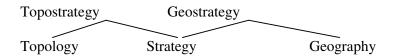# The definition of topostrategy

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In the framework of grand strategy, where it is permitted to reconsider the notions of strategy or tactics, geostrategy is indispensable for the resolution of efficiency problems in real situations. In our theoretical researches on what we call abstract strategy, we have ended up setting a real methodology, which corresponds to what we call from now on mental strategy. Its substrate is the theory of mental schemas. In order to apply schemas of such type, it is necessary to contextualize them inside classic strategy. It is under this perspective that we study geostrategy, which combines the visions of strategy and geostrategy, in order to understand, manage and solve real problems. However, the strictly geographical anchoring poses an intrinsic problem because geostrategy is neither strategic geography nor a geographical strategy but a complex which becomes degenerated when these constituent elements are separated. Geostrategy lives in confinement in order to act inside reality. This cognitive object is extremely efficient in manipulating terrestrial facts especially if they are stable. In any case, geostrategy has meaning from the moment where distance is defined. This way we have the notions of proximity and accessibility, which can also play via their negation. On a theoretical level, the technical problems appear when we are found beyond terrestrial space. Indeed, in maritime space, aerial or even spatial, the notions of proximity and accessibility are radically different. It is obvious that this comes from changing the nature of the notion of distance. To parry this difficulty, it is necessary to manage fundamental notions without doubt more simple at first sight but robust enough to lead us to generalizations as far as the notion of distance is concerned, as in the framework of networks or more generally, of distinct spaces. It is in this way that in our researches we exploit notions like compactness and connectedness. In reality, we involve topology and more of geometry in strategy. It is for this reason that it seems indispensable to create the neologism of topostrategy in order to amply exploit this approach. This creation is of course an abduction, but it remains analogical. Thus like in geostrategy, which represents the synthesis of geography and strategy, we have conceived topostrategy as a cognitive synthesis of topology – and not topography- and strategy. We therefore have this formalistic analogy:

Topostrategy   Geostrategy

Topology   Strategy   Geography

The above analogy is of multiple and irreducible order. Topostrategy exploits the geographical vision. Nevertheless it acts on the mathematical core. It concentrates therefore on elements, which are more fundamental from a mathematical point of view and therefore more basic from a geopolitical point of view. The analogy would consist therefore of not seeing but the geometrical aspect of geography. Otherwise, we risk committing an error, by creating confusion with the notion of topography. From every aspect, the objective of topostrategy is to strategically utilize topological notions, but also to set a strategy adapted to the locus. Geostrategy and topostrategy together, can integrate diachronic elements in their analogy. As for the combination of the two, they allow us to be closer to abstract strategy, which does not include in an explicit manner the notion of distance. It can therefore

understand entities as manifolds. We consider that the Mediterranean and Balkanization, which we have dealt with in previous studies, constitute topostrategical paradigms. Without this being restrictive at all for the field of topostrategy.