

# PRACTICE EXAM 18 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

---

1. The Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire is best remembered for his vigorous defense of
  - A. Absolute monarchy as the only legitimate form of stable national government
  - B. The Catholic Church's traditional role in regulating both education and law
  - C. Religious tolerance, freedom of speech, and criticism of organized religion and the church
  - D. Communism as a foundation for the political organization of European societies
  
2. Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan* (1651) argued that in the absence of strong government
  - A. Human life would be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short" without authority
  - B. Communities would naturally form peaceful democratic associations among themselves without conflict
  - C. Religious leaders would emerge spontaneously to enforce moral and ethical conduct
  - D. International trade alone would maintain order and economic prosperity for all
  
3. John Locke's theory of natural rights, expressed in his *Second Treatise of Government*, holds that
  - A. Governments derive their authority from the consent of the people they govern
  - B. Monarchs receive their legitimate authority directly from God and the Catholic Church
  - C. Property rights belong only to those who possess noble titles inherited from ancestors
  - D. Citizens have an absolute religious duty to obey their ruler regardless of the law

4. Brazil achieved its independence from Portugal in 1822 through
- A. A long and violent revolutionary war that lasted nearly two decades to conclude
  - B. Spanish military intervention that drove the Portuguese from their colonial possessions
  - C. A slave uprising that overthrew the entire plantation system across the country
  - D. A peaceful declaration by Pedro I, the son of the Portuguese king, who became emperor
5. The Greek War of Independence (1821–1832) was significant because it
- A. Established the first communist government on the European Mediterranean coastal region
  - B. Created the first new independent nation-state in 19th-century Europe from Ottoman rule
  - C. Resulted in the immediate breakup of the entire Ottoman Empire into smaller states
  - D. Restored the ancient Greek city-states as a federation under their original constitutions
6. The Luddite movement in early 19th-century England was a
- A. Religious revival movement that opposed the work of Methodist preachers in cities
  - B. Political party formed to elect industrialists to the British House of Commons
  - C. Protest movement by skilled textile workers who destroyed mechanized factory machinery
  - D. Scientific society dedicated to the rapid invention of new steam-powered machinery
7. British Factory Acts of the 19th century are most associated with
- A. The expansion of British colonial industries throughout the diverse territories of India
  - B. The complete abolition of all factory production in favor of small workshop industry
  - C. The transfer of all British industry into state ownership for collective workers' management
  - D. Limits on child labor, hours of work, and the regulation of factory safety conditions
8. John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty* (1859) argued that

- A. Government should restrict individual freedom only to prevent harm to other people
- B. The state has an unlimited right to regulate the private moral conduct of citizens
- C. Democracy is incompatible with the protection of any minority rights or interests
- D. Only property-owning men should be permitted to vote in any free national election

9. The Tanzimat reforms in the Ottoman Empire (1839–1876) attempted to

- A. Restore the empire's medieval institutions and reverse all earlier Western influences
- B. Modernize the Ottoman government, military, and legal system based on European models
- C. Convert all non-Muslim subjects of the empire to Sunni Islam through legal pressure
- D. Establish the empire as an independent caliphate completely separated from Europe

10. The First Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895) is significant because it

- A. Restored the Qing Dynasty as the dominant military power in eastern Asia
- B. Resulted in a successful Chinese invasion that ended the rule of the Japanese emperor
- C. Demonstrated Japan's rise as a modern military power and weakened Qing China further
- D. Concluded with a peaceful treaty that returned all disputed territory to Chinese control

11. Gandhi's Salt March of 1930 was significant because it

- A. Initiated the formal partition of India into separate Hindu and Muslim states
- B. Marked Gandhi's complete break from nonviolent methods in favor of armed resistance
- C. Used civil disobedience against the British salt tax to mobilize mass Indian resistance
- D. Resulted in immediate British concessions and the granting of Indian self-government within months

12. The Quit India Movement of 1942, launched by the Indian National Congress, demanded

- A. The immediate establishment of separate Hindu and Muslim national homelands in South Asia
- B. A military alliance between the Indian Congress and Japan against British rule
- C. The peaceful transfer of British colonial administration to French and Portuguese authorities
- D. An immediate end to British rule and full Indian independence during World War II

