

# Geopolitical Collision: Towards a Theoretical Rooting of the Concept

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## Abstract

Keeping pace with contemporary reality, which is characterized by a great deal of fluidity and renewal, creates a heated epistemological debate about the ability of concepts and theories to explain phenomena, events, political transformations, and rapid changes. It certainly does not limit the value of international and strategic studies. Instead, it tries to keep pace with the changes witnessed by the international environment in its cooperative and collisional aspects. A debate has always been an effective tool for building knowledge. Every event, issue, or crisis requires framing it with a concept that corresponds to it. Therefore, this theoretical foundation is an attempt to give an explanatory vision of the geopolitical collision. It aims at coming up with a meaningful explanation that gives a clear picture of what we infer about the political practices, with the appropriate concepts and perceptions, or presents a theoretical approach that is compatible with the political act or the existing event, which is extracted from geographical maps, geopolitical data and the dynamics of international and non-international actors, All the above explains what the geopolitical collision is.

**Keywords:** Geopolitics, Geopolitical Collision, Theoretical Assumptions.

## INTRODUCTION

This paper presents a theoretical foundation, an explanatory vision, and theoretical assumptions about the geopolitical collision that is embodied in the colliding interests of international powers, not in a traditional military clash. It does not refer to an outbreak of a war between two colliding parties. Instead, it indicates the intersection of interests and visions in different geopolitical spaces. The paper is divided into several sections. The first section deals with the meaning of collision, and the second section gives a summary of the concept of geopolitics. The definition of geopolitical collision is dealt with in the third section, As for the fourth section, three theoretical assumptions are presented to build a clear base for the concept of geopolitical

collision. It helps to give an integrated picture of the mechanism of the collision.

## The Meaning of Collision

In physics, “clash” is used instead of the term collision. According to Omar (2008), it is the branch of force science that studies the clash of bodies, which tells that a change in the momentum of one body is equivalent to a change in the momentum of the other body. Giancoli (2014) believes that collision is a common occurrence in everyday life: a tennis or baseball bat hits a ball, billiard balls collide, a hammer smashes a nail, etc. In the collision, there is a mutual interaction between the common objects, and this interaction is much greater than any interaction between the system

and the environment. Then, we can neglect any other forces during the brief collision period.

Terminologically, as Alkayali (n. d.) states, it is a social concept as opposed to the integrative functional theory. Socially, it stems from the historical reality, which indicates that the collision in values and interests is a natural phenomenon in forms and relationships. The phenomenon of collision occupies an important position in political science because it imposes political organization as a necessity for society. This authority justifies the use of force and coercion and uses it as an explanation for the phenomenon of the state and the centralization of sovereignty in the political organization of society. Collision arises as a result of social diversity and also arises as a result of the unlimited categorical demands, which are offset by the limited resources and wealth in society. Societies take a hierarchical classification that leads to the emergence of the phenomenon of the rich, the poor, the ruler, and the ruled (power relations) in society. As a result, collision emerges.

According to the philosophical perspective, collision is taken from the dialectics taken from the Greek word (dialego), which means conversation or argument. The dialectic contains collision in its essential meaning. Whereas the early philosophers considered that the discovery of the contradictions of thought and the collision between opinions are the means leading to the discovery of the truth. Dialectics does not consider nature to be a state of stillness, stagnation, or stability, but rather a state of constant movement, change, uninterrupted renewal, and development. In all cases, there is always something that is born and then develops, dissolves or decays. All are the product of collision (Stalin, 2007). So, collision is the essence of mobility and evolution or change. The starting point of dialectics is the view that all things and accidents of nature contain contradictions. The collision between these contradictions: between the old and the new, what dies and what is born, and what perishes and what develops, is what constitutes the movement of history.

