

Geopolitical strategies – American Bases in Germany: An Example

Author: Thomas R. Mueller, Ph.D., GISP

Grade Level: College Freshman

Time Frame: Two class periods

National Geography Standards

Standard 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information

Standard 13: How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface

Objectives

The student will be able to:

- A) Understand the changing locational importance of Germany in American strategies.
- B) Examine spatial patterns within a geopolitical framework

Procedures

- 1) The teacher provides an interactive map of the Eastern Hemisphere – possibly Google Maps or Google Earth. The students should focus on the country of Germany. The teacher can start the discussion on Germany's location.
 - A) Please describe the relative location of Germany
 - B) What countries are to the North, East, West, South, etc.?
 - C) Describe the coastal access of Germany, etc.
- 2) Students should watch Dr. Sarah Kreps's *Deterrence and Forward Presence in Europe: From Cold War to Present* video and answer the following questions:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdrGZE4SzDA> (Stop at 8:45)
 - A) According to Schelling, what is Deterrence?
 - B) Define Compellence
 - C) Define Mutual Deterrence
 - D) Define External Deterrence
 - E) If possible, ask the students to please provide examples..
- 3) The teacher then provides the students the following maps – **American Military Bases in Germany – Blue** and **American Military Bases in Germany – Red** (See Appendix). Then students compare the two maps and discuss the following:
 - A) Compare the Number of Bases
 - B) Compare the Locations of Bases
 - C) Which map is more recent? Why?

- 4) The teacher then presents the following information:
 - A) Red is the most recent map
 - B) There are 170 less bases between the two maps (Due to the map scale this may be difficult to visualize).

- 5) With this new information, ask the students the following questions:
 - A) Why has there been a reduction in American Military Bases in Germany?
 - B) What is significant about the current location of bases in Germany?

- 6) Students should now watch more of Dr. Sarah Kreps's video and then discuss the changes to Europe and the world after the Cold War:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdrGZE4SzDA> (Start at 8:45 and end at 41:20)

- 7) Now divide the students into groups and assign them an United States Unified Command Region (<https://www.defense.gov/About/Military-Departments/Unified-Combatant-Commands/>). For example, the United States Indo-Pacific Command and ask them to research America Military bases in this region.
 - A) How many are located in their assigned region? Historically or presently?
 - B) Are there any patterns to these locations?
 - C) Finally each group will present their results.

Modifications

- 1) Ask students to only investigate countries possessing nuclear weapons and American Military Bases (Re-watch Dr. Kreps video 19:00 to about 28:00)
 - A) The suspected amount of weapons before Cold War and after Cold War
 - B) Is there a relationship between American Military bases and nuclear weapons?

Extensions

- 1) The teacher can ask the students to examine all Western Power military bases in non-western countries

References

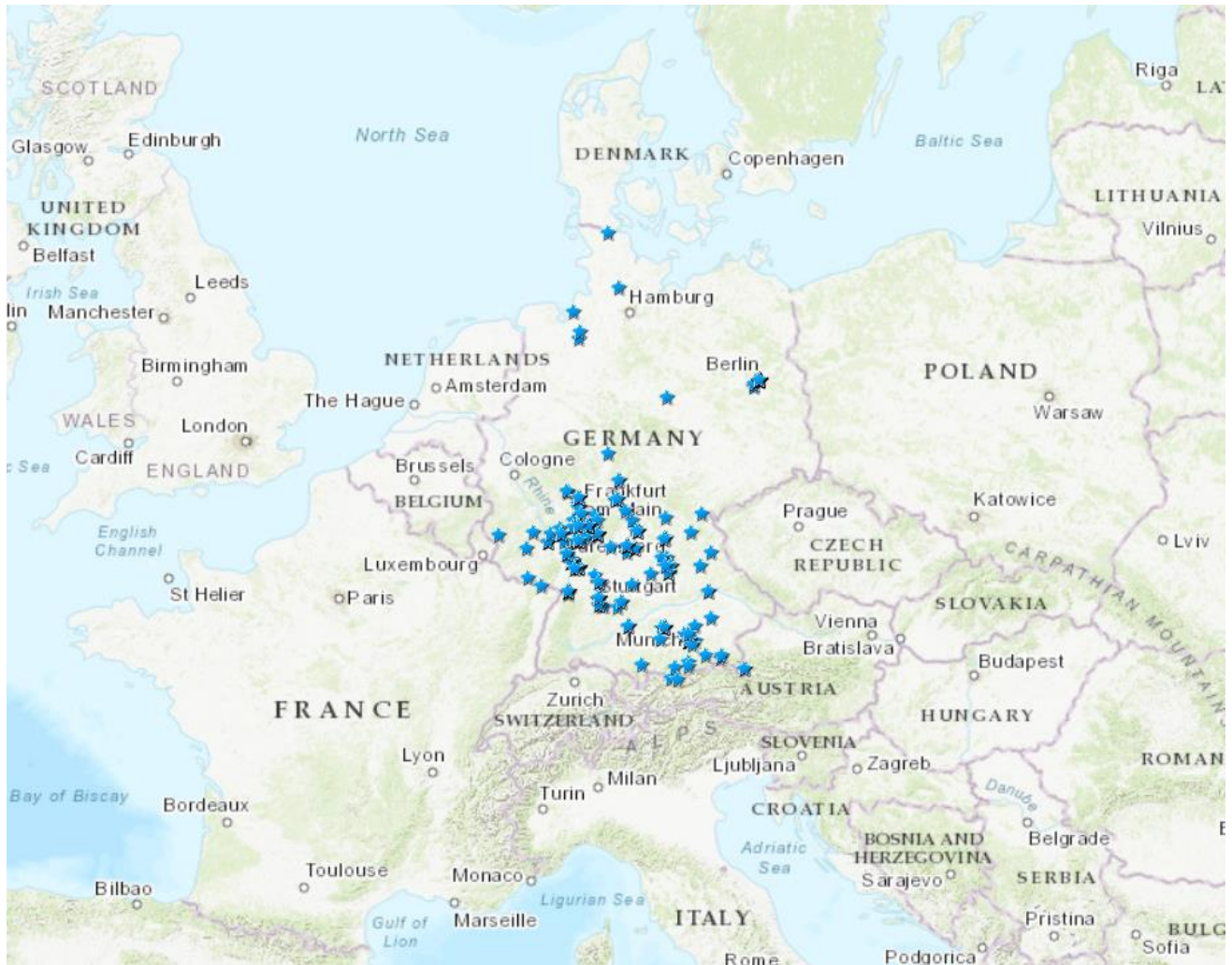
Kreps, Sarah, 2018. Deterrence and Forward Presence in Europe: From Cold War to Present – Foreign Policy Research Institute <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdrGZE4SzDA>

