

Space, geopolitics and democracy in mid-century American international thought

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Or Rosenboim is a Junior Research Fellow in Politics and History at Queens' College and the department of Politics and International Studies, both at the University of Cambridge, where she also completed her doctoral studies. She holds a BA in Modern History from the University of Bologna, Italy, and MSt in Global and Imperial History from the University of Oxford. She was a visiting scholar at the University of Chicago and in Sciences-Po, Paris.

Her research explores the history of international thought in the twentieth century. She is currently working on a book manuscript on 1940s international thought. She has published a number of articles and chapters on geopolitics, federalism, imperialism, and Italian political thought, in journals including *Modern Intellectual History* and the *International History Review*.

The paper:

The paper is part of a book project, based on my doctoral thesis, exploring competing visions of world order in the United States and Britain in the 1940s. During and after the Second World War, public intellectuals and political thinkers envisaged a new political order taking into account the world's new 'globalism' and interconnectedness. They proposed federal, regional and universal alternatives to the existing system of states, which for many was the cause of conflict and strife.

This paper focuses on the interplay between geopolitics, empire, and democracy in American mid-century international thought. I suggest that American geopolitical thinkers proposed cartographic and spatial representations as a concrete foundation for international thought. Yet, I show that their ideas were also motivated by normative assumptions about the nature of politics in the post-imperial age. I argue that abstract notions of "democracy" and "empire" in American international thought cannot be understood without paying attention to their territorial roots and to their spatial implications.