From the foregoing, it becomes clear that the collision is a mutual interactive state between two things and that their co-occurrence is possible. This most prominent characteristic distinguishes collision from the concept of clash in which diversity is not possible. Moreover, it is possible to control the collision, but it is not possible to control the clash. One of the forms of collision is the "clash of civilizations" that Huntington came up with. The collision (state of influence) that occurs between two homogeneous or heterogeneous things in the substance of formation (nature), activity (cause), or finality (purpose) when they meet at a specific time and place. It occurs when one of them obstructs the spread of the other, prevents it, or forces it to retreat. As for clash, it means the state of mutual active influence between two heterogeneous things in the material of composition (nature) or final (purpose), when they meet in a specific time and place, as soon as one spreads towards the other. Their meeting is not possible because of the heterogeneity, where one forms a repulsive force for the other. It becomes clear to us that the concepts of collision and clash do not carry the same meaning. In collision, there is an indication of the possibility of the existence of multiple civilizations at a specific time, and this is not the case in the case of a clash (Nasir, 2017).

### **Geopolitics**

Haroon (1998) claims that the term "geopolitics" has been used over the past 100 years with various connotations to become a common name for a variety of forms of thought and practice which can be categorized into three overlapping themes. All are about practicing authority structures across the field. The first relates to the place and the physical environment and is concerned with the influence of physical geographical factors in shaping power. The second relates to demography and the state's relationship with regional powers, for example, the vital area (states need to expand their living area to survive). It is the politics of regional expansion. The third, as Dodds (2016) adds, relates to the

internal regional basis of states and their competition with each other over material resources and advantages across the land. These have ancient origins with the increasing scope of competition as larger state apparatuses are formed and greater technological capabilities have been acquired to operate across larger distances. This is what Mackinder referred to in his important speculations about the relationship between transportation system infrastructures, and the so-called natural seats of power, and the organizational efficiency of the expansionist forces. In the same context as presented by Black (2016), four levels of geopolitics can be distinguished. At the first level, geopolitics can be considered a concept and a practice, and at the second level, it can be dealt with as a flexible doctrine that relies heavily on the cases of leaders and strategists who practice the art of statecraft. At the third level, the roles and approaches of intellectuals and academics prevail, and these are usually different approaches to geopolitical practices. At the fourth level, geopolitics emerged as an enduring mentality and a set of doctrines that transcended major changes in ideology and international power. This continuity reflects the flexibility of geopolitical doctrines and the extent to which basic concepts remain unchanged although they are subject to change, at least with major shifts in understanding of spatialism. Dodds (2016) states that geopolitics includes three types, the first, relates to questions of influence and power over space or earth. The second uses geographic frameworks to understand global affairs, which include the common geographic models of 'vital area', 'backyard', and 'near abroad'. The third type is geopolitics which is future-oriented, meaning that it provides insights into the likely behavior of states. As interests are not interrupted or destroyed, countries need to secure resources, protect their territories, and manage borders and population. Dodds (2016).

As cited by Raqraq and Zayani (2021), the Swedish geopolitician and geographer, Rudolf Kjellen, used the term geopolitics at the end of the 19th century. Since its invention, geopolitics has enjoyed a controversial intellectual history. Kjellen's definition of

geopolitics was defined as the science that views the state as a geographical entity and as a phenomenon in space. Dodds (2016) adds that despite the criticisms targeted at geopolitics, it was a "traveling theory", in the sense that it entered a variety of disciplines. Academic work on geopolitics has often been confusing and contradictory because of the kind of approaches presented to the historical examination of this field of thought and contemporary analyzes of global politics. The invention of the term geopolitics coincided with a certain modernist belief that it was possible to see the world in its entirety. Geopolitics pioneers such as Halford Mackinder and Nicholas Speakman view geopolitics as a form of geographic thinking, which emphasized the ability of the state to act in a changing global arena. Therefore, the geopolitics was a project centered around the state and its interests. Geopolitical writers were eager to provide political advice. Moreover, the material environment has often been portrayed as a static stage in which political events occurred rather than as a dynamic and changing problem that influenced the nature of global politics.