13. Lenin's New Economic Policy (NEP), introduced in 1921, allowed

- A. Limited private enterprise and small-scale market activity to restore the Soviet economy
- B. The complete privatization of all Soviet heavy industry and large agricultural estates
- C. A return to Czarist economic practices including the restoration of noble landowners
- D. The introduction of an American-style free-market system across the entire Soviet Union

14. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918) resulted in

- A. The end of fighting on the Western Front between Germany and the Western Allies
- B. Russia's withdrawal from World War I and the loss of large amounts of western territory
- C. A military alliance between Russia and Germany to attack the Western European powers
- D. The unconditional surrender of Germany to the Russian forces along the Eastern Front

15. The Mandate system created by the League of Nations after World War I

- A. Granted immediate independence to all former colonies of the defeated Central Powers
- B. Reunited the German and Ottoman empires under a single international administrative authority
- C. Established communist-style collective government across the former Habsburg territories of Europe
- D. Placed former German and Ottoman territories under the temporary administration of European powers

16. The Locarno Treaties of 1925 attempted to stabilize postwar Europe by

- A. Guaranteeing the existing borders between Germany and its western neighbors France and Belgium
- B. Forcing Germany to accept additional territorial losses to France and Czechoslovakia
- C. Authorizing the immediate French military occupation of the entire Rhineland region
- D. Creating a permanent European customs union that excluded both Britain and Russia

17. Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal policies during the 1930s influenced other nations by

- A. Demonstrating that traditional laissez-faire policies could quickly end the Great Depression
- B. Showing that only fascist or communist governments could respond effectively to economic crisis
- C. Providing a model of government intervention in the economy through public works and regulation
- D. Encouraging European nations to abandon democracy in favor of one-party authoritarian rule

18. The Battle of Britain (1940) is historically significant because it

- A. Marked the entry of the United States into the war against Nazi Germany and its allies
- B. Was Germany's first major military defeat and prevented a planned invasion of the British Isles
- C. Demonstrated the superiority of the German Luftwaffe over the Royal Air Force in combat
- D. Forced Britain to sign an immediate armistice and withdraw from active participation in the war

19. The Lend-Lease Act, passed by the United States Congress in 1941, allowed

- A. American troops to fight alongside British forces in the European theater immediately
- B. The United States to invade Germany before its formal declaration of war on the Nazi regime
- C. American banks to make permanent free loans to all neutral countries seeking financial aid
- D. The U.S. to supply military equipment and food to Britain, the USSR, and other Allies

20. The Battle of Midway (June 1942) is widely regarded as the turning point in the Pacific War because

- A. American naval forces destroyed four Japanese aircraft carriers and decisively shifted naval superiority
- B. Japan successfully occupied the Hawaiian Islands and approached the United States mainland
- C. The Soviet Union entered the war against Japan and invaded the Japanese home islands
- D. American forces captured Tokyo and forced the immediate surrender of the Japanese government

21. The Long March of 1934–1935 was

- A. A migration of Russian peasants into Siberia during the Stalinist collectivization period
- B. A forced expulsion of Japanese citizens from Korea after the end of World War II
- C. A 6,000-mile retreat of Chinese Communist forces from Nationalist armies that secured Mao's leadership
- D. A pilgrimage of Hindu nationalists across British India during the independence struggle

22. In 1965–1966, the Indonesian military under General Suharto carried out

- A. A successful campaign to expel the remaining Dutch colonial forces from Indonesia
- B. A peaceful constitutional transition from President Sukarno to a democratic government
- C. Mass killings of suspected communists, estimated to have killed at least 500,000 people
- D. A national land reform program that redistributed property to Indonesian peasants

23. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), founded in 1964, was created to

- A. Represent the interests of all Jewish settlers throughout the Middle East and North Africa
- B. Represent the Palestinian people and seek the establishment of an independent Palestinian state
- C. Coordinate the immediate military defense of all Arab nations bordering on Israel
- D. Negotiate the peaceful unification of Israel and Jordan into a single binational state

24. The 1993 Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization

- A. Resulted in the immediate creation of a fully independent Palestinian state recognized worldwide
- B. Officially ended all Israeli-Palestinian violence permanently and dissolved the PLO as an organization
- C. Restored complete Israeli sovereignty over the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip territories
- D. Provided for mutual recognition and limited Palestinian self-government in parts of the territories

