

PRACTICE EXAM 19 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. The English Bill of Rights of 1689 established that the monarch could not

- A. Allow Catholics to hold any position in government service
- B. Impose taxes on land owned by the Anglican Church
- C. Suspend laws or raise taxes without parliamentary consent
- D. Marry without first obtaining the approval of Parliament

2. Napoleon's Continental System, established in 1806, was designed to

- A. Coordinate joint military operations across all European armies
- B. Cripple Britain economically through a continental trade blockade
- C. Unify continental Europe under a single common currency system
- D. Establish religious tolerance across the French imperial territories

3. The Greek War of Independence in the 1820s succeeded in establishing

- A. A constitutional monarchy under continued Ottoman imperial suzerainty
- B. A republic modeled on the institutions of the United States
- C. A united Balkan federation including Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria
- D. An independent Greek kingdom recognized by the European great powers

4. Karl Marx's later major work, *Das Kapital* (Capital), first published in 1867, focused primarily on a
- A. Detailed critical analysis of capitalism and its economic contradictions
 - B. Practical manual for organizing revolutionary armed workers' uprisings
 - C. Philosophical defense of free-market economics and private property
 - D. Historical study of religious development across European societies
5. In the 1880s, German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck introduced the world's first comprehensive
- A. Universal suffrage system extending the vote to working-class men
 - B. Free public university system available to all qualified students
 - C. National railway system unifying every region under state control
 - D. Social insurance program covering accidents, sickness, and old age
6. The publication of *The Jewish State* (Der Judenstaat) in 1896 by Theodor Herzl is generally considered the founding moment of
- A. The modern Reform Judaism religious movement in Germany
 - B. The political Zionist movement seeking a Jewish homeland
 - C. The Bund socialist movement among Jewish workers in Russia
 - D. The Hasidic Jewish revival movement in Eastern Europe
7. The 1905 Russian Revolution was triggered in part by Bloody Sunday in January, when
- A. Tsarist troops fired on peaceful workers' procession outside the Winter Palace
 - B. Bolshevik revolutionaries attempted to assassinate Tsar Nicholas II in Moscow
 - C. Russian peasants launched a coordinated rebellion against noble landowners statewide
 - D. Military officers led a failed coup against the Romanov imperial dynasty

8. In response to the 1905 Russian Revolution, Tsar Nicholas II issued the October Manifesto, which

- A. Recognized the independence of Finland, Poland, and the Baltic states
- B. Granted full agricultural land redistribution to all peasant families
- C. Established an elected legislative body called the State Duma
- D. Required all Russian Orthodox subjects to convert to Catholicism

9. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, signed in March 1918, resulted in

- A. The end of all hostilities on the Western Front of the war
- B. Germany's complete surrender to the combined Allied military forces
- C. The creation of an independent Polish state with sea access
- D. Russia's withdrawal from World War I with significant territorial losses

10. The United States entered World War I in April 1917 primarily in response to

- A. German unrestricted submarine warfare and the secret Zimmermann Telegram
- B. The Russian Revolution and collapse of the eastern war front
- C. Direct German attacks on American troops stationed in France
- D. British pressure following the destruction of London by zeppelins

11. The hyperinflation crisis in Weimar Germany during 1923 was triggered primarily by

- A. The introduction of a new German currency tied to the gold standard
- B. A nationwide general strike organized by powerful communist labor unions
- C. French occupation of the Ruhr and German government policy of printing money
- D. The collapse of major Berlin banks following extensive stock market speculation

12. Adolf Hitler's autobiographical book *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) was written

- A. After his appointment as Chancellor of Germany during the Nazi consolidation
- B. During his imprisonment following the failed 1923 Beer Hall Putsch in Munich
- C. In exile in Austria after the collapse of the Weimar Republic government
- D. As propaganda during the height of World War II to motivate German troops

13. The Locarno Treaties of 1925 were intended to

- A. Secure the western borders of Weimar Germany with France and Belgium
- B. Establish a joint military command between Britain and the French army
- C. Permit German rearmament beyond the limits set by the Treaty of Versailles
- D. Transfer the disputed Saar coal region back to French sovereign control

