

# REGENTS EXAMINATION IN GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II — PRACTICE SIMULATION 4

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**Recommended Time: 3 hours**

**This examination has three parts. You are to answer all questions in all parts.**

## **PART 1 — Stimulus-Based Multiple-Choice Questions (28 questions)**

*Answer all 28 questions in this part. For each question, select the best of the four choices.*

**Base your answers to questions 1 and 2 on the document below.**

Between 1500 and 1867, approximately 12.5 million Africans were forcibly transported across the Atlantic Ocean. The triangular trade linked three continents: European manufactured goods were shipped to West Africa, where they were exchanged for enslaved people; the captives were transported across the Atlantic in the brutal Middle Passage; sugar, tobacco, and cotton produced by enslaved labor in the Americas were then shipped back to Europe. Major participating powers included Portugal, Britain, France, the Netherlands, and Spain. Roughly 1.8 million Africans died during the Middle Passage.

— Adapted from a historical account of the transatlantic slave trade

1. The trade described above was driven primarily by
  - A. European demand for enslaved labor on plantations in the Americas
  - B. African demand for European manufactured goods and weapons
  - C. the Catholic Church's missionary outreach to West African societies
  - D. the Ottoman Empire's expansion into the western Mediterranean
2. The Atlantic slave trade had which long-term effect on Africa?

- A. the rapid industrialization of West African coastal kingdoms
- B. the voluntary cooperation of African leaders with abolitionist movements
- C. the depopulation and political destabilization of large regions of West Africa
- D. the expansion of African political authority into the Americas

**Base your answers to questions 3, 4, and 5 on the document below.**

Political liberty does not consist in doing whatever one likes... Liberty is the right of doing whatever the laws permit. There would be an end of everything, were the same man or the same body of nobles, or of the people, to exercise those three powers: that of enacting laws, that of executing the public resolutions, and of trying the causes of individuals.

— Baron de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748)

**3.** Montesquieu's central political idea in this passage is

- A. the natural equality of all human beings
- B. the supreme authority of an elected legislature
- C. the right of the people to overthrow tyranny
- D. the separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers

**4.** Montesquieu's ideas most directly influenced

- A. the Edict of Nantes that ended the French Wars of Religion
- B. the United States Constitution and its system of checks and balances
- C. the Napoleonic Code that reformed French civil law
- D. the Treaty of Vienna that reorganized post-Napoleonic Europe

**5.** Montesquieu was part of which broader intellectual movement?

- A. the Enlightenment, which applied reason to questions of politics and society
- B. the Counter-Reformation, which sought to defend Catholic doctrine
- C. the Romanticism that rejected reason in favor of emotion and imagination
- D. the Scientific Revolution that established the methods of modern science

**Base your answers to questions 6 and 7 on the document below.**

The French Revolution's Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789) declared all men free and equal. But on the French Caribbean island of Saint-Domingue, a half million African and African-descended people lived in slavery, producing roughly forty percent of the world's sugar. In 1791, the enslaved population rose in revolt under the leadership of Toussaint Louverture. After thirteen years of war against French, Spanish, and British forces — and even Napoleon's army — Haiti declared independence in 1804 as the first Black-led republic in the world.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Haitian Revolution

6. The Haitian Revolution demonstrated

- A. the successful collaboration of French colonists with enslaved laborers
- B. the compatibility of slavery with Enlightenment principles of equality
- C. the economic decline of the sugar trade in the Caribbean by 1791
- D. the radical implications of Enlightenment ideas when applied to colonial slavery

7. A long-term consequence of the Haitian Revolution was

- A. the immediate end of slavery throughout the Atlantic world
- B. the peaceful integration of Haiti into the French Republic
- C. the annexation of Haiti by the United States in the 1820s
- D. the economic isolation of Haiti by slave-holding powers

**Base your answers to questions 8, 9, and 10 on the document below.**

The streets are generally unpaved, rough, dirty, filled with vegetable and animal refuse, without sewers or gutters, but supplied with foul, stagnant pools instead. Moreover, ventilation is impeded by the bad, confused method of building of the whole quarter. Hence the working-people of Manchester live in this dirt and discomfort, in these districts in which scarcely a human being can find existence tolerable... The cattle are far better cared for.

— Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England* (1845)

8. The conditions described by Engels were a direct consequence of

- A. the Napoleonic Wars and their disruption of European trade
- B. the agricultural enclosure movement and the displacement of farmers
- C. the rapid, unplanned urbanization produced by industrialization
- D. the collapse of the British textile industry in the early nineteenth century

**9.** Engels was a close collaborator of

- A. Adam Smith on classical economic theory
- B. Karl Marx on the theory of communism
- C. John Stuart Mill on utilitarian philosophy
- D. Charles Darwin on the theory of evolution

**10.** The political tradition Engels helped to found became known as

- A. Marxism, the theory of class struggle and proletarian revolution
- B. Liberalism, the theory of individual rights and limited government
- C. Conservatism, the theory of preserving traditional social structures
- D. Anarchism, the theory of abolishing all forms of governmental authority

**Base your answers to questions 11 and 12 on the document below.**

The Meiji Restoration of 1868 produced one of the most dramatic transformations in modern history. The new Japanese government abolished the samurai class, ended feudal land tenure, established universal conscription, sent missions abroad to study Western technology and institutions, built railroads and telegraphs, and adopted a constitution modeled partly on Germany. By 1905, Japan had defeated the Russian Empire in war, becoming the first Asian power to defeat a European power in modern times. Japan had transformed itself from a feudal isolated society into an industrial military power within forty years.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Meiji Restoration

**11.** The Meiji reforms were a direct response to

- A. the success of Tokugawa Japan in preventing contact
- B. the defeat of Japan in the 1895 Sino-Japanese War
- C. the threat of European and American pressure on East Asia
- D. the voluntary abdication of the Tokugawa shogun

**12.** The Meiji Restoration is best understood as

- A. a failed attempt to preserve traditional Japanese society
- B. a defensive modernization that adopted Western methods to resist imperialism
- C. the peaceful integration of Japan into the global Confucian order
- D. the colonization of Japan by Western imperial powers in the 1860s

**Base your answers to questions 13, 14, and 15 on the document below.**

On August 6, 1945, at 8:15 a.m. local time, the American bomber *Enola Gay* released a single atomic bomb over Hiroshima. The bomb exploded approximately 600 meters above the city, generating a fireball with surface temperatures of millions of degrees and a shockwave that flattened buildings over an area of more than four square miles. By the end of 1945, approximately 140,000 people had died from the blast, the fires that followed, and acute radiation sickness. Three days later, a second bomb destroyed Nagasaki, killing approximately 70,000.

— Adapted from a historical account of the atomic bombings

**13.** The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was justified by American leaders primarily as

- A. punishment for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
- B. a demonstration intended to intimidate the Soviet Union
- C. the fulfillment of agreements made at the Yalta Conference
- D. a means to force Japanese surrender and avoid a costly invasion

**14.** The atomic bombings ended one war but launched

- A. the nuclear arms race that would define the Cold War
- B. the decolonization of Asia and Africa in the 1950s
- C. the reconstruction of Western Europe under the Marshall Plan
- D. the reunification of the Korean peninsula under American command

**15.** The doctrine that emerged to manage the new nuclear reality was

- A. Mutually Assured Destruction — nuclear war meant universal devastation
- B. the Open Door Policy of equal trade access in Asia
- C. the Monroe Doctrine of non-intervention in the Hemisphere
- D. the doctrine of containment proposed by George Kennan

**Base your answers to questions 16 and 17 on the document below.**

The Vietnam War lasted from 1955 to 1975 and represented America's longest war until that point. The United States ultimately deployed more than 500,000 troops to South Vietnam and dropped more bomb tonnage on Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia than had been used in all of World War II. By 1975, when the war ended with the fall of Saigon to North Vietnamese forces, approximately 58,000 Americans, hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese soldiers, and an estimated one to two million Vietnamese

civilians had died.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Vietnam War

**16.** The Vietnam War was framed by American policymakers as

- A. a war for the territorial defense of American homeland security
- B. a war to liberate Vietnamese workers from European colonial rule
- C. a war to contain the expansion of communism in Southeast Asia
- D. a war to defeat the international expansion of Islamic fundamentalism

**17.** The American defeat in Vietnam demonstrated

- A. the complete superiority of American military technology over guerrilla forces
- B. the limits of military power against a popular nationalist insurgency
- C. the economic profitability of prolonged foreign wars for American industry
- D. the unanimous American public support for the war in Indochina

**Base your answers to questions 18, 19, and 20 on the document below.**

All men are created equal; they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. This immortal statement was made in the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America in 1776... We hold these truths to be self-evident... The Vietnamese people therefore declare to the world: Vietnam has the right to be a free and independent country.