25. The Lebanese Civil War (1975–1990) was caused largely by

- A. Sectarian conflict among Christian, Sunni, Shi'a, and Druze communities along with Palestinian presence
- B. A foreign invasion launched by Iraq under the leadership of Saddam Hussein in the late 1970s
- C. The discovery of major oil reserves that disrupted the country's traditional banking economy
- D. The peaceful negotiation of new borders following the dissolution of the Soviet Union

26. The Bosnian War (1992–1995) is most associated with

- A. The peaceful and democratic breakup of Yugoslavia into separate independent constitutional republics
- B. The ethnic cleansing of Bosnian Muslims, including the 1995 genocide at Srebrenica
- C. A successful military intervention by Russia that ended the conflict within a few weeks
- D. The voluntary reunification of all former Yugoslav republics into a single federal state

27. The International Criminal Court (ICC), established by the Rome Statute in 1998 and beginning operation in 2002, was created to

- A. Replace the Geneva Conventions with a new system of international humanitarian law treaties
- B. Provide a permanent military force for the United Nations to deploy in regional conflicts
- C. Coordinate the prosecution of all economic crimes committed by major multinational corporations
- D. Prosecute individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity around the world

28. The Green Revolution of the mid-20th century is most associated with

- A. International environmental treaties to protect the tropical rainforests in Brazil and Indonesia
- B. The conservation of biodiversity in African national parks during the era of decolonization
- C. The introduction of high-yield crop varieties, fertilizers, and irrigation in developing nations
- D. The shift toward organic farming methods across the major industrial nations of Europe

29. Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine

- A. Violated international law and led to Western sanctions and Russia's expulsion from the G8
- B. Was peacefully approved by the United Nations Security Council under exclusive Russian leadership
- C. Resulted in immediate Ukrainian military victory and the rapid restoration of Crimean sovereignty
- D. Was carried out jointly with the European Union as part of regional economic integration

30. The 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa was

- A. A successful military operation that ended the apartheid system within a few months
- B. The killing of 69 unarmed protesters by police, triggering international outrage against apartheid
- C. A peaceful negotiation that began the transition to majority rule in South Africa
- D. A coup that overthrew the apartheid government and brought Nelson Mandela to power

31. The 2019–2020 pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong were sparked by

- A. The completion of major economic reforms by the Chinese Communist Party central government
- B. A Hong Kong economic recession following the 2008 global financial crisis and its aftermath
- C. The arrival of large numbers of mainland Chinese tourists and shoppers into the territory's economy
- D. A proposed extradition bill that would have allowed suspects to be sent to mainland China

32. Denis Diderot's Encyclopédie (1751–1772) was significant because it

- A. Defended the divine right of kings against attacks by other Enlightenment philosophers
- B. Established the official educational curriculum used in all French Catholic schools
- C. Compiled and spread Enlightenment knowledge and revolutionary ideas across European reading audiences
- D. Provided the legal framework for the abolition of slavery throughout the French Empire

33. Between 1945 and 1948, communist governments came to power in Eastern European nations such as Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Czechoslovakia primarily through

- A. Soviet military presence, manipulated elections, and the systematic suppression of opposition parties
- B. Free and fair democratic elections that gave overwhelming support to local communist parties
- C. Spontaneous popular revolutions led entirely by workers and peasants without outside support
- D. International peace treaties signed at the United Nations after World War II ended

34. The 1954 Battle of Dien Bien Phu resulted in

- A. A French military victory that maintained French colonial rule over Indochina for another decade
- B. A Vietminh victory that ended French colonial rule in Indochina and divided Vietnam at the 17th parallel
- C. Direct American military intervention to support the French colonial forces fighting in Southeast Asia
- D. The peaceful unification of all of Vietnam under a single democratic constitutional government

35. Muhammad Yunus's Grameen Bank, founded in Bangladesh in 1983, helped pioneer

- A. The development of international banking regulations through the Basel Accords system of agreements
- B. The introduction of mobile banking technology across the developing world by 2010
- C. The establishment of central banks in newly independent Asian and African nations

D. Microfinance — small loans to poor entrepreneurs, especially women, to alleviate poverty

## ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1-35)

**1. C** — Religious tolerance, freedom of speech, and criticism of organized religion and the church. Voltaire's famous attacks on the Catholic Church and his defense of victims of religious persecution (such as Jean Calas) made him the era's leading champion of tolerance. His witty critiques in works like *Candide* and his *Philosophical Dictionary* shaped Enlightenment thinking about the relationship between church and state.

