

Geostrategy

Indo – Pacific Region



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Partial Paper

- If you are interested to read the whole Geostrategy paper on the Indo - Pacific Region contact Mike Dunn at mike.dunn@iog.com.au.

Why this briefing and why me?

- You have expressed interest in hearing more about geopolitics and intelligence.
- I have lived and breathed these two concepts for 43 years. I now use my time to awaken leaders like you guys to geopolitics, intelligence, and risk.
- The ongoing events in Ukraine have caused us all to think about this war and the ramifications for our businesses, for Australia, and for the region.
- The world's future is inextricably tied to the ongoing contest for dominance between the CCP (note not PRC) and the US. Australia's future critically depends on the US winning this contest.
- That contest will likely involve the security and independence of Taiwan.
- We are in a period of great flux in the world. Some call it a fourth turning.
- Geostrategy is the fundamental bedrock of geopolitics and therefore where I will focus much of this brief.

Geostrategy

- Geostrategy, a subfield of geopolitics, is a type of foreign policy guided principally by geographical factors as they inform, constrain, or affect political and military planning.
- As with all strategies, geostrategy is concerned with matching means to ends in this case, a country's resources (whether they are limited or extensive) with its geopolitical objectives (which can be local, regional, or global).
- Strategy is as intertwined with geography as geography is with nationhood, or as Colin S. Gray and Geoffrey Sloan state it, "geography is the mother of strategy."
 - Wikipedia

Geopolitics and Geoeconomics

- **Geopolitics** is the study of the effects of Earth's geography (human and physical) on politics and international relations. (Wikipedia)
- **Geoeconomics** is the study of the spatial, temporal, and political aspects of economies and resources. (Wikipedia)
- Read Peter Jennings, Alan Dupont, Paul Monk, Michael Shoebridge, and Paul Dibb.

The Fourth Turning Theory

- The Fourth Turning theory, also known as the *Strauss-Howe generational theory*, describes a recurring generational cycle that follows a fairly predictable pattern. According to the theory, historical events are associated with a revolving series of four generational personas (**archetypes**). These include: **Prophets**, **Nomads**, **Heroes**, and **Artists**. When each archetype comes of age, they unleash a new era (**turning**) lasting around 20-22 years, in which a new social, political, and economic climate exists. The full generational cycle - four turnings - lasts a **saeculum** (a length of time roughly equal to a human life-span), which is approximately 80 to 90 years.
- Cycles always follow the same order. First comes a **High** - a period of confident expansion as a new order takes root after the old has been swept away. Next comes an **Awakening** - a time of spiritual exploration and rebellion against the now-established order. Then comes an **Unravelling** - an increasingly troubled era in which individualism triumphs over crumbling institutions. Last comes a **Crisis** - the Fourth Turning - an era of destruction (often involving war or revolution), that is accompanied by a profound loss of trust in institutions. The Fourth Turning leads to a breakdown of the established social order and precedes a new era of growth and optimism. Together, the four turnings comprise history's seasonal rhythm of growth, maturation, entropy, and rebirth.