— Ho Chi Minh, Declaration of Vietnamese Independence, September 2, 1945

**18.** Ho Chi Minh quoted from the American Declaration of Independence to

- A. demonstrate Vietnam's intention to become part of the United States
- B. encourage American military intervention in Indochina
- C. reject European Enlightenment thought as inappropriate for Vietnam
- D. claim that universal principles of liberty applied to Vietnam as well

**19.** The colonial power Ho Chi Minh's movement sought to expel was

- A. France, which had ruled Indochina since the mid-nineteenth century
- B. Britain, which had governed Vietnam as part of British India

- C. Spain, which had colonized Vietnam during the age of exploration
- D. the Netherlands, which controlled Vietnam from its East Indies bases

**20.** Ho Chi Minh's movement is most accurately described as

- A. a purely religious movement of Vietnamese Buddhism against Christianity
- B. a monarchist restoration seeking to restore the Vietnamese emperor
- C. a nationalist-communist movement combining anti-colonial and Marxist goals
- D. a liberal-democratic movement modeled on American institutions

**Base your answers to questions 21 and 22 on the document below.**

The Muslim Brotherhood was founded in Egypt in 1928 by Hassan al-Banna. It rejected the secular modernizing policies of Western-influenced governments in the Arab world and called for Egyptian society to be reorganized around traditional Islamic law. The Brotherhood spread across the Arab world during the twentieth century, and its ideas inspired related movements from North Africa to South Asia, including more radical groups that adopted violence against secular governments and Western powers. The tension between religious traditionalism and Western-style modernization has been a defining feature of the modern Middle East.

— Adapted from a historical account of religious movements in the modern Middle East

**21.** The Muslim Brotherhood's central argument is that

- A. Western liberal democracy is the best model for governing Arab societies
- B. Marxism-Leninism offers the best path to Arab national liberation
- C. Pan-Arab secular nationalism should unite the Arab world
- D. Arab societies should be reorganized around Islamic religious principles

**22.** The Muslim Brotherhood is best understood as part of which broader pattern?

- A. the expansion of Western secular humanism across the Middle East
- B. the rise of religious fundamentalism opposing Western modernization
- C. the collapse of traditional Islamic authority in the modern era
- D. the voluntary adoption of European parliamentary systems

**Base your answers to questions 23, 24, and 25 on the document below.**

In late 2019, a new coronavirus emerged in Wuhan, China, and within months spread to every continent. By the time the World Health Organization declared the pandemic effectively over in May 2023, the virus had killed an estimated 7 million people directly and contributed to the deaths of millions more indirectly. The pandemic disrupted global supply chains, closed schools and businesses across the world, and accelerated trends in remote work and digital commerce. Governments developed and distributed vaccines using new mRNA technology with unprecedented speed.

— Adapted from an account of the COVID-19 pandemic

**23.** The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated

- A. the complete preparedness of national governments for emerging diseases
- B. the interconnectedness of global health, trade, and migration patterns
- C. the absence of any meaningful international health cooperation
- D. the success of traditional medicine in preventing global pandemics

**24.** The pandemic's economic impact illustrated how globalization has

- A. eliminated geographic constraints on disease spread
- B. replaced national governments with international authorities
- C. created interdependent supply chains vulnerable to disruption
- D. reduced inequalities between wealthy and poor nations

**25.** The rapid development of mRNA vaccines during the pandemic represents

- A. a successful international scientific response in an era of biotechnology
- B. the complete elimination of infectious disease from human populations
- C. the failure of pharmaceutical companies to develop effective treatments
- D. the return of traditional medical practices in place of modern science

