

# PRACTICE EXAM 22 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

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1. The economic theory of mercantilism that dominated European policy from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries held that
  - A. International free trade among nations promoted maximum national prosperity for all
  - B. A nation's wealth depended on accumulating gold and maintaining favorable trade
  - C. The labor theory of value determined the true worth of all manufactured goods
  - D. Government should withdraw entirely from any regulation of commercial activity
  
2. The Columbian Exchange following 1492 refers to the
  - A. Trade alliance between the Italian states and the Spanish royal courts
  - B. Diplomatic correspondence between Columbus and the Spanish Queen Isabella
  - C. Widespread transfer of plants, animals, and diseases between hemispheres
  - D. Treaty dividing the New World between Portugal and the Spanish empires
  
3. The Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy from the 1630s until the 1850s is best characterized as
  - A. Strict isolation that closed Japan to most foreign contact and trade

- B. Active expansion across Korea, Taiwan, and mainland Chinese territories
- C. Religious tolerance permitting Christian missionaries to operate widely and freely
- D. Equal commercial partnerships with British, Dutch, and Portuguese powers

4. The Suez Canal, which opened in 1869, dramatically shortened shipping routes between Europe and

- A. Latin American countries on the western coast of South America
- B. Western African ports along the Atlantic Ocean coastline regions
- C. Northern Canadian fur trading posts in the Arctic territories
- D. Asian markets including India, Southeast Asia, and mainland China

5. The British imperialist Cecil Rhodes, who founded the De Beers diamond company, is most associated with the colonization of

- A. Southern Africa and the territory that became known as Rhodesia
- B. The Indian subcontinent and the establishment of the British Raj
- C. Egypt and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan under joint colonial administration
- D. Hong Kong and the development of British commercial interests in China

6. The personal colony of King Leopold II of Belgium, exposed in the early 1900s for brutal labor practices and atrocities, was

- A. German East Africa, the colony later renamed Tanganyika
- B. French Equatorial Africa centered on the city of Brazzaville

C. The Congo Free State in the heart of Central Africa

D. Portuguese Angola located in the southwestern region of Africa

7. The Treaty of Paris of 1898 ending the Spanish-American War resulted in

A. Cuban independence within the Spanish colonial commonwealth system

B. Restoration of Spanish authority over Puerto Rico and Guam

C. Joint U.S.-Spanish administration of the Philippine Islands archipelago

D. The United States acquiring the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam

8. The South African War (Boer War) from 1899 to 1902 was fought between Britain and

A. German South West Africa over disputed colonial boundary claims

B. The Dutch-descended Afrikaner republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State

C. The Zulu Kingdom over the territory of Natal province

D. The French colonial administration in Madagascar over island sovereignty

9. The Easter Rising of 1916 in Dublin was an armed uprising against

A. British war policies that conscripted Irish citizens into the army

B. The Catholic Church's continued influence over Irish education and government

C. British rule in Ireland, aiming to establish an independent Irish republic

D. Industrial labor exploitation in the textile factories of northern Ireland

10. The founder of the modern Republic of Turkey in 1923, who abolished the sultanate and pursued sweeping secular reforms, was

- A. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk
- B. Enver Pasha
- C. Sultan Abdul Hamid II
- D. Mehmet Vahideddin

11. The Manchurian Incident of 1931 was significant because it

- A. Triggered the start of the Russo-Japanese conflict over Korea
- B. Led to Japanese seizure of Manchuria and the puppet state of Manchukuo
- C. Resulted in Japan's withdrawal from negotiations over Pacific naval treaties
- D. Forced the Qing Dynasty to grant additional treaty port concessions

12. The Nanjing Massacre, also known as the Rape of Nanjing, was committed in December 1937 by

- A. Soviet forces during their occupation of Chinese northern border provinces
- B. American forces during the closing months of the Pacific war
- C. Chinese Nationalist troops during the civil war against the communists
- D. Japanese forces during the early years of the Second Sino-Japanese War

13. British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's 1960 "Wind of Change" speech delivered in Cape Town acknowledged