Going back to the origin of the word, geopolitics is derived from the Greek word (Geia), which means land, and (polis), which means politics. "Geiapolis", to the Greeks, means the exploration of the terrestrial forms of the environment and the earth, and their observation and regulation by humans. This is concerning the etymological aspect, which is concerned with researching the origin of the concept. In terms of epistemology, the term geopolitics is made up of two parts: "Geo", meaning geography, and "politic", meaning politics. It suggests to us that there is a relationship between land or geography with politics (Abdulsalam, 2019). So, as Bu Hedil believes (2016), the origin of geopolitics as thought and practice belongs to another science, geography, or to one of its branches, which is political geography. This explains the geographers' interest in geopolitics more than others compared to other thinkers.

The geopolitical nature can be identified through the competition between countries over the international environment. It is done

concerning the division of the world into its famous geographical sections: North-South (rich-poor), heart - margins, the world of rich-poor countries, developed countries and underdeveloped countries, the East And the West, and the North's attempt to dominate the South, the rich countries over the poor, and the developed countries over the backward ones. The competition and political collision between states have geographic dimensions and geopolitics studies these dimensions that are behind the existing clashes between states (Ibrahim, 2008).

Geopolitics is a compound term from the combination of the terms geography and politics, that is, it is concerned with the relations of influence that exist between them. We will include some of the definitions of the term that have been selected. As cited by Khorshid (2013), Mackinder says that every century has its geopolitical perspective. As geopolitical science is developing in its analysis and adapts to the characteristics and fluctuations of the times, it is a dynamic science that moves away from static hypotheses. In geopolitical analysis, hypotheses that are valid at one time do not necessarily have to be valid at another time. Abdulal (2011) adds another definition presented by Karl Haushofer. He defines geopolitics as the new national doctrine of the state. It is a doctrine based on the inevitability of the vital space for all political processes, and it is also a way to use geographical materialism to support the political orientation of the state.

Moll, a German geographer, and geopolitician, defined geopolitics as a field concerned with the study of the state from the political point of view, but it does not view the state as a static concept, but rather as a living, dynamic organism based on the theory advocated by Ratzel. Martin developed a definition of geopolitics that clarified its repulsive manifestations. He views it as a specific thought that appears and prevails in an area to maximize its national benefits and gains (Ibrahim, 2008). Perhaps, the most prominent contemporary definition is by the French, Yves Lacoste, who provides an operational and brief definition. Geopolitics, as he sees it, is the

analysis of the collision of powers over regions (Boniface, 2020). It should be noted that the difference between political geography and geopolitics is that the first studies the geographical capabilities available to the state, while the second searches for the needs that the state requires to grow. Likewise, geopolitics dedicates its goals to the future, while geographical politics is preoccupied with reality as it considers the state as a static unit. On the other hand, geopolitics considers it a vital element in an evolving movement (Haroon, 1998). Alsamak (2011) defines geopolitics as the study of the impact of geographical factors, including natural, human, economic and cultural characteristics, on the politics of states and on international relations. This term also refers to the study of competition between international and non-international actors that try to influence or control geographical regions.

In the same context, geopolitics is not only concerned with the study of statecraft and great powers (the management of international affairs and ideas that influence diplomatic practices). It is now seen as a practice that draws an intellectual terrain that is concerned with and affected by the interaction of geography, knowledge, power, and political and social institutions. Critical geopolitical writers have argued that geopolitics is a discourse concerned with the relationship between power and socio-political relations. Adopting this position leads authors such as John Agnew and Geroid to suggest that world politics should be understood on an intrinsic explanatory basis rather than in terms of a series of divine truths such as the fundamental division of world politics between land and sea powers. The goal is to explain world politics rather than repeating incorrect assumptions about politics and geography (Dodds, 2005).