14. The Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928, signed by more than sixty nations, was an agreement to

- A. Establish an international gold standard for global currency exchange rates
- B. Create a permanent international peacekeeping armed force under League authority
- C. Recognize each signatory's overseas colonial possessions as permanent and inviolable
- D. Renounce the use of war as an instrument of national foreign policy

15. The Anschluss of March 1938 refers to

- A. The Italian invasion and military annexation of Ethiopian territory
- B. The Japanese occupation of the resource-rich region of Manchuria
- C. The German annexation of Austria into the Third Reich
- D. The Soviet occupation of the three independent Baltic states

16. The German conquest of France in May–June 1940 was achieved primarily through

- A. A prolonged trench-warfare campaign across the Maginot Line defenses
- B. Rapid armored Blitzkrieg tactics bypassing the French defensive fortifications
- C. A combined Italian and German amphibious assault from the Mediterranean
- D. A negotiated political surrender by the French Third Republic's parliament

17. The Vichy regime that governed unoccupied France from 1940 to 1944 was led by

- A. General Charles de Gaulle as leader of the Free French
- B. Léon Blum as the former socialist Popular Front prime minister
- C. Pierre Laval as the principal architect of French national resistance
- D. Marshal Philippe Pétain, the World War I hero of Verdun

18. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's "Secret Speech" to the 1956 Communist Party Congress denounced

- A. The cult of personality and crimes committed under Joseph Stalin's rule
- B. The economic policies that had created widespread agricultural and food shortages
- C. The Russian Orthodox Church and its surviving influence among the people
- D. The Warsaw Pact alliance with Eastern European communist member states

19. The 1954 Geneva Accords ended the First Indochina War and

- A. Established a unified democratic Vietnam under nationalist leadership and rule
- B. Transferred control of all Indochina to the United Nations administration
- C. Temporarily divided Vietnam at the 17th parallel into North and South
- D. Granted full independence to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam simultaneously

20. The 1960 U-2 incident damaged U.S.-Soviet relations when

- A. American forces accidentally bombed a Soviet civilian merchant cargo ship
- B. A Soviet missile shot down an American spy plane over Soviet territory
- C. The Soviet Union test-fired a nuclear missile near American naval bases
- D. A Soviet diplomat defected to the United States with classified files

21. Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms that began in the late 1970s in China are best described as

- A. Market-oriented reforms while still maintaining Communist Party political control
- B. Full-scale privatization and abandonment of the socialist economic system
- C. Return to strict Maoist collectivization and central economic planning
- D. Complete political democratization with multiparty competitive national elections

22. China's Special Economic Zones, established beginning in 1980 along the southeastern coast, were created to

- A. Provide military training facilities for the People's Liberation Army
- B. Establish self-sufficient agricultural communes for rural farming peasants
- C. Attract foreign investment through tax incentives and capitalist enterprise
- D. House political dissidents removed from major Chinese urban centers

23. Macao was returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1999 by which European colonial power?

- A. The Netherlands
- B. Spain
- C. France
- D. Portugal

24. In 1959, the 14th Dalai Lama fled Tibet for India following
- A. A natural disaster that devastated the Tibetan capital of Lhasa
 - B. A failed Tibetan uprising against Chinese communist authoritarian rule
 - C. A successful military coup by Tibetan generals against Buddhist leaders
 - D. A formal Chinese government invitation to permanent diplomatic asylum
25. The Asian Financial Crisis of 1997 began with the collapse of the currency in
- A. Japan and the bursting of the Tokyo stock market bubble
 - B. South Korea and the bankruptcy of the chaebol industrial conglomerates
 - C. Thailand and the sudden devaluation of the baht currency
 - D. Indonesia and the political fall of President Suharto
26. India's major economic reforms launched in 1991 by Finance Minister Manmohan Singh involved
- A. Liberalization, opening to foreign investment, and dismantling the License Raj
 - B. Nationalization of all major industries including banking and energy
 - C. Renewed economic alignment with the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc
 - D. Mandatory religious-based quotas in public employment and education sectors
27. The 1991 Gulf War began as a U.S.-led coalition response to
- A. Iranian seizure of an American oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz
 - B. Iraq's August 1990 invasion and annexation of neighboring Kuwait
 - C. Saudi Arabian sponsorship of attacks against U.S. embassies abroad
 - D. Syrian deployment of military forces into northern Lebanese territory

