

as the focal point by virtue of being in a position where all the other countries are around it?

DR. JAMES: This is the opening paragraph in this book that I am trying to sell to you fellows. It says that we now have instant communications and the world is closer together than ever before, and yet it never was more divided. This is a fact. It has never been more divided. There have never been greater antagonisms between parts of it, and more misunderstandings. Now, why? And why Western Europe?

The Western Europe business and the land hemisphere concept go back, of course, as a challenge to Mackinder. Mackinder said that the heartland was this part of Europe, and that who controlled Eastern Europe controlled the heartland--this great land mass--and that who controlled the heartland could control the periphery. He said land power could defeat sea power.

Now, this was fine as long as we were talking about an area which was not navigable, in the polar regions, and where there were no missiles. Nowadays you've got missiles and you've got high-flying airplanes which, for the first time, go above the weather, so you don't have to worry about fog and ice in the polar region. Airplanes can go high enough to get out of the way of the weather, and missiles don't pay any attention to the weather.

So for the first time global position really counts. In Mackinder's day it didn't count, because so much of the world was out of the picture, anyway, because of ice, and fog, and snow, and storm. Consequently, today