Call for Papers

Economic Diplomacy Journal

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Special Issue: **Geoeconomics at 100: Theory, Practice, and Policy Transformations**

Special Issue Editors

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1. Background and Rationale

The year 2025 marks the centennial of *Geoeconomics*, a term first systematized in 1925 through the works of Arthur Dix and Wilhelm Röpke in post–World War I Germany. While Dix (1925) developed a realist and nationalist view of *Geoökonomie* in his book *Geoökonomie: Einführung in erdhafte Wirtschaftsbetrachtung*, Röpke (1925) elaborated a liberal and interdependent vision in his doctoral study *Geld und Außenhandel*, where he first used the term "Geoökonomie." Their distinct but complementary approaches laid the conceptual foundations for modern geoeconomics (Dix, 1925; Röpke, 1925).

Over the past century, the idea of geoeconomics has traveled across paradigms—from interwar Europe to Cold War strategic thought, from post–Cold War globalization to today's age of strategic interdependence (Luttwak, 1990; Pfeiffer, 2024).

A key intellectual starting point for this special issue can be traced back to the international seminar *"Geopolitics of Economic Statecraft"*, jointly organized by Wuhan University and Prof. Colin Flint in 2018 (originally conceived in 2017). That

meeting—attended by leading scholars including James D. Sidaway and others—explored the dynamic interaction between economic statecraft and geopolitics. It advanced the idea that economic statecraft and geopolitical strategy are mutually constitutive processes. The discussion also highlighted how geography and spatial constraints shape economic power projection, especially through initiatives such as China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The intellectual framework developed at that seminar—linking economic power, territoriality, and strategy—has continued to evolve. It informed subsequent teaching and research collaborations and contributed to a broader research trajectory culminating in the recent *Geoeconomics Roundtable*, co-organized with Nanjing University of Finance and Economics. Together, these initiatives mark a long-term scholarly journey from the study of economic statecraft and geopolitics to a deeper understanding of geoeconomics as the intersection of power, space, and interdependence.

A summary and materials from the 2025 Geoeconomics Roundtable are available at: https://www.chinacentralasia.org/events/past-events/329-geoeconomics-roundtable-october-2025

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2. What Is Geoeconomics? Conceptual Traditions and Definitions

Geoeconomics has developed through several intellectual traditions.

Realist approaches emphasize the strategic use of economic instruments for geopolitical purposes; liberal approaches focus on interdependence, institutions, and economic cooperation; relational approaches examine how wealth and power interact within spatial structures of interdependence; and critical approaches explore how economic, political, and spatial categories are constructed and mobilized.

Rather than privileging a single definition, this special issue invites contributors to examine, compare, critique, and develop these different traditions and to explore the conceptual boundaries of geoeconomics.

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3. Core Themes

This special issue explores both the theoretical and policy dimensions of geoeconomics, emphasizing its historical evolution and global relevance.

Theoretical Dimension
The issue reconsiders the foundational debates of 1925–2025 and traces the shift from state-centered and instrumental views toward relational, institutional, and critical geoeconomics. It examines how disciplinary boundaries have shaped divergent understandings of the field and asks whether a more integrated paradigm might emerge.

Policy Dimension
The policy dimension investigates how geoeconomic logics unfold across **multiple scales and regions**, reflecting a truly global process. It addresses:

- **Eurasian connectivity** through transport and energy corridors such as the *Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)* and the *Middle Corridor*;
- **Western initiatives** including the *EU's Global Gateway* and the *U.S. Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)*;
- **Indo-Pacific and African dynamics**, where digital, maritime, and resource-based geoeconomics reshape regional balances;
- **The global digital and technological order**, in which supply chains, AI governance, and technological sovereignty become new arenas of economic statecraft.

By adopting a **global and comparative perspective**, the special issue aims to reveal how different actors translate economic interdependence into political influence and how the spatial logic of competition and cooperation shapes the emerging world order.

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4. Key Questions for Contributors

1. How has the meaning of geoeconomics evolved over a century of global transformation?
2. What is the conceptual and practical relationship between **economic statecraft (or economic diplomacy)** and **geopolitics**?
   How do these two domains interact, overlap, or mutually constitute one another in both theory and policy practice?

3. Does geoeconomics possess its own **theoretical framework or paradigmatic tradition** comparable to classical geopolitics (e.g., sea power, land power, rimland theories)?
   If so, what are its distinctive principles and internal debates?
4. Is geoeconomics an extension of geopolitics or an autonomous paradigm in its own right?
5. How do global and regional initiatives (e.g., the Belt and Road Initiative, the EU's Global Gateway, and the U.S. Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment) reflect distinct geoeconomic logics?
6. What can comparative analysis across Eurasia, the Indo-Pacific, Africa, and the Americas reveal about the spatial distribution of power?
7. Can variation in prevalence and type of geoeconomic policies be contextualized in time and space?
8. Can geoeconomics offer an integrative framework for analyzing a world order marked by both interdependence and fragmentation?

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5. Rolling Submissions and Publication

This ongoing thematic collection welcomes submissions continuously, with no deadline. This rolling arrangement supersedes all previously announced submission and collection-completion dates.

Editorial feedback, peer review and revisions: undertaken continuously, with individual timelines communicated to authors.

Publication: articles are published individually once peer review, acceptance and production are complete. Authors do not need to wait for the full collection; no fixed collection closing date is currently set.

6. Submission Guidelines

All manuscripts should be prepared according to the Instructions for Authors available on the website: https://reference-global.com/journal/ECDIP

Note: We welcome contributions across disciplines (international political economy, international relations, development studies, law, business, and regional studies) that advance scholarly understanding and policy practice for small states in a multipolar era.

Full manuscripts should be submitted through the official submission system linked

from the journal website (https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ecdip). All research manuscripts undergo the journal's standard double-blind peer-review process; a favourable response to a proposal does not guarantee publication.
