

## Abstracts

### **Landscape in twilight: French geopolitics**

**J. Levy**

French geopolitics can be discussed as the geographical dimension of French international relations and as the product of the discussion amongst those who contribute to the geopolitical discourse. France's unique position as a West-European state with a long agrarian history and an old demographic problem plus a colonial empire is indicated. Against that background current French-African relations and French European policy are analyzed. In both cases the end of the Cold War has in practical terms finished traditional French policy that had been based on the illusions of a former major power position. This change in the geopolitical position of the French state is reflected in the geopolitical discussion inside France. There is a curious consensus among traditionally leftist and rightist participants in a return to a classic geopolitical discourse based on the state system and the threat of violence. There is no equivalent of the gradual adaptation in self-perception that one can observe in the American debate.

### **Geopolitical codes and collective representations**

**G.J.W. Dijkink**

The foreign policy of a country, which is essentially based on a 'geopolitical code' more or less corresponds with domestic collective (geopolitical) representations. Such visions of the world are produced by common experiences and by the influence of a national communication system. Sometimes configurations in the actual world controlling these representations are so strong that they veto pragmatic adaptations of the prevailing foreign policy. In other cases a configurational change induces a tacit adaptation of the collective representation (like in Finland after the Second World War). Foreign policy in the Netherlands has often shown incompetence in understanding geopolitical reasoning in international relations. The author concludes with a plea for research into European geopolitical representations in order to improve diplomatic understanding but also to enrich thought about European security.

### **Geopolitics in the nineties**

**V.D. Mamadouh**

This article reviews the geopolitical literature published in the nineties. The diversity is overwhelming. Publications are therefore presented under four headings: neoclassical geopolitics, subversive geopolitics, non-geopolitics en critical geopolitics. Despite their differences, the four types of studies share a growing interest in geo-economics.