28. The 1993 Oslo Accords involved mutual recognition between

- A. Iran and the United States after the Iranian hostage crisis ended
- B. North and South Korea following decades of formal hostility
- C. Egypt and Israel concluding the long Camp David peace process
- D. Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization led by Yasser Arafat

29. The breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991 began with the declarations of independence by

- A. Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia from the wider Yugoslav federation
- B. Serbia and Montenegro from the larger Yugoslav republic structure
- C. Slovenia and Croatia from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
- D. Kosovo and Vojvodina from the autonomous Serbian provincial system

30. East Timor gained full independence in 2002 after decades of occupation by

- A. Indonesia
- B. Australia
- C. Portugal
- D. The Netherlands

31. In 2014, Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula following

- A. A unanimous vote by the United Nations Security Council member states
- B. A formal request from the Ukrainian central government in Kyiv
- C. A peace treaty negotiated through the Organization for Security in Europe
- D. A controversial referendum held under direct Russian military occupation

32. The 2019 protests in Hong Kong were initially triggered by

- A. Beijing's announcement of new restrictions on freedom of religious worship
- B. The introduction of a national security law banning all opposition activity
- C. A proposed extradition bill allowing transfer of suspects to mainland China
- D. The closure of pro-democracy newspapers and arrest of leading journalists

33. The acronym BRICS refers to a group of major emerging economies that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and

- A. Singapore
- B. South Africa
- C. South Korea
- D. Saudi Arabia

34. The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022 led to

- A. The largest refugee crisis in Europe since the end of World War II
- B. The complete collapse of the European Union's collective security framework
- C. The immediate withdrawal of NATO forces from all Eastern European states
- D. The peaceful negotiated partition of Ukraine into eastern and western states

35. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol was an international agreement focused on

- A. Eliminating the use of single-use plastic products worldwide by 2010
- B. Protecting endangered animal species through binding international trade restrictions
- C. Coordinating global responses to large-scale humanitarian refugee migration crises
- D. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the developed industrial nations

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1–35)

- 1. C** — Suspend laws or raise taxes without parliamentary consent. The Bill of Rights enacted after the Glorious Revolution of 1688 ended royal absolutism in England by limiting monarchical power and asserting parliamentary supremacy. It also banned standing armies in peacetime without Parliament's approval and guaranteed free elections to Parliament.
- 2. B** — Cripple Britain economically through a continental trade blockade. Unable to defeat the Royal Navy after the Battle of Trafalgar, Napoleon attempted to strangle British commerce by closing European ports to British goods. The system proved leaky and unpopular, ultimately drawing Napoleon into the disastrous 1812 invasion of Russia.
- 3. D** — An independent Greek kingdom recognized by the European great powers. After nearly a decade of war against the Ottoman Empire, Greek rebels gained decisive support from Britain, France, and Russia, whose navies destroyed the Ottoman fleet at Navarino in 1827. The Treaty of Constantinople in 1832 recognized Greek independence under a Bavarian-born king.
- 4. A** — Detailed critical analysis of capitalism and its economic contradictions. Marx introduced the concepts of surplus value, commodity fetishism, and the law of capital accumulation that he argued would inevitably produce crises and class struggle. Only Volume One appeared in his lifetime; Engels edited the remaining volumes from Marx's notes after his death in 1883.
- 5. D** — Social insurance program covering accidents, sickness, and old age. Bismarck introduced sickness insurance in 1883, accident insurance in 1884, and old-age and disability insurance in 1889, aiming to undercut socialist appeal among German workers. These laws established the model for modern welfare state systems adopted around the world.
- 6. B** — The political Zionist movement seeking a Jewish homeland. Inspired in part by his coverage of the Dreyfus Affair in France, Herzl argued that European antisemitism made assimilation impossible and that Jews needed their own state. He convened the First Zionist Congress in Basel in 1897, formally launching the political movement that eventually led to the founding of Israel.
- 7. A** — Tsarist troops fired on peaceful workers' procession outside the Winter Palace. On January 22, 1905, Father Gapon led thousands of unarmed workers carrying a petition to Tsar Nicholas II in Saint Petersburg, where imperial guards opened fire, killing hundreds. The massacre shattered traditional Russian faith in the "Little Father" tsar and ignited the Revolution of 1905.
- 8. C** — Established an elected legislative body called the State Duma. Issued on October 30, 1905, the manifesto promised civil liberties and an elected Duma with legislative power as the price of ending the revolutionary upheaval. Nicholas II soon undermined these concessions by dissolving Dumas that opposed him and restricting the franchise.
- 9. D** — Russia's withdrawal from World War I with significant territorial losses. The Bolsheviks ceded Poland, the Baltic states, Ukraine, and parts of the Caucasus to the Central Powers in exchange for peace, sacrificing roughly a third of European Russia's population. The harsh treaty was nullified when Germany itself surrendered to the Western Allies in November 1918.