Critical geopolitics seeks to explain and deconstruct the complexities of political life, revealing the power relationships that characterize knowledge about geopolitics and that traditional geopolitics hides (Tauthail, 1999). Critical geopolitics has also sought to develop theories of world politics that acknowledge the ambiguity, complexity, and

uncertainty of the world in which we live, tending to share a postmodern doubt that the world can be rationally perceived and explained through special techniques. The critical geopolitical analytical framework is derived from a mixture of sources including discourse analysis, international political economy, feminist approaches, and social theory. The greatest influence on geopolitical criticism was Foucault's theory which tells that one must explore both power and knowledge (Dodds, 2005). This means that it exposes biases, paradoxes, and understanding the discursive nature to enable a better understanding of the underlying power of relationships that shapes the goals of international strategies (Arjoun, 2021).

### **Geopolitical Collision**

The international environment today and the contradictions pervading the world at various levels like the multiple cultures, cultural diversity, values, the intense intellectual debate in political literature, international relations, and ending with the behavior of international actors, are all of the different levels of complexity. This environment, burdened with all this diversity and differences that threaten its stability, has made a situation in which it is difficult to dismantle policies and behaviors and return them to a specific motive or source. One of the most important features of complexity is the difference and contradiction in the visions and goals emanating from the different geographical and cultural environments. It is not difficult to realize that the visions are the result of diverse interests where each country has a different vision. These visions stem from various roots and patterns of thought that may be motivated by ideological or religious references. It may be the result of economic motives or historical justifications, and it (the vision) may be the result of the state's perception of itself and its position in the world, which prompts it to search for more interests and gains or impose its vision towards the international system. Perhaps, the closest to the reality of the international system is that these visions are

extracted from the intellectual theses of strategic analysts or thinkers or centers of strategic studies.

These visions, whether they are (ideological theses, cultural motives, political theories, national interests, or political or ideological discourses), do not necessarily integrate with other projects of states in the global environment. Since the controlling logic is the national interest, it is self-evident that different and opposing policies generate interactions, dissonance, and competition in more than one aspect. In the strenuous pursuit of implementing projects on the ground, the reality of lack of integration and competition in different geopolitical spaces is revealed. And when those projects and interests intersect in areas of contact with strategic vitality, here those areas (regions) will represent the hotbeds of geopolitical collision.

According to this point of view, the geopolitical collision can be defined as a state of lack of integration in visions and goals towards geopolitical spaces between two or more parties, causing a mutual interaction when the parties turn those visions into strategic projects. It can also be defined as a clash of divergent strategic interests in a specific geopolitical space. Or, it is a meeting of two opposing interests by two or more countries in one geographical area.

To make a simulation model of the geopolitical collision, Figure (1-1) clarifies the nature of the collision. The ovals and curves represent the strategic projects of the great powers or interests that extend to multiple geographical regions of the world where they intersect or meet in one geographical region. The small black circles are the foci of geopolitical collision.

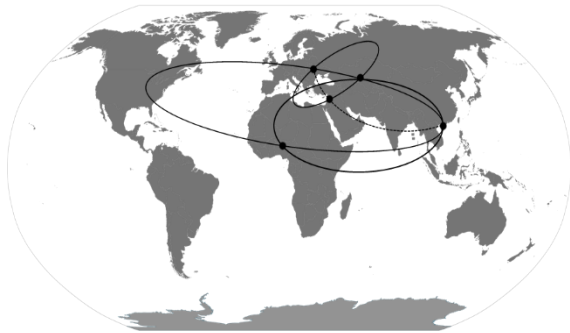


Figure (1-1) *Stimulation of Geopolitical Collision*

### **Assumptions and Theoretical Frameworks for the Concept of Geopolitical Collision**

The perspective of complexity in international relations recognizes the non-linearity of both natural and human systems. It assumes that human systems interact, adapt, and learn while simultaneously maintaining continuity and change. It is a perspective that embraces unbalanced existence. The perspective of complexity can serve as a guide to understanding a fragmented world and theorizing within its limits (Rosenau, 1999). As Yarger (2011) believes, the international environment, as described by the US War College, is characterized by four characteristics: volatility, apprehension, complexity, and ambiguity. It is the place where states, with all their elements and characteristics, interact with the rest of the world in hard and soft power relations, to serve their national interests and work to protect them. So, any country or party can act proactively to create opportunities or to strengthen its power. These countries are complex human systems and the international environment in all its material and immaterial aspects is a complex system that includes a group of systems.

