BLACKBIRD FOR TRAINING

Geopolitical Theories and Practices

7 – 11 December 2026
Düsseldorf (Germany)



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Introduction

Geopolitical Theories and Practices form the foundation for understanding how international relations evolve and how strategic policies are shaped. In today's world, nations face interlinked challenges: resource competition, shifting power balances, territorial disputes, and the rise of new global actors. Mastering geopolitical theories and applying them in practice provides decision-makers and executives with the analytical tools to anticipate global transformations and design more effective strategies.

This program is designed for executives, leaders, and professionals working in both government and private institutions across the Middle East and North Africa. It equips them with a deep understanding of international dynamics while offering practical approaches to manage geopolitical risks that impact industries such as energy, banking, telecommunications, human resources, and project management.

Course Objectives

- Understand the fundamental concepts of geopolitical theories.
- Analyze the geopolitical dimensions of regional and global conflicts.
- Apply practical tools to assess risks and opportunities.
- Examine global models for managing geopolitical policies.
- Develop forecasting skills for shifts in global power.
- Integrate geopolitical thinking into institutional decision-making.
- Strengthen strategic analysis skills in volatile environments.
- Build practical strategies to address global challenges.

Course Outlines

Day 1: Introduction to Classical and Contemporary Geopolitical Theories

- Overview of core theories Mackinder, Spykman, Mahan.
- The historical evolution of geopolitical thought.
- The role of geography in shaping international power.
- Comparing classical theories with modern perspectives.
- Geopolitical theory as a tool for foreign policy design.
- Group exercise: Applying a geopolitical theory to a current case study.



Day 2: Global and Regional Powers and the Balance of Interests

- The role of major powers in the international system.
- Regional power dynamics in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.
- Competition over maritime routes and strategic zones.
- Alliances and their impact on global stability.
- How conflicts reshape global economic structures.
- Practical activity: Mapping great power competition in a chosen region.

Day 3: The Geopolitics of Resources and Energy

- Energy as a driver of international policy.
- Competition over natural resources and water.
- The geopolitical dimensions of oil and gas.
- Energy security and its role in global stability.
- Transition to renewable energy and its geopolitical consequences.
- Case study: Analyzing a global energy crisis from a geopolitical perspective.

Day 4: Modern Geopolitical Challenges and Digital Transformation

- Technology and innovation as new factors in geopolitics.
- Cybersecurity is a domain of international competition.
- The impact of artificial intelligence on global power structures.
- Digital diplomacy as a new form of influence.
- Climate change and environmental security in geopolitics.
- Group task: Exploring how digital transformation affects a country's soft power.

Day 5: Practical Applications, Case Studies, and Final Evaluation

- Recap of theories and practices covered throughout the course.
- Case studies from the Middle East, Europe, and Asia.
- Scenario planning for future geopolitical challenges.
- Group project: Designing a geopolitical strategy for a country or institution.
- Presentations and peer feedback.
- Final evaluation and key takeaways.



Why Attend This Course: Wins & Losses!

- Gain an advanced understanding of geopolitical theories and practices.
- Strengthen skills to analyze risks and opportunities.
- Integrate strategic geopolitical thinking into decision-making.
- Build expertise in the geopolitics of energy and resources.
- Access global best practices and success stories.
- Enhance forecasting and scenario-building capabilities.
- Support institutions in responding to complex global challenges.
- Expand professional networks with experts and leaders in the field.

Conclusion

Geopolitical Theories and Practices are indispensable tools for analyzing the complex dynamics of international relations and shaping effective strategies. This program blends academic insight with practical applications, equipping participants to navigate global risks and opportunities.

By combining theoretical frameworks, hands-on exercises, and case studies, the course ensures participants acquire comprehensive skills they can directly apply within their institutions, whether in government or the private sector.

