	they	arrived?
<b>Interrogative Negative</b>		
Hadn't	you	finished?

**To decide, past perfect**

<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Interrogative</b>
<b>I</b> had decided	I hadn't decided	Had I decided?
<b>You</b> had decided	You hadn't decided	Had you decided?
<b>She</b> had decided	She hadn't decided	Had she decided?
<b>We</b> had decided	We hadn't decided	Had we decided?
<b>They</b> had decided	They hadn't decided	Had they decided?

### **Past perfect + just**

*'Just'* is used with the past perfect to refer to an event that was only a short time earlier than before now, e.g.

- The train **had just left** when I arrived at the station.
- She **had just left** the room when the police arrived.
- I **had just put** the washing out when it started to rain.