In addition to the four characteristics of the international environment, there is an inherent characteristic of world politics, which is the characteristic of uncertainty. It is not surprising that, since the end of the Cold War, a sense of uncertainty has spread throughout the world. It imposed a collision between the United States

and the Soviet Union. Despite its tensions and susceptibility to nuclear war, the bipolar system enjoyed certain stability in the course of events and was compromisable, reliable, and enduring. The enemy was known, the challenges and dangers were clear, and the appropriate responses could be easily made. But today, on the contrary, it has become more complex. In other words, it can be said that it is a new era, full of multiple contradictions, the international system is less hegemonic but still strong, and countries change but do not disappear. Moreover, the sovereignty of states has declined but still wields power. Governments are weaker but able to influence outside their borders. Borders still prevent intruders from entering, but they are also more penetrable. Nevertheless, geography remains the main concern of the world. These contradictions raise some questions: how can we evaluate a world dominated by ambiguity? How can we understand that political space is constantly transforming, expanding, and narrowing, and at the same time undergoing contraction? how do we reformulate the concepts of politics to refer to identities, affiliations, and geopolitical shifts? and is it possible to trace the policies of major powers that occupy the new geographical spaces left by shifting and porous borders? (Yarger, 2011).

Going back to the recent past, we find that the great wars were based on ideological bases, as it was with the Cold War, which finally allowed liberalism to win. From this purely Western European perspective, it is not surprising that Western theorists declare the end of history. It means seeing (planetary reality) through a lens focused on one part (Western European experience). The changing geopolitical landscape required consideration of the role of China, Russia, and India, and the increasing importance of Asia in global affairs. Moreover, there were a variety of signs of non-Western civilization vitality, as contemporary historical reality had to be understood from a multi-civilizational perspective (Dallmayr, et al, 2014). Niall (2011) confirms that these civilizations are highly complex systems regardless of what the nominal central authority is. They are an adaptive network of dynamic

economic, social and political relationships. It is not surprising that civilizations of all forms and sizes exhibit many of the characteristics of complex systems.

The goals of the newly independent countries were almost entirely derived from Western European models, even countries with a long tradition of non-Western civilization, such as India and Turkey, initially chose, of their own free will, to abandon their cultural heritage and emulate Western models of modernity. This dynamic was encouraged by the civilized non-Western elites in the West to believe that liberalism and Marxism offered the only competing visions available in the entire world. These distorted practices backfired, such as the revolution against the Shah in Iran. All the while, there have been culturally grounded efforts by intellectuals to break the monopoly of civilization over the non-Western mind (Dallmayr, 2011).

Several manifestations began to confirm the departure from the European central mentality. It generated a wide echo in the academic and political circles. It is supported by a large popular influx that asserts that every nation and civilization has its individuality, distinct from European civilization, which must have its model expressing its values and traditions. Western liberalism tried to erase and replace it with its model. Civilization examples today confirm this in East Asia and Russia, each of which today seeks to prove its distinct identity. It sees in the Western liberal ideology that, even if it triumphs, it has failed in its modernist project and failed when it pushed people to alienation, annihilation, and illusion, and dismantled the references. Thus, the intellectual transformations emanating from the cultural and civilizational vision of each country led to its own political and economic strategic projects, moving away from the Western European model.