- A. The growing strength of African nationalism and the inevitability of decolonization
- B. The need for continued white minority rule across British African colonies
- C. Britain's intention to join the European Economic Community trading bloc
- D. The end of the British nuclear weapons program and disarmament policies

14. President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), announced in 1983, proposed

- A. The withdrawal of all American intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe entirely
- B. A bilateral arms reduction treaty with the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact
- C. A space-based missile defense system to shield the United States from attack
- D. The construction of new ground-based intercontinental ballistic missile silos worldwide

15. The 1986 Reykjavik Summit between Reagan and Gorbachev

- A. Resulted in the immediate elimination of all nuclear weapons globally
- B. Established the first U.S.-Soviet trade agreement since World War II
- C. Created a permanent direct hotline between Washington and Moscow capitals
- D. Failed to produce an arms agreement but laid groundwork for later treaties

16. The 2004 Orange Revolution in Ukraine was a series of mass protests against

- A. The official policy of joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- B. A disputed presidential election widely viewed as rigged in favor of one candidate

- C. Russian economic sanctions following Ukraine's energy independence policy decisions
- D. The constitutional ban on the public use of the Russian language

17. China's Belt and Road Initiative, launched in 2013 under President Xi Jinping, is best described as

- A. A military alliance between China and several Central Asian republics
- B. A bilateral trade agreement between China and the European Union
- C. A pact to coordinate Asian responses to climate change emissions
- D. A massive infrastructure investment program connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa

18. The territorial disputes in the South China Sea primarily involve China and several Southeast Asian nations over

- A. The discovery and recovery of historical maritime archaeological sites
- B. Fishing rights for migratory tuna populations in international waters
- C. Competing claims to islands, reefs, and the surrounding maritime zones
- D. The freedom of cruise ships to operate in regional tourist areas

19. The Rohingya refugee crisis beginning in 2017 involved the mass exodus of Muslim Rohingya people from

- A. Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh following systematic military violence
- B. Bangladesh to India following border closures and severe food shortages
- C. Pakistan to Iran following religious sectarian violent conflicts

D. Indonesia to Malaysia following economic collapse in the region

20. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) declared a caliphate in 2014 across territory it controlled in

A. Afghanistan and Pakistan along the disputed Durand Line border region

B. Iraq and Syria following the chaos of the Syrian Civil War

C. Libya and Tunisia in the aftermath of the Arab Spring uprisings

D. Yemen and Saudi Arabia along the southern Arabian Peninsula coast

21. The Syrian Civil War that began in 2011 originated as part of the Arab Spring against the rule of

A. King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

B. President Hosni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt

C. President Bashar al-Assad of the Syrian Arab Republic government

D. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of the Republic of Turkey

22. North Korea has conducted multiple nuclear weapons tests since 2006 under the leadership of

A. Three successive members of the Kim family ruling dynasty

B. A rotating presidency made up of senior military generals

C. A constitutional democratic parliament with freely elected officials

D. Direct administration by the Chinese Communist Party leadership

23. South Korea transitioned from military authoritarian rule to a democratic government

- A. Following the Korean War armistice signed in July of 1953
- B. After the U.S. military occupation ended in the early 1950s
- C. During the rise of the chaebol industrial conglomerates of the 1960s
- D. Through the June Democratic Uprising and reforms of 1987

24. China's admission to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 was significant because it

- A. Required China to immediately adopt democratic political and electoral reforms
- B. Integrated China into the global trading system on largely market terms
- C. Ended Chinese government control over all major state-owned enterprises
- D. Resulted in the unification of Taiwan with mainland China within a decade

25. The United States completed its withdrawal of military forces from Afghanistan in August 2021, resulting in

- A. The transition to a stable Afghan democratic government supported by NATO
- B. A negotiated power-sharing arrangement between the Taliban and former officials
- C. The rapid collapse of the Afghan government and Taliban return to power
- D. The partition of Afghanistan into separate northern and southern states

