

One of the most significant developments affecting the conduct of international relations occurred between 1945 and 60 when no less than 40 countries with a population of 800 million achieved their independence. A new relationship - of parity rather than domination - was established between Europe on the one hand and Asia and Africa. Moreover relations with the newly-independent states were of a different character than had existed between the independent states in pre-war times: the emphasis was on helping the new states by all means available to preserve and govern themselves. By the early 1960's the problems of underdevelopment were regarded sufficiently seriously to cause substantial aid efforts to be mounted by most of the developed countries; by comparison, issues such as German re-unification fell into the background.

Further changes in perspective are illustrated by the inadequacy of many traditional notions of geopolitics, e.g. that the power of states can be reckoned simply by taking inventories of their military hardware, wealth, foreign exchange, etc. Today there operate within the modern states-system

---

problems of nationalism, as they developed in Europe since 1815. These problems, particularly the growth of German nationalism, were one factor in the situation; but equally important was the awareness that the position of Europe in the world was changing and that it would be irretrievably lost unless something were done to restore it. We can see this conviction emerging and gathering strength - particularly but not exclusively in Germany. ... But it was never simply an expression of German nationalism. Rather its foundation was the conviction that policies which aimed merely to defend established positions were fighting a losing battle, and that a more positive reaction was necessary. This reaction has been called 'the last attempt to re-organize modern Europe'. The form it took was an attempt to weld together in the heart of Europe the core of a German-dominated empire strong enough to compete on terms of equality with the other great world powers of the time, imperial Russia, the United States and the British empire. Its outcome was the wars of 1914 and 1939."