One of the most important factors affecting the geopolitics of the twenty-first century is human geography, the distribution of peoples on the earth, the languages they speak, and how they define themselves ethnically and religiously. Even if one does not accept Samuel

Huntington's claim that a clash of civilizations is emerging, the human aspect of geography is certainly not a factor of diminishing importance. Political interaction takes place in a geographic context as leaders are not automatic. Geographical realities limit the choices available to policymakers, but do not make social and cultural factors irrelevant (Walton, 2007).

Spatial variation leads to variation in political phenomena, and civilization is of a specific geographical position. Every civilization is governed by a state - one or more nuclei or that state may be absent (Tay, 2019). Moreover, maps can reveal these countries more than the philosophy that governs them. What determines civilizations and states in the first place is their location on the map. Geography is a backdrop to human history itself. If maps are material and therefore morally neutral, then they can be dangerous tools from which arbitrary policies are launched. Nevertheless, it is of paramount importance for an understanding of world politics. The map represents, as Mackinder describes it, a whole series of generalizations, while the study of maps can be a highly enjoyable experience in itself. However, they are often difficult to accept, as these maps themselves represent a refutation of the concepts of justice, equality, and the unity of the human race. It reminds us of the different environments and civilizations of the earth, which in turn makes human groups disjointed in which interests and values collide in a profound way (Kaplan, 2015).

Geopolitics is related to the interaction between countries in a specific geographical location. Geography has always been the scene in which countries and empires have clashed throughout history. It represents the main factor in international strategies where it is the most permanent. The geography of the state, according to its location in a geographic area and the world as a whole, presents opportunities for the state and imposes restrictions on it. For this reason, geographic location determines the views of the state or its rulers. Thus, it affects their decision-making on matters of foreign policy. Throughout history,

geography has affected the geopolitical orientation of countries in the direction of land power or sea power. So, international politics at its most fundamental level revolves around the power struggle. In addition, countries have sought to expand their territories and influence other countries and peoples. Civilizations are rising because of the dialectic of “challenge and response” in international politics. Challenges have repeatedly taken the form of rising powers that threaten the balance of power. In the past, the dominant rise of Germany was in the center of Europe, and today the international system is being challenged by the rise of China and Russia (Sempa, 2002). Besides, as presented by Boniface (2020), the areas of expansion and the areas that pose a security threat are predetermined on maps of the globe. Geopolitics provides a geographical map of diplomatic-strategic relations with a geo-economic analysis of resources and wealth. It also provides interpretations of the diplomatic situation and the nature of the geographical center according to the way of life and shows the contradictions.

Geopolitics takes into account the interest of the bodies in the international environment, such as international and non-international actors, statesmen, diplomats, non-governmental organizations, and public opinion. This geopolitical model examines the interests of these bodies, and what drives them all to move and interact. This model is highly sensitive to the importance of space in the schemes drawn or adopted by the actors. Therefore, geopolitical doctrines and the proposals they present are conceived within the framework of institutions that may facilitate or confuse the expression of spatial goals. Naturally, geopolitical thinking is represented differently, depending on the nature of political systems (Malak, 2020).

Thinking about and planning for strategy cannot be done in isolation from geopolitical realities, as strategic thinking generates the international strategies of the major powers. It mainly includes invoking the local and global communicative framework, and these strategies are carried out from geopolitical premises, forming conceptual maps of the world, not

related to natural characteristics such as rivers, seas, etc., but rather by defining (geopolitical fault lines). These conceptual maps work by identifying the places where world powers can collide with each other, causing cracks that stand behind major wars, and these maps study how these collisions take place (Alfarjani, 2021). These perceptions of strategists, although they do not give a mature picture of the geopolitical situation, constitute the foreign policy of the state and direct its attention and strength towards areas that are considered strategically important. As Nicholas Speakman states, every researcher, no matter what atlas they use, works mentally with a different map of the world (Gryiel, n.d). Geography is not just a battle of cartographic techniques and systems of government, it is also a competition between different ways of visualizing the world (Dodds, 2016).

