

Decision-making in geopolitics

The need for honest inquiry

Decision-making is a particularly complex yet simple activity. Decision-making is defined by a cognitive process aimed at determining a series of actions to take a particular direction. It is simple because instinct plays a certain role, but it is complex because it involves an intellectual process of asking the right questions and obtaining the right answers.

Thus, everyone makes decisions every day, basic ones : should I buy bread now or should I do it tomorrow ? Generally, the stakes are modest : if I don't have bread tonight, at worst I won't be able to dip my bread in sauce or eat my cheese (if we have any).

In geopolitics the stakes are infinitely more delicate : it involves identifying a problem threatening the country's interests and finding one or more solutions. The questions to ask are as follows, knowing that they are not exhaustive :

- What is the problem ?
- What are the interests ?
- What do we gain ?
- What do we lose ?
- What is the problem's perception by other states ?
- What are the fears ?
- What will their reactions be to a certain action on our part ?

All these questions only make sense on the precondition of being aware of the interests to protect. For this, it is essential to be intellectually neutral and not to lock oneself into "pro" or "anti" stances. In this spirit, it is useful to be interested (again) in the humanities.

The Needs of the Humanities

Geopolitics should not be separated from other areas that are unfortunately classified as « has been » ou « useless » : the humanities must be taught. However, it is clear that classical and modern literature, history, geography, as well as language learning, knowledge of arts, religions, and philosophie are no longer considered noble subjects.

Indeed, hardly anyone knows what the Treaty of Westphalia is anymore, or the Congress of Viennan or even the Treaty of Versailles and its amendments, or the Yalta agreements. This intellectual and mental precariousness in schools and universities remains worrying because these institutions produce students who will eventually become political, economic, and other type of leaders.

All these humanities (including, foreign languages) are tools to put oneself in the place of the interlocutor in order to anticipate their reactions and not be taken by surprise.

L'article est unique et a été rédigé par un bénévole expert de chez ADESS, ayant une grande expertise dans sa thématique de prédilection. Il a accumulé une expérience professionnelle significative et des diplômes qui lui sont associés.

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Pierre VERDIN – ID : 7319745

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