10. A — German unrestricted submarine warfare and the Zimmermann Telegram. After Germany resumed sinking neutral and merchant ships in February 1917, the intercepted Zimmermann Telegram offering Mexico an alliance to recover lost territories outraged American public opinion. President Wilson asked Congress for a war declaration on April 2, 1917, and received it within days.

11. C — French occupation of the Ruhr and German government policy of printing money. When Germany defaulted on reparations payments, French and Belgian troops occupied the Ruhr industrial region in January 1923, and Berlin responded by paying striking Ruhr workers with newly printed money. The mark collapsed to roughly 4.2 trillion to the dollar by November 1923.

12. B — During his imprisonment following the failed 1923 Beer Hall Putsch in Munich. Sentenced to five years at Landsberg Prison after his attempted Nazi takeover of Bavaria, Hitler served less than nine months and dictated *Mein Kampf* to Rudolf Hess. The book combined autobiography with antisemitic ideology and plans for German expansion into Eastern Europe.

13. A — Secure the western borders of Weimar Germany with France and Belgium. Negotiated by foreign ministers Stresemann, Briand, and Chamberlain, the treaties guaranteed the inviolability of Germany's western frontiers but pointedly left eastern borders open to revision. The diplomatic warmth they generated proved illusory, especially after the Great Depression.

14. D — Renounce the use of war as an instrument of national foreign policy. Drafted by U.S. Secretary of State Frank Kellogg and French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand, the pact committed signatories to settle disputes peacefully but lacked any enforcement mechanism. It later became the basis for postwar prosecutions of aggressive war as a crime under international law.

15. C — The German annexation of Austria into the Third Reich. Hitler exploited a political crisis to send Wehrmacht troops into Austria on March 12, 1938, and proclaimed union with the German Reich the following day. A subsequent plebiscite under Nazi control reported 99 percent support, though the international community largely accepted the fait accompli.

16. B — Rapid armored Blitzkrieg tactics bypassing the French defensive fortifications. German Panzer divisions struck through the Ardennes Forest, which the French had considered impassable for tanks, encircling the Allied armies and reaching the English Channel within ten days. France surrendered on June 22, 1940, after just six weeks of fighting.

17. D — Marshal Philippe Pétain, the World War I hero of Verdun. The 84-year-old Pétain signed the armistice with Germany and established an authoritarian regime at the spa town of Vichy that collaborated with Nazi occupation. After the war he was convicted of treason and died imprisoned on the Île d'Yeu in 1951.

18. A — The cult of personality and crimes committed under Joseph Stalin's rule. Delivered in a closed session to the 20th Party Congress on February 25, 1956, Khrushchev's address detailed Stalin's purges, mass executions, and wartime errors. The speech triggered de-Stalinization at home and inspired liberalization movements across the Soviet bloc, including the Hungarian Revolution that same year.

19. C — Temporarily divided Vietnam at the 17th parallel into North and South. The accords ended the war between France and the Viet Minh, gave control of the north to Ho Chi Minh, and called for nationwide reunification elections in 1956 that never occurred. The division hardened into the separate states that fought the subsequent Vietnam War.

20. B — A Soviet missile shot down an American spy plane over Soviet territory. On May 1, 1960, a high-altitude U-2 piloted by Francis Gary Powers was shot down over Sverdlovsk, exposing American aerial espionage that the Eisenhower administration had initially denied. The incident wrecked the planned Paris summit between Eisenhower and Khrushchev and intensified Cold War tensions.

21. A — Market-oriented reforms while still maintaining Communist Party political control. Deng's "Reform and Opening Up" policy decollectivized agriculture, encouraged private enterprise, and opened China to foreign investment while keeping the Communist Party's monopoly on political power. His approach lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty and transformed China into the world's second-largest economy.