This complexity in the international environment, one of the most important causes of which is the civilizational diversity that demands recognition of its historical role, has led to colliding interests in different geographical locations. It has generated these new trends that present themselves today as strategic projects supported by an ideological system, most notably China and Russia, which are seen as forces seeking to impose Presence in the international environment. All express a rejection of the Western European mentality of the Cold War era. This mentality assumes that the West was the only source of a universally valid framework and code of conduct for the entire human race.

According to these data, the behavior of the forces in the international environment, according to the logic of geopolitical interaction, is generated through the value-building of the state mixed with the movement of interests in the environment that surrounds it. Identifying the dynamic interests in the issue of interaction and the limits of influence for each party by defining the area in which the force can move and the nature of coordinating those interests located in one regional area is necessarily accompanied by a geopolitical collision (Hameed, 2021).



Barham (2014) claims that while the geopolitics has historically been the focus of military confrontation in its physical form, the nature of the international environment and the logic of interaction today have taken a different direction for several reasons like the development of military systems and intercontinental weapons, and nuclear weapons, which have constituted a factor with which it was difficult to turn tensions into wars in the traditional sense. They also represented a deterrent to the use of weapons and resort to war. On the other hand, the disparity and contradiction between the international powers have not disappeared, interests remain interests, and states are still striving to achieve them. In addition, the collision of interests and international competition are considered economic more than ideological or military. Roscrani also points out in his interpretation that the international collision will be primarily economic and may develop into the form of an economic war. He also mentions that there is a structural transformation in the state institution and that it tends to be commercial states rather than military-political states.

The geopolitical collision has an economic dimension, which can be seen through the economic competition not only for the supply of raw materials but also reflects the search for markets and investment. But the geopolitical clash is more evident through the intense competition between the great powers in higher interests, to serve the most prominent political purpose of returning to power on the international stage or maintaining its presence on it (Tanugi, 2008).

So, the geopolitical collision is a difference in visions and goals on which strategic projects are built to achieve higher interests. Their meeting in one geographical environment and the lack of desire or ability to crystallize consensual solutions lead to a geopolitical collision, in which each party tries to exclude the other or prevent it from expanding and push it back, or impede its progress in the geopolitical space. So, various political, economic, and social means are used.

In an attempt to give theoretical assumptions or describe the nature of the geopolitical collision, an axiomatic hypothesis is depended on. It is the dynamics of actors in the international environment, as a geopolitical collision cannot occur without the kinetics of those actors. If geopolitics is an expression of the nature of the interaction between the place, with all its material terms, and the structures of international forces, then this interaction is expressed by the behavior of international forces and the national interests that they defend, and the values that they display. Religious and historical traditions have left an astonishingly strong legacy in which a distinction continues to be made between a wide range of core values relating not only to religion but also to political, economic, and social norms across cultural regions, from which divergent interests are shaped (Reilly, 2000). Terry L. Dibble also mentions that interests are goals and conditions that the state seeks to preserve or achieve. They are a picture of the reality of vital importance or a picture of a hoped future. As the national interest is rooted in values and can be understood as applications of values in their context. Besides, when talking about interests, it is a talk about values. And if there are values that are considered universally accepted, then the debate over the considerations of interests related to highlighting the values at the global level and trying to impose them, for which the projects they serve are launched. Those interests represent a threat to another party, and as a result, it launches its projects to address those threats (Dibble, 2009). These projects intersect in specific geographical areas, which creates a geopolitical collision in which each power tries to control the geopolitical space in different ways.

The second assumption is that the geopolitical collision is a natural result of the reality of the international environment represented by the state of (non-integration). If cooperation at the regional and international levels is a phenomenon confirmed by the international reality, then integration in its broad sense has not been witnessed by the international system since the inception of the

nation-state, where the international reality has proven its inability to integrate. Until it seemed that integration and the presence of supreme central authority in the international system are impossible, meaning that the international system whose basic units are formed by states is based on variation and difference. Although we can find a phenomenon of cooperation in certain areas between two or more countries, this cooperation is not absolute and permanent, as long as the interests are of dynamic characteristics that determine the state's behavior towards its external environment.