**2. A** — Human life would be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short" without authority. Hobbes argued that the natural condition of humanity is a "war of all against all" requiring people to surrender their rights to a sovereign — the Leviathan — in exchange for security. His thinking provided one of the first systematic arguments for the social contract and influenced both absolutist and republican political theory.

**3. A** — Governments derive their authority from the consent of the people they govern. Locke argued that humans possess natural rights to life, liberty, and property, and that governments exist to protect those rights; when a government violates the contract, people have a right to revolt. His ideas became the foundation for the American Declaration of Independence and modern liberal democratic thought.

**4. D** — A peaceful declaration by Pedro I, the son of the Portuguese king, who became emperor. When the Portuguese court ordered Pedro back from Brazil in 1822, he instead declared independence with the famous "Cry of Ipiranga" and was crowned emperor of Brazil. The transition was relatively bloodless, and Brazil remained a constitutional monarchy until 1889 — a unique path among the new Latin American states.

**5. B** — Created the first new independent nation-state in 19th-century Europe from Ottoman rule. Greek revolutionaries inspired by nationalism and Enlightenment ideals fought a brutal war that drew European support, including from poets like Lord Byron, and the great powers' naval intervention at Navarino in 1827. Greek independence inspired later nationalist movements in the Balkans and demonstrated that the Ottoman Empire could be successfully challenged.

**6. C** — Protest movement by skilled textile workers who destroyed mechanized factory machinery. Active mainly from 1811 to 1816 in the English Midlands, the Luddites attacked stocking frames and power looms that they blamed for unemployment and falling wages. The British government responded harshly, making machine-breaking a capital offense and executing or transporting many Luddites.

**7. D** — Limits on child labor, hours of work, and the regulation of factory safety conditions. Beginning with the 1833 Factory Act and continuing through later legislation, Parliament gradually restricted child labor, capped working hours for women and children, and required factory inspections. These laws marked the beginning of modern labor regulation and influenced reform movements throughout the industrializing world.

**8. A** — Government should restrict individual freedom only to prevent harm to other people. Mill's "harm principle" argued that adults should be free to act as they choose so long as their actions do not harm others, even if society disapproves of their choices. The principle remains a foundational argument in liberal political philosophy and debates over civil liberties.

**9. B** — Modernize the Ottoman government, military, and legal system based on European models. The reforms abolished slavery, equalized rights for non-Muslim subjects, modernized the army, and introduced secular schools and codes inspired by French law. Although the Tanzimat strengthened the empire temporarily, it failed to halt the long-term decline that ended with the empire's collapse after World War I.

**10. C** — Demonstrated Japan's rise as a modern military power and weakened Qing China further. Japan's modernized navy and army quickly defeated Chinese forces, gaining Taiwan, the Liaodong Peninsula, and control over Korea through the Treaty of Shimonoseki. The defeat humiliated China, accelerated reform movements within the Qing, and signaled Japan's emergence as the dominant power in East Asia.

**11. C** — Used civil disobedience against the British salt tax to mobilize mass Indian resistance. Gandhi led thousands on a 240-mile march to the Arabian Sea, where he illegally produced salt by evaporating seawater in violation of the British monopoly. The action received worldwide press coverage, brought millions into the independence movement, and demonstrated the power of nonviolent civil disobedience.

**12. D** — An immediate end to British rule and full Indian independence during World War II. Gandhi launched the movement in August 1942 with the slogan "Do or Die," demanding Britain leave India immediately. British authorities arrested Gandhi, Nehru, and other Congress leaders, suppressing the movement, but it intensified Indian determination and made postwar British withdrawal inevitable.

**13. A** — Limited private enterprise and small-scale market activity to restore the Soviet economy. After the disastrous "War Communism" period left Soviet agriculture and industry in ruins, Lenin allowed peasants to sell surplus grain and permitted small private businesses while the state retained control of major industries. The NEP succeeded in restoring production but was reversed by Stalin in favor of forced collectivization and central planning.

