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BA English Honours | Semester VI | ENG6EJ304

Geopolitical Dynamics in Literature

Module 1: Geopolitics and the International World Order: O Tuathail and Global Empire • Comprehensive Notes

Chapter 1: Critical Geopolitics and Spatial Power

Critical geopolitics interrogates how geographic space, national borders, and international alliances are ideologically constructed by dominant imperial powers to justify military intervention, economic exploitation, and territorial hegemony. Rather than accepting geography as an objective physical reality, literature reveals how geopolitics is a narrative construct shaped by language, maps, and cultural rhetoric.

1.1 Gearóid Ó Tuathail: Thinking Critically About Geopolitics

In *The Geopolitics Reader*, Irish political geographer Gearóid Ó Tuathail pioneered the field of **Critical Geopolitics**. Ó Tuathail demonstrates that traditional geopolitics was born in the nineteenth century as an imperialist technology of power, dividing the globe into "civilized centers" and "primitive peripheries." Critical geopolitics deconstructs the discursive rhetoric of statesmen, revealing how phrases like "the Free World," "Axis of Evil," and "failed states" operate as linguistic weapons that manufacture consent for war.

1.2 Global Capitalism and Video Games: Nick Dyer-Witheford

In *Games of Empire: Global Capitalism and Video Games* (2009), Nick Dyer-Witheford and Greig de Peuter analyze how contemporary commercial video games (such as *Call of Duty* and militarized first-person shooters) function as ideological apparatuses of contemporary imperial geopolitics, socializing youth into imperial warfare, hyper-surveillance, and corporate militarism.

Advanced Critical Theory, Hermeneutics & Literary Praxis

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Critical inquiry into Module 1: Geopolitics and the International World Order: O Tuathail and Global Empire reveals how textual forms construct meaning through complex aesthetic strategies and structural choices:

- **Structuralism and Semiotic Deconstruction:** The organization of signs, tropes, and syntactical structures establishes narrative authority while simultaneously revealing internal fissures. Binary oppositions embedded within the discourse—such as center versus margin, tradition versus modernity, and subjective interiority versus objective reality—are systematically problematized through textual slippages and ambiguous signifiers.
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- **Feminist, Queer, and Intersectional Critique:** Analyzing the construction of gender roles, patriarchal surveillance, and non-normative subjectivities provides crucial insights into how bodily experience, domesticity, and public agency are mediated across divergent historical moments and cultural landscapes.
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2. Historiographical Context and Reception Theory

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3. Comparative Aesthetic and Thematic Matrix

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