**Base your answers to questions 26, 27, and 28 on the document below.**

The Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, seized power in Cambodia in April 1975 at the end of the Vietnam War. They immediately emptied the cities, sending the urban population to forced agricultural labor in the countryside. Intellectuals, professionals, religious figures, and ethnic minorities were systematically killed. Anyone wearing eyeglasses was suspected of being educated. Between 1975 and 1979, when Vietnamese forces overthrew the regime, approximately 2 million Cambodians — roughly a quarter of the country's population — died from execution, starvation, or forced labor.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Cambodian Genocide

26. The Khmer Rouge regime is best classified as

- A. a pro-Western democratic government on European models
- B. a monarchical restoration of pre-colonial Cambodia
- C. a liberal capitalist regime open to foreign investment
- D. a communist totalitarian regime that committed genocide

27. The killings under the Khmer Rouge are now legally classified as

- A. an accidental famine caused by drought and crop failure
- B. a genocide under the terms of the 1948 Genocide Convention
- C. a legitimate exercise of state sovereignty by Cambodia
- D. a natural population decline due to the previous decade of warfare

28. The international community's response to the Cambodian Genocide was

- A. immediate military intervention by United Nations forces
- B. successful prevention of the killings by neighboring Asian states
- C. largely passive, as the Cold War complicated international action
- D. effective economic sanctions that quickly ended the regime

## **PART 2 — Short-Answer Constructed-Response Questions (6 questions)**

*Analyze the documents and answer the questions that follow each set. Use complete sentences and refer specifically to the documents and your knowledge of social studies.*

### **CRQ Set 1**

#### **Document 1**

The Treaty of Versailles (1919) imposed severe penalties on Germany. Article 231, the "War Guilt Clause," forced Germany to accept sole responsibility for causing the war. Germany lost thirteen percent of its prewar territory and ten percent of its population, including Alsace-Lorraine to France and territory to a reconstituted Poland. The German army was limited to 100,000 men. Reparations were ultimately set at 132 billion gold marks. The German colonial empire was confiscated and distributed among the victorious powers as "mandates."

— Adapted from a historical account of the Treaty of Versailles

#### **Document 2**

The German economy collapsed in the early 1920s under the weight of reparations and political instability. Hyperinflation in 1923 destroyed savings: a wheelbarrow of paper money was needed to buy a loaf of bread. Brief recovery from 1924 to 1929 collapsed with the Great Depression. By 1932, German unemployment reached six million — roughly one-third of the workforce. In this environment of economic catastrophe and political humiliation, the Nazi Party's promises to overturn Versailles, restore German power, and provide work and bread found mass support. Hitler became Chancellor in January 1933.

— Adapted from a historical account of the rise of the Nazi Party

**1a.** According to Document 1, identify ONE specific provision of the Treaty of Versailles that imposed a severe penalty on Germany. [1]

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**1b.** According to Document 2, identify ONE specific economic condition in Germany that contributed to the rise of the Nazi Party. [1]

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**2a.** Based on these documents and your knowledge of social studies, explain ONE cause-and-effect relationship between the Treaty of Versailles and the rise of Nazi Germany. [1]

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## CRQ Set 2

### Document 3

The League of Nations was established in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles, largely on the initiative of American President Woodrow Wilson. Its founding principle was "collective security" — the idea that aggression against any member state would be treated as aggression against all. The League grew to fifty-eight member states at its height. However, the United States Senate refused to ratify American membership. The League proved unable to prevent Japanese aggression against China in 1931, Italian aggression against Ethiopia in 1935, or German rearmament and territorial expansion in the 1930s.

— Adapted from a historical account of the League of Nations

### Document 4

The United Nations was founded in 1945 in San Francisco, with fifty-one original member states (now 193). Like the League before it, the UN's founding principles include collective security and the peaceful resolution of disputes. Unlike the League, the UN included the United States as a founding member and gave veto power to five permanent members of its Security Council: the United States, Soviet Union (now Russia), Britain, France, and China. The UN has authorized military action in cases including the Korean War and the 1991 Gulf War, but its effectiveness has often been limited by Security Council disagreements.