**14. B** — Russia's withdrawal from World War I and the loss of large amounts of western territory. The new Bolshevik government, desperate to consolidate power, accepted harsh German terms that gave up Poland, the Baltic states, Finland, Ukraine, and parts of the Caucasus — roughly a third of the empire's population and industry. The treaty was annulled when Germany lost the war later that year, but it allowed the Bolsheviks to focus on winning the Russian Civil War.

**15. D** — Placed former German and Ottoman territories under the temporary administration of European powers. Britain received mandates over Palestine, Mesopotamia (Iraq), and Transjordan, while France took Syria and Lebanon, and Japan and others received German Pacific and African colonies. Although officially intended to prepare these territories for self-rule, in practice the mandates extended European colonial control and shaped many of today's national borders.

**16. A** — Guaranteeing the existing borders between Germany and its western neighbors France and Belgium. Germany, France, Belgium, Britain, and Italy mutually agreed to respect the western borders

established at Versailles, easing fears of renewed conflict. The treaties were celebrated as the "Spirit of Locarno" but failed to guarantee Germany's eastern borders — leaving Poland and Czechoslovakia vulnerable to later Nazi aggression.

**17. C** — Providing a model of government intervention in the economy through public works and regulation. New Deal programs like the WPA, Social Security, and banking regulations demonstrated that democratic capitalist governments could address economic crisis without abandoning democracy. Many nations adopted similar approaches, and the New Deal influenced postwar welfare state development in Europe and the Americas.

**18. B** — Was Germany's first major military defeat and prevented a planned invasion of the British Isles. RAF Fighter Command's victory over the Luftwaffe in the skies over southern England during summer and autumn 1940 forced Hitler to postpone and ultimately cancel Operation Sea Lion. The defeat preserved Britain as a base for the eventual liberation of Western Europe and proved that Nazi Germany could be stopped.

**19. D** — The U.S. to supply military equipment and food to Britain, the USSR, and other Allies. Lend-Lease allowed President Roosevelt to provide weapons, vehicles, and food worth roughly \$50 billion to Allied nations on credit, despite formal American neutrality before Pearl Harbor. The program made the United States the "arsenal of democracy" and gave decisive material support to the Allied war effort.

**20. A** — American naval forces destroyed four Japanese aircraft carriers and decisively shifted naval superiority. Forewarned by code-breakers, American carrier aircraft caught the Japanese fleet during a rearming operation and sank the Akagi, Kaga, Soryu, and Hiryu — the heart of Japanese naval aviation. The losses ended Japan's strategic offensive in the Pacific and set the stage for the long American island-hopping campaign toward the Japanese home islands.

**21. C** — A 6,000-mile retreat of Chinese Communist forces from Nationalist armies that secured Mao's leadership. Encircled by Chiang Kai-shek's forces in southeastern China, roughly 100,000 Communist troops broke out and trekked a year-long, mountainous route to remote Yan'an in the northwest, with only about 7,000 surviving. The ordeal forged the Communist Party's legendary status, established Mao Zedong as undisputed leader, and shaped the generation that would govern China after 1949.

**22. C** — Mass killings of suspected communists, estimated to have killed at least 500,000 people. Following an alleged communist coup attempt, Suharto's army and allied militias massacred members of the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), ethnic Chinese, and other suspected sympathizers. The killings paved the way for Suharto's "New Order" dictatorship, which ruled Indonesia until 1998 with quiet support from Western governments during the Cold War.

**23. B** — Represent the Palestinian people and seek the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Founded at an Arab League summit in Cairo, the PLO became the recognized political voice of Palestinians, especially under Yasser Arafat's leadership beginning in 1969. Initially committed to armed struggle and the destruction of Israel, the PLO later recognized Israel and negotiated the Oslo Accords.

**24. D** — Provided for mutual recognition and limited Palestinian self-government in parts of the territories. The PLO recognized Israel's right to exist, Israel recognized the PLO as the legitimate

representative of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian Authority gained control over parts of the West Bank and Gaza. The agreement was hailed as a breakthrough but ultimately did not lead to a final peace settlement, with violence resuming during the Second Intifada in 2000.

