

## **Bible and the Headlines: Geography is Destiny**

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In 1989 philosopher Francis Fukuyama published “The End of History.” In it, Fukuyama expressed his belief that the process of western-style democratization would keep expanding until national borders were no longer relevant. The current headlines offer a counter argument.

The February 1 edition of Bloomberg carried, “In an Age of Superpowers, Geography Is Still Destiny.” The author starts his piece with the declaration, “The post–Cold War moment of great-power peace and borderless globalization has ended. Fracture, rivalry and disorder are defining themes of our age.” In such an environment it is a travesty that only one Ivy League school has a Geography Department. The cure: “Transiting this volatile, uncertain era will require reacquainting ourselves with the strategic logic of geography, that most enduring, unforgiving force in world affairs.”

The online blog and media company, H2S Media, featured on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, “8 Things AI Gets Wrong About Geography—And Why It Matters.” The impetus for the blog was a traveler’s AI-generated route that included closed border checkpoints and entry into one country that would have negated access to other countries on the route. The blogger noted, “AI systems typically present one version as fact, rarely acknowledging that the “correct” border depends entirely on whose government you ask.” AI is limited by the data entered, and some realities cannot be conveyed by computer keystrokes.

Also released on February 2, the independent news site Eurasia Review had an op-ed, “The Geopolitics Of South-East Europe and the Importance of the Regional Geostrategic Position.” The op-ed is a deep dive into the history of the Balkans, the region of Europe where the orient meets the western world. The writer states, “The peculiar geostrategic position of the Balkan Peninsula gives us an answer to the question of why it [the Balkans] has been throughout history both a bridge and the battlefield of different civilizations and cultures.” The opinion is the Balkans cannot change its zip code, so history will continue to repeat itself.

Geo-political borders were an inescapable fact of God’s work in the Bible. Even as God used rivers to mark the extent of the land He promised to Abraham, God also listed the nations that Abraham would dispossess in said land (Gen 15:18-21). The fact is topography is tied to Divine purpose. The apostle Paul told his audience in Athens, “From one man God made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us” (Act 17:26-27).

It is God’s “End of History” that does away with geography, not western-style democracy. On Judgment Day, “The kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, will hide” (Rev. 6:15) and “. . . the heavens will recede like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island will be removed from its place” (Rev 6:14). On that day, the only geography that matters is around God’s throne (Rev. 7:9).