List of United States Army installations in Germany - https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_Army_installations_in_Germany

Vandiver, John. 2015. RAF Mildenhall to close amid other Europe consolidations. Stars and Stripes. <https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/raf-mildenhall-to-close-amid-other-europe-consolidations-1.322825>

Unified Command Plan Map <https://www.defense.gov/About/Military-Departments/Unified-Combatant-Commands/>

American Military Bases in Germany – Blue

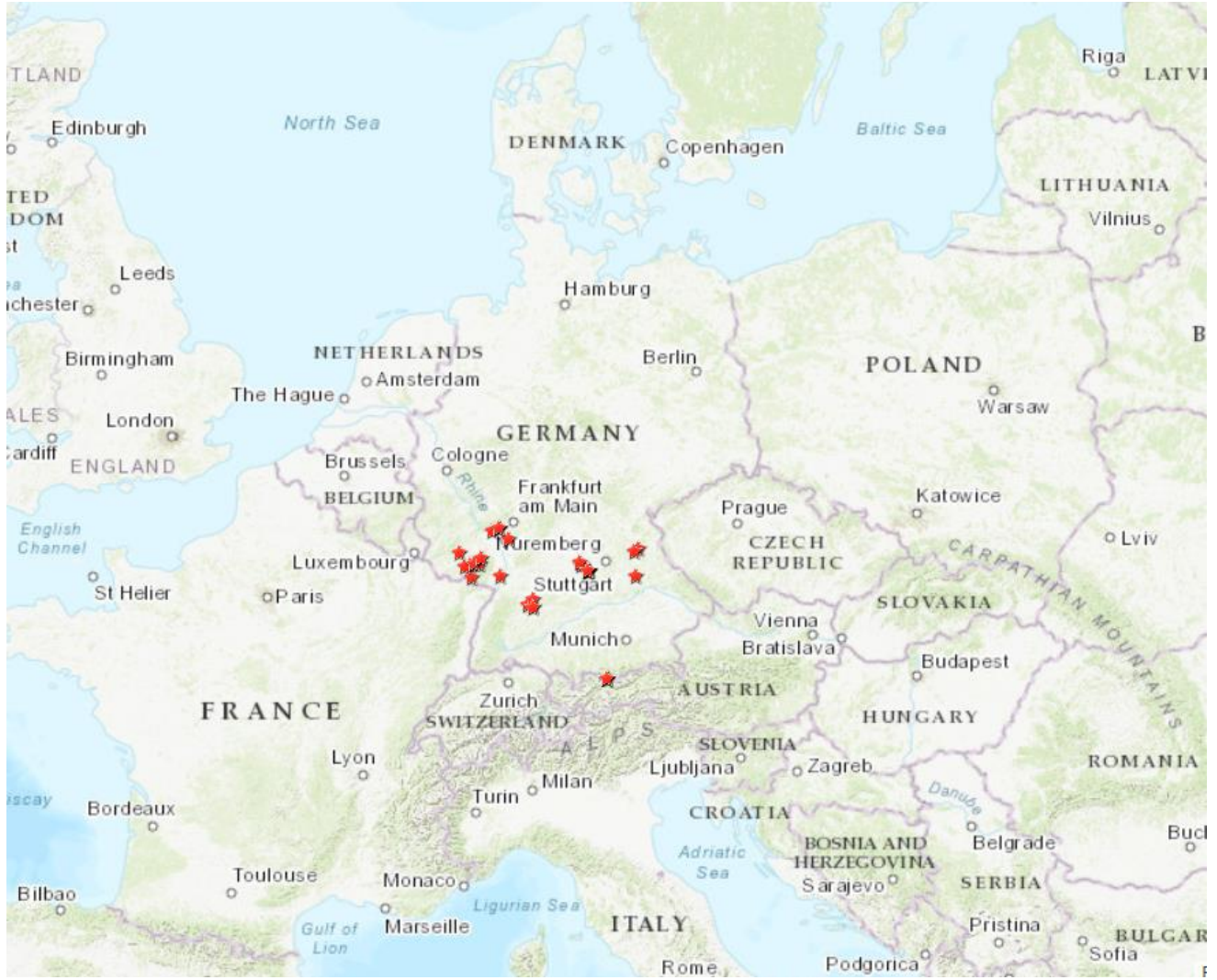


[USA Topo Maps](#)

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American Military Bases in Germany – Red



[USA Topo Maps](#)

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