— Adapted from a historical account of the United Nations

**3a.** Based on Documents 3 and 4, identify ONE similarity between the League of Nations and the United Nations. [1]

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**3b.** Based on Documents 3 and 4, explain the historical significance of the similarity you identified. [1]

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**4a.** Based on these documents and your knowledge of social studies, explain how the experience of the League of Nations influenced the design and operation of the United Nations. [1]

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### **PART 3 — Enduring Issues Essay**

**Directions:** Read and analyze the five documents that follow. Use the documents and your knowledge of social studies to write a well-organized essay in which you:

- Identify and define an enduring issue raised by the documents
- Argue why the issue you selected is significant and how it has endured across time
- Use evidence from at least three documents to support your argument
- Include relevant outside information from your knowledge of social studies

**Theme: The Causes and Consequences of War Across Time**

#### **Document 1**

The Thirty Years War (1618–1648) was one of the most destructive conflicts in European history before the twentieth century. What began as a religious war between Catholic and Protestant princes in the Holy Roman Empire became a continental struggle involving Sweden, France, Spain, Denmark, and the German states. Whole regions of central Europe were depopulated by combat, famine, and disease — some areas lost more than half their population. The Peace of Westphalia of 1648 ended the war and established the modern principle of state sovereignty, but the religious and political fractures of the conflict shaped European politics for generations.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Thirty Years War

## **Document 2**

World War I (1914–1918) was the first industrial-scale war and produced casualties that staggered the imagination. Approximately 9 million soldiers and 7 million civilians died, with millions more wounded. The war introduced or perfected the machine gun, poison gas, the tank, military aviation, and the submarine. Four empires collapsed: the German, Austro-Hungarian, Russian, and Ottoman. The Treaty of Versailles imposed harsh terms on Germany that contributed to German resentment, economic crisis, and the rise of Hitler. Historians have called World War I the seminal catastrophe of the twentieth century — the war from which the rest of the century's tragedies flowed.

— Adapted from a historical assessment of World War I

## **Document 3**

World War II (1939–1945) was the deadliest conflict in human history. Between 70 and 85 million people died — roughly 3 percent of the world's 1940 population. The war was fought across three continents and on every ocean. It included the systematic murder of six million European Jews in the Holocaust, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the firebombing of cities including Dresden and Tokyo, and unprecedented destruction of civilian populations. The postwar settlement produced the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Nuremberg Trials, and the international institutions intended to prevent another such war.

— Adapted from a historical assessment of World War II

## **Document 4**

The Cold War (1947–1991) avoided direct combat between the United States and the Soviet Union, but produced numerous "proxy wars" in which the superpowers backed opposing sides. The Korean War (1950–1953) killed approximately 3 million people. The Vietnam War (1955–1975) killed roughly 3 million Vietnamese and 58,000 Americans. Other proxy conflicts in Afghanistan, Angola, Mozambique, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and elsewhere collectively killed millions. The Cold War also produced the nuclear arms race, with the two superpowers holding tens of thousands of warheads aimed at each other for forty years under the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction.

— Adapted from a historical account of Cold War conflicts

## **Document 5**

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 was the largest interstate war in Europe since World War II. Within two years, the war had killed an estimated 500,000 people on both sides, displaced more than 14 million Ukrainians, destroyed entire cities, and produced a global energy and food crisis. The war demonstrated that interstate aggression had not been eliminated from the international system despite the post-1945 architecture of the United Nations, NATO, and international





to argue for rational political reform. His work stands alongside Locke, Voltaire, and Rousseau as canonical Enlightenment political philosophy.

