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Determinism or possibilism? The problem of the relations between geographical conditions and human will in the geopolitical views of Eugeniusz Romer

Eugeniusz Mikołaj Romer (1871-1954), a renowned Polish geographer and cartographer, is also known as the Father of Polish Geopolitics. He created his own original concept of Polish lands as a bridge connecting the Baltic Sea with the Black Sea. He developed this concept during the times of partitions, which gave it a great significance – it offered hope that geography favored the existence of an independent Polish state, even though it had been erased from maps for over a hundred years. However, was Romer's concept as deterministic as the view that Poland has no right to exist permanently in the zone of pressure between East and West? The author attempts to answer this question, also in relation to other geopolitical views of Romer, not only concerning Polish lands. To do this, he creates ideal types of geographical determinism and possibilism and places Eugeniusz Romer's changing geopolitical views over time on a continuum between them.

Eugeniusz Romer