International integration, as described by integration theorists, is a formula for cooperation between states in some fields, and the establishment of permanent bodies and institutions that foster this integration. It aims to create a body that will take binding decisions for the nation-states, through institutions that can issue measures and procedures towards the member states of the group. For the success of integration, some conditions must be met, on top of which are common values and unity of goals. In addition, integration requires the member countries to make some kind of concessions if they want to benefit from this cooperative pattern (Taweel, 2018). The state of integration remains restricted to one geographical area or specific geopolitical spaces and in certain areas, depending on the change in the interests of the powers. Whereas its opposite (non-integration) is manifested both in the theories of international relations, starting with the centralization of power and interest in the realistic theory and not ending with the structures and ideas of the constructivists, or in the manifestations of reality and the chaos of the international system and the multiplicity of actors. In addition, new risks, threats, and geopolitical transformations emerge, and not all countries agree on defining the angle of view. They prompt them to adopt projects with different goals and colliding interests and to express the reality of the lack of integration leading to a state of collision in certain geopolitical spaces.

The third assumption is that geopolitical collision does not require physical fusion. Collision is not material as much as it is a clash

of strategic interests and projects, meaning that it does not necessarily lead to a clash or war. The collision among bodies represents the meeting of two opposing interests in one geopolitical space, so it is an early stage of the collision, meaning that it could pave the way for a future geopolitical clash. If the major powers set their goals in a specific geopolitical field, and according to what this field represents for each of them and how important it is to their national security and international standing, a treaty, agreement, or sharing of gains may result, which would result in a shift in the geopolitical maps. We say that geopolitical collision is a process of interaction, friction, and jostling between forces, and the continuation of this interaction ends with one of the two powers' domination of the field, or it leads to a treaty and interests sharing. Moreover, this interaction could develop into a geopolitical collision. The targeted geopolitical space has different levels of description according to the nature of international and non-international actors. A geopolitical space may represent a collision of regional powers, a geopolitical clash of international powers, and a war at the level of local actors.

The nature of the geopolitical collision that occurs in the areas of contact, as mentioned earlier, represents strategic importance for the major powers. It can be a corridor for the transfer of energy or a center for resources due to its geographical proximity to one of the major powers (Kelly, 1986). These regions or states may represent fragmented or fractured belts that are caught between the colliding interests of the great powers. Because of their division at the local level and their incompatibility with neighboring countries, their vital location, and their attractiveness as targets for geopolitical hegemony, the fractured areas are more susceptible to geopolitical collision than others. Because the great powers see great interest in them and opportunities are available to establish an alliance with them. In other words, those fractured relations arise when a region is a foothold for a geopolitical collision of the great powers.

## Conclusions

Complexity in the international environment is not a matter that can be summed up and explained in a few words. Attempting to make the blurry picture clear and deal with the detailed parts that cause major events and major issues in today's world requires a more in-depth look and a more comprehensive rational explanation. The differences and collisions of the complexity are due to the spatial disparity of civilizations in the world, which produces collisions in interests. The attempts to make a single civilized model that expresses the ambitions and hopes of all in this world have failed. The identity of each nation reproduces itself when they face what they see as a threat to their nation's existence or its unique traditions, customs, and culture. This gives rise to different interpretive worldviews, in addition to divergent goals and interests that do not meet with that of other civilizations or cultural identities. And the attempt to consolidate these identities and civilized models in the regional environment of each of them leads them to collision in geopolitical spaces with other interests that express a different identity and culture. As a result, a geopolitical collision is formed in the geographical areas in which the ambitions of two strategic projects intersect, each of which is trying to impose its vision, model, and values to maximize its gains. This collision is distinguished from the war in that these spaces do not represent a battlefield in the traditional sense of confrontation, but rather a defense based on the use of non-military means to achieve economic, ideological and cultural interests.

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