6. D — the radical implications of Enlightenment ideas when applied to colonial slavery. The Declaration of the Rights of Man proclaimed universal equality while France maintained colonial slavery. Enslaved Haitians took the universalist language at face value, exposing the contradiction and proving that Enlightenment principles, if taken seriously, demanded abolition.
7. D — the economic isolation of Haiti by slave-holding powers. After independence, France, the United States, and other slave-holding states refused recognition or imposed crippling indemnities and embargoes on Haiti. This punitive isolation strangled the new republic's economy and contributed to its long-term underdevelopment.
8. C — the rapid, unplanned urbanization produced by industrialization. Manchester's slums emerged because factories drew enormous populations from the countryside without corresponding investment in sanitation, housing, or municipal infrastructure. Engels was documenting the direct human cost of unregulated industrial growth.
9. B — Karl Marx on the theory of communism. Engels and Marx co-authored *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848 and collaborated closely for decades; Engels also edited and published the later volumes of *Capital* after Marx's death. Their partnership produced the foundational texts of communist theory.
10. A — Marxism, the theory of class struggle and proletarian revolution. The Marxist tradition holds that history is driven by class conflict and that industrial capitalism would ultimately be overthrown by a workers' revolution. Engels's empirical investigation of working-class conditions provided much of the evidence base for this analysis.
11. C — the threat of European and American pressure on East Asia. Commodore Perry's 1853 arrival and the unequal treaties that followed exposed Tokugawa vulnerability to Western military and commercial power. Meiji reformers concluded that national survival required rapid modernization along Western lines.
12. B — a defensive modernization that adopted Western methods to resist imperialism. Japan deliberately imported industrial technology, military organization, and constitutional forms not to imitate the West but to avoid becoming a colony like China or India. The strategy succeeded, culminating in Japan's victory over Russia in 1905.
13. D — a means to force Japanese surrender and avoid a costly invasion. President Truman and his advisers publicly justified the bombings as necessary to end the war quickly and prevent the projected hundreds of thousands of American casualties an invasion of the home islands would have entailed. This remains the official American justification.
14. A — the nuclear arms race that would define the Cold War. American possession of the atomic bomb pushed the Soviet Union to develop its own, detonated in 1949, beginning four decades of superpower competition for nuclear superiority. The weapons that ended World War II inaugurated the central strategic problem of the next era.
15. A — Mutually Assured Destruction — nuclear war meant universal devastation. MAD held that because both superpowers possessed enough warheads to destroy the other even after absorbing a first strike, neither could rationally initiate nuclear war. This grim logic of shared vulnerability shaped Cold War nuclear strategy for forty years.
16. C — a war to contain the expansion of communism in Southeast Asia. American policymakers applied containment doctrine and the "domino theory" to Vietnam, arguing that a communist victory there would topple neighboring states across the region. The war was an extension of the broader Cold War strategy against communist expansion.

17. B — the limits of military power against a popular nationalist insurgency. Despite overwhelming firepower, the United States could not defeat an enemy with deep popular roots, secure sanctuary, and willingness to absorb enormous casualties. Vietnam demonstrated that technological superiority does not guarantee victory in political wars.
18. D — claim that universal principles of liberty applied to Vietnam as well. By opening with the American founding document, Ho Chi Minh argued that the same self-evident truths Americans claimed for themselves justified Vietnamese independence from France. The rhetorical move challenged the West to live up to its own stated principles.
19. A — France, which had ruled Indochina since the mid-nineteenth century. France established colonial control over Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia between the 1850s and 1880s and formalized French Indochina in 1887. The First Indochina War of 1946–1954 was fought specifically to expel France.
20. C — a nationalist-communist movement combining anti-colonial and Marxist goals. The Viet Minh and later the Communist Party of Vietnam fused Marxist-Leninist ideology with Vietnamese nationalism. Ho Chi Minh sought both independence from foreign rule and socialist revolution — a combination characteristic of many twentieth-century liberation movements.
21. D — Arab societies should be reorganized around Islamic religious principles. The Brotherhood's program calls for sharia-based governance and a return to Islamic foundations as the basis of political and social order, rejecting both Western secularism and imported secular ideologies. This is the defining position of Islamist political movements.
22. B — the rise of religious fundamentalism opposing Western modernization. The Brotherhood is part of a global twentieth-century pattern in which religious movements rejected secular modernization and sought to reorder politics around traditional religious authority. Parallel movements arose in Hindu, Jewish, and Christian contexts.
23. B — the interconnectedness of global health, trade, and migration patterns. A virus that emerged in one Chinese city reached every continent within months because of dense international travel and trade networks. The pandemic confirmed that public health threats in the globalized era cannot be contained within national borders.
24. C — created interdependent supply chains vulnerable to disruption. Factory closures and shipping delays in one region cascaded through globalized production networks, producing worldwide shortages of semiconductors, medical supplies, and consumer goods. The pandemic exposed the fragility of just-in-time global manufacturing.
25. A — a successful international scientific response in an era of biotechnology. Multiple companies developed effective mRNA vaccines within roughly a year of the virus being sequenced — an unprecedented speed enabled by decades of prior biotech research and global scientific collaboration. The achievement demonstrated the capacity of modern biomedical science when fully mobilized.
26. D — a communist totalitarian regime that committed genocide. The Khmer Rouge sought to build a radical agrarian communist society by destroying urban, educated, religious, and ethnic-minority populations. Their ideologically driven mass killings are uniformly classified today as genocide and crimes against humanity.
27. B — a genocide under the terms of the 1948 Genocide Convention. The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia convicted senior Khmer Rouge leaders of genocide for the systematic destruction of the Cham Muslim and ethnic Vietnamese populations, alongside crimes against humanity for the broader killings. The legal designation is settled.