**25. A** — Sectarian conflict among Christian, Sunni, Shi'a, and Druze communities along with Palestinian presence. Lebanon's delicate confessional power-sharing system collapsed under demographic shifts, the influx of armed Palestinian refugees after 1970, and meddling by Syria, Israel, Iran, and others. The war killed roughly 150,000 people, devastated Beirut, and ended only with the Taif Agreement of 1989 and continued Syrian occupation.

**26. B** — Ethnic cleansing of Bosnian Muslims, including the 1995 genocide at Srebrenica. Bosnian Serb forces under Radovan Karadžić and General Ratko Mladić, backed by Slobodan Milošević's Serbia, conducted systematic ethnic cleansing against Bosnian Muslims and Croats, killing roughly 100,000 people. The war ended with NATO intervention and the Dayton Accords, and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia later convicted leaders of genocide and war crimes.

**27. D** — Prosecute individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity around the world. The ICC, based in The Hague, became the world's first permanent international criminal court, complementing rather than replacing national courts. Major powers including the United States, Russia, China, and India have refused to join, limiting the court's reach, but it has indicted leaders from Sudan, Libya, the DRC, and elsewhere.

**28. C** — The introduction of high-yield crop varieties, fertilizers, and irrigation in developing nations. Agronomist Norman Borlaug developed dwarf wheat varieties that, combined with synthetic fertilizers and modern irrigation, dramatically increased food production in Mexico, India, Pakistan, and elsewhere from the 1940s through the 1970s. The Green Revolution averted predicted famines but also caused environmental degradation and concentrated agricultural power in larger farms.

**29. A** — Violated international law and led to Western sanctions and Russia's expulsion from the G8. After Ukraine's pro-Russian president was overthrown in the Maidan Revolution, Russian troops without insignia seized Crimea and a hastily organized referendum ratified annexation — a process most countries rejected as illegal. The annexation triggered Western sanctions, ended Russia's membership in the G8 (returning it to a G7), and presaged the larger Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

**30. B** — The killing of 69 unarmed protesters by police, triggering international outrage against apartheid. South African police opened fire on a peaceful demonstration against the pass laws in the township of Sharpeville, killing 69 and wounding 180. The massacre led the apartheid government to ban the ANC and PAC, drove resistance movements underground and into armed struggle, and prompted growing international condemnation including UN sanctions.

**31. D** — A proposed extradition bill that would have allowed suspects to be sent to mainland China. The bill ignited massive protests of up to two million people who feared Hong Kong's freedoms were being eroded under "one country, two systems." Although the bill was withdrawn, Beijing imposed a sweeping National Security Law in 2020 that effectively ended Hong Kong's distinct political space and led to mass arrests of protest leaders and journalists.

**32. C** — Compiled and spread Enlightenment knowledge and revolutionary ideas across European reading audiences. The 28-volume *Encyclopédie*, edited by Diderot and d'Alembert with contributions from Voltaire, Rousseau, and Montesquieu, combined practical knowledge of crafts and technology with critical articles on religion, government, and tradition. Though censored by French authorities, it became one of the most influential texts of the Enlightenment and helped prepare intellectual ground for the French Revolution.

**33. A** — Soviet military presence, manipulated elections, and the systematic suppression of opposition parties. Stalin took advantage of the Red Army's occupation of Eastern Europe to install communist-dominated coalitions, then progressively eliminated rival parties through arrests, show trials, and rigged elections. By 1948, the Czech coup completed the imposition of one-party rule throughout the Soviet bloc, creating the "Iron Curtain" Churchill had warned about.

**34. B** — A Vietminh victory that ended French colonial rule in Indochina and divided Vietnam at the 17th parallel. After a 55-day siege, General Vo Nguyen Giap's forces overwhelmed the French fortress in northwest Vietnam, capturing 11,000 prisoners. The subsequent Geneva Accords partitioned Vietnam pending elections that were never held, setting the stage for the American war in Vietnam.

**35. D** — Microfinance — small loans to poor entrepreneurs, especially women, to alleviate poverty. Yunus pioneered the idea that very small loans without collateral, lent mostly to women in groups that enforced repayment, could lift people out of poverty by enabling small businesses. The Grameen Bank model spread worldwide, and Yunus and the bank shared the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, though microfinance has since faced criticism over high interest rates and inconsistent results.