22. C — Attract foreign investment through tax incentives and capitalist enterprise. The four original SEZs of Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou, and Xiamen offered foreign companies preferential tax rates, looser regulations, and infrastructure for export-oriented manufacturing. Shenzhen in particular grew from a small fishing town into a megacity rivaling Hong Kong as a financial and technology hub.

23. D — Portugal. Macao had been a Portuguese colony since the sixteenth century, making it the oldest European outpost in East Asia, and was transferred to Chinese sovereignty on December 20, 1999. Like Hong Kong, it became a Special Administrative Region under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework.

24. B — A failed Tibetan uprising against Chinese communist authoritarian rule. After the People's Liberation Army incorporated Tibet in 1950, growing Chinese controls provoked a major uprising in Lhasa in March 1959 that was rapidly crushed. The Dalai Lama escaped to India with thousands of followers and established a government-in-exile at Dharamshala.

25. C — Thailand and the sudden devaluation of the baht currency. Thailand's decision to abandon its dollar peg on July 2, 1997, triggered cascading currency collapses across Southeast Asia, with severe impacts on Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and South Korea. The International Monetary Fund organized major bailouts whose harsh conditions remain controversial.

26. A — Liberalization, opening to foreign investment, and dismantling the License Raj. Facing a balance-of-payments crisis, Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh slashed import tariffs, devalued the rupee, abolished most industrial licensing requirements, and welcomed multinational corporations. The reforms transformed India into one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

27. B — Iraq's August 1990 invasion and annexation of neighboring Kuwait. Saddam Hussein justified the invasion with disputed border and oil claims, but his real motive was to seize Kuwaiti oil wealth and reduce Iraq's enormous war debts. Operation Desert Storm in January–February 1991 liberated Kuwait within six weeks but left Saddam in power.

28. D — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization led by Yasser Arafat. Negotiated secretly in Norway and signed at the White House in September 1993, the accords saw Israel and the PLO recognize each other and established the Palestinian Authority to govern parts of the West Bank and Gaza. The peace process stalled after the 1995 assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

29. C — Slovenia and Croatia from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Both republics declared independence on June 25, 1991, prompting brief war in Slovenia and a longer, more violent conflict in Croatia involving the Yugoslav People's Army and Serb minority forces. The breakup soon extended to Bosnia and ultimately ended the Yugoslav federation entirely.

30. A — Indonesia. Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and annexed it as a province the following year, occupying it for 24 years marked by widespread human rights abuses. A 1999 referendum produced an overwhelming vote for independence, and East Timor became fully sovereign in May 2002.

31. D — A controversial referendum held under direct Russian military occupation. Following the Maidan Revolution that ousted pro-Russian Ukrainian President Yanukovich, Russian troops without insignia seized Crimea in February–March 2014. A hastily organized referendum claimed 96 percent support for joining Russia, but the vote was rejected as illegitimate by the United Nations General Assembly.

32. C — A proposed extradition bill allowing transfer of suspects to mainland China. The Hong Kong government's bill would have permitted criminal suspects to be sent to mainland Chinese courts, where critics feared they would not receive fair trials. Massive protests beginning in June 2019 forced withdrawal of the bill but expanded into broader demands for democratic reform.

33. B — South Africa. Originally coined in 2001 by economist Jim O'Neill as "BRIC," the grouping added South Africa in 2010 to become BRICS, representing roughly 40 percent of the world's population. The bloc has held annual summits since 2009 and established the New Development Bank as an alternative to Western-dominated international financial institutions.

34. A — The largest refugee crisis in Europe since the end of World War II. Within months of the February 24, 2022 invasion, more than 6 million Ukrainians had fled abroad, with most going to Poland, Germany, and other European Union countries. Millions more were internally displaced, and the conflict produced widespread destruction, war crimes allegations, and a fundamental restructuring of European security.

35. D — Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the developed industrial nations. Adopted at the UN Climate Conference in Kyoto, Japan, the protocol set legally binding emission reduction targets only for developed countries, exempting developing nations like China and India. The United States signed but never ratified the agreement, and it was eventually superseded by the more inclusive 2015 Paris Agreement.