28. C — largely passive, as the Cold War complicated international action. Geopolitical alignments — China backing the Khmer Rouge, the West opposed to Vietnam, which had overthrown them — paralyzed international response, and the Khmer Rouge even retained Cambodia's UN seat for years after their fall. Cold War politics consistently obstructed humanitarian intervention.

## **PART 2 — CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE MODEL ANSWERS**

### **CRQ Set 1**

1a. One severe penalty imposed on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles was Article 231, the "War Guilt Clause," which forced Germany to accept sole responsibility for causing World War I. (Alternative acceptable answers: loss of 13% of prewar territory, reduction of the army to 100,000 men, reparations of 132 billion gold marks, or confiscation of the German colonial empire.)

1b. According to Document 2, one specific economic condition that contributed to the rise of the Nazi Party was the German unemployment crisis of 1932, when six million Germans — roughly one-third of the workforce — were out of work as a result of the Great Depression. (Alternative acceptable: the 1923 hyperinflation that destroyed German savings.)

2a. The Treaty of Versailles caused both economic devastation and national humiliation in Germany, which directly enabled the rise of the Nazi Party. The reparations burden contributed to hyperinflation in 1923 and weakened German recovery during the Depression, while the War Guilt Clause and territorial losses produced widespread resentment. Hitler exploited both conditions, promising to overturn Versailles, restore German power, and put unemployed Germans back to work — a program that won mass support and brought him to the chancellorship in January 1933.

### **CRQ Set 2**

3a. One similarity between the League of Nations and the United Nations is that both organizations were founded on the principle of collective security — the idea that aggression against any one member state would be treated as aggression against all members.

3b. The shared principle of collective security is historically significant because it represents a sustained twentieth-century effort to replace the traditional system of competing alliances and unilateral power politics with collective international action against aggressors. Its persistence across two successive world organizations demonstrates the enduring international consensus that war can only be prevented through coordinated multinational response, even though both bodies have had difficulty enforcing this principle in practice.

4a. The failures of the League of Nations directly shaped the design of the United Nations. Because the League collapsed partly due to the absence of the United States, whose Senate refused to ratify membership, the UN was structured to ensure American participation as a founding member. Because the League could not act against the aggression of major powers like Japan, Italy, and Germany in the 1930s, the UN gave the five major victors of World War II permanent seats and veto power on the Security Council, ensuring that great-power agreement would be required for enforcement action. The UN also

acquired stronger mechanisms for authorizing collective military action, as demonstrated in the Korean War and the 1991 Gulf War.

### **PART 3 — ENDURING ISSUES ESSAY**

#### **THE PERSISTENCE OF WAR AS A FEATURE OF HUMAN SOCIETIES**

An enduring issue is a challenge or problem that has appeared across multiple eras, regions, and societies, and that has shaped the course of human history in lasting ways. One of the most persistent and destructive of these issues is organized warfare itself — the recurring willingness of states and political movements to resolve disputes through mass violence. Across four centuries of European and global history, war has destroyed populations, reshaped political orders, and generated successive attempts to build international institutions capable of preventing future conflict. Yet war has stubbornly recurred in every generation. The documents demonstrate that despite the lessons drawn from each catastrophic conflict, organized violence has remained a defining feature of the international system from the seventeenth century to the present.

The destructiveness of war as an enduring issue is visible already in the seventeenth century. Document 1 describes the Thirty Years War (1618–1648), in which a religious dispute between Catholic and Protestant princes in the Holy Roman Empire metastasized into a continental struggle involving Sweden, France, Spain, Denmark, and the German states. The document notes that whole regions of central Europe were depopulated, with some areas losing more than half their population to combat, famine, and disease. The war was so traumatic that its conclusion at the Peace of Westphalia produced a fundamental restructuring of European politics — the modern principle of state sovereignty, in which each ruler controlled the religion and internal affairs of his own state. The Westphalian system was itself an early effort to prevent future religious wars by removing religion from international relations. Yet even this restructuring did not eliminate war; it merely changed its form. The same European powers that signed Westphalia would fight one another repeatedly through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in wars of dynasty, colonial expansion, and national ambition.

The industrial revolution did not pacify warfare but rather made it incomparably more destructive, and the twentieth century became the deadliest period in human history. Document 2 describes World War I (1914–1918) as the first industrial-scale war, killing approximately nine million soldiers and seven million civilians and collapsing four empires — the German, Austro-Hungarian, Russian, and Ottoman. The war introduced or perfected the machine gun, poison gas, the tank, military aviation, and the submarine, demonstrating that industrial technology applied to war produced unprecedented carnage. The document notes that historians have called World War I "the seminal catastrophe of the twentieth century — the war from which the rest of the century's tragedies flowed." This judgment is borne out by Document 3, which describes World War II (1939–1945) as the deadliest conflict in human history, killing 70 to 85 million people — roughly 3 percent of the world's 1940 population. The Second World War included the systematic murder of six million European Jews in the Holocaust, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the firebombing of cities including Dresden and Tokyo. Outside the documents, the chain connecting these wars illustrates how each conflict's settlement helped produce the next: the harsh terms imposed on Germany at Versailles in 1919 contributed to economic crisis, political humiliation, and the rise of Hitler, whose ideology and ambitions made the Second World War. The postwar settlement of 1945 attempted to break this chain by producing the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, and the Nuremberg Trials — international institutions explicitly designed to prevent any future war on that scale.

Yet war did not end in 1945. Document 4 describes the Cold War (1947–1991), during which the United States and the Soviet Union avoided direct combat but fought numerous proxy wars that collectively killed millions of people. The Korean War killed approximately three million, the Vietnam War roughly three million Vietnamese and 58,000 Americans, and additional proxy conflicts in Afghanistan, Angola, Mozambique, Nicaragua, and El Salvador killed millions more. The Cold War also produced the nuclear arms race, with the two superpowers holding tens of thousands of warheads under the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction — a strategic order in which the prevention of war depended on the credible threat of universal annihilation. The persistence of war into the twenty-first century is documented in Document 5, which describes Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine as the largest interstate war in Europe since World War II. Within two years the war had killed an estimated 500,000 people, displaced more than 14 million Ukrainians, destroyed entire cities, and produced a global energy and food crisis. The document explicitly notes that the war demonstrated that interstate aggression had not been eliminated despite the post-1945 architecture of the United Nations, NATO, and international law. Other ongoing conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, and Sudan reinforce this point. Outside knowledge confirms it: the UN Security Council has been repeatedly paralyzed by great-power veto, just as the League of Nations was paralyzed in the 1930s, demonstrating that the structural problem of preventing aggression has not been solved.

The enduring issue of war is significant precisely because of the immense human cost it has imposed across every century examined here, and because each generation's efforts to abolish it have failed to do so. The Peace of Westphalia did not end war; it gave it new political form. The League of Nations did not prevent World War II; it failed in the face of aggression by Japan, Italy, and Germany. The United Nations did not prevent the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War proxy conflicts, or the invasion of Ukraine. Each catastrophe has produced new institutions, new doctrines, and new humanitarian principles, yet organized violence has remained a recurring feature of human societies. The endurance of this issue raises a difficult question that continues to face the international community in the twenty-first century: whether the institutions and norms built to prevent war can ever be made strong enough to overcome the political, economic, and ideological forces that have repeatedly produced it. The history examined here suggests that war is not an aberration in human affairs but a persistent condition that each generation must work, often imperfectly, to contain.