26. The killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May 2020 sparked global protests organized around

- A. The defense of public statues commemorating historical European figures
- B. International immigration policies of the United States and Western Europe
- C. The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on minority communities
- D. The Black Lives Matter movement against racial injustice and police violence

27. The Israel-Hamas War that began in October 2023 was triggered by

- A. A large-scale Hamas attack from Gaza into southern Israeli communities
- B. An Israeli airstrike against Iranian nuclear facilities and military bases
- C. A Hezbollah ground invasion across the Lebanese border into northern Israel
- D. The signing of an Israeli-Saudi diplomatic normalization peace agreement

28. The World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared COVID-19 a global pandemic in

- A. December 2019 following initial reports of the disease from Wuhan
- B. March 2020 as confirmed cases spread rapidly across multiple continents
- C. June 2020 after the first major wave of infections peaked globally
- D. January 2021 with the introduction of mass vaccination programs

29. The European migrant and refugee crisis that peaked in 2015 was driven primarily by people fleeing

- A. Economic instability and rising unemployment in Eastern European nations
- B. Climate change and rising sea levels in low-lying island states

C. War and persecution in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and parts of Africa

D. Political repression in Latin American countries following military coups

30. The 2008 Russia-Georgia War was fought primarily over the breakaway regions of

A. Chechnya and Dagestan in the northern Caucasus mountain region

B. Crimea and the eastern Donbas region of contemporary Ukraine

C. Nagorno-Karabakh between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan

D. South Ossetia and Abkhazia within the borders of Republic of Georgia

31. The Ottoman Empire in the nineteenth century was often called the "Sick Man of Europe" because of its

A. Territorial losses, economic weakness, and inability to modernize effectively

B. Inability to expand military bases beyond the Mediterranean coastline

C. Refusal to participate in any European diplomatic conferences or alliances

D. Rejection of trade relationships with industrializing Western European powers

32. The Young Turks Revolution of 1908 in the Ottoman Empire resulted in

A. The complete abolition of the sultanate and proclamation of a republic

B. The restoration of the 1876 constitution and a newly elected parliament

C. The signing of treaties granting independence to all Balkan provinces

D. The conversion of the Ottoman state into a secular European-style democracy

33. Brazil gained its independence from Portugal in 1822 under the leadership of

- A. Simón Bolívar leading a continental Latin American revolutionary armed army
- B. José de San Martín organizing a republican military liberation expedition
- C. Father Miguel Hidalgo declaring a popular peasant insurrection across Mexico
- D. Dom Pedro I, son of Portugal's king, who became Brazilian emperor

34. The Pan-African Movement of the early twentieth century, advocating unity among African and African-descended peoples, included prominent figures such as

- A. Nelson Mandela and Kwame Nkrumah leading independence movements
- B. Patrice Lumumba and Jomo Kenyatta organizing post-colonial governments
- C. Marcus Garvey and W.E.B. Du Bois organizing international congresses
- D. Haile Selassie and Léopold Senghor presiding over independent states

35. Vladimir Putin first became President of Russia in

- A. 2000, succeeding Boris Yeltsin who had named him acting president
- B. 1991, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union under Gorbachev
- C. 2008, after serving as foreign minister of the Russian Federation
- D. 2014, following the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula by Russia

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

- 1. B** — A nation's wealth depended on accumulating gold and maintaining favorable trade. Mercantilist policy held that the world contained a fixed quantity of wealth, so nations competed to amass precious metals through high exports and low imports. The doctrine drove the establishment of overseas colonies as captive markets and sources of raw materials.
- 2. C** — Widespread transfer of plants, animals, and diseases between hemispheres. Named by historian Alfred Crosby, the exchange brought maize, potatoes, and tomatoes to the Old World and horses, wheat, and cattle to the Americas. Old World diseases like smallpox devastated indigenous populations, killing an estimated 90 percent in some regions.
- 3. A** — Strict isolation that closed Japan to most foreign contact and trade. The sakoku ("closed country") policy banned Japanese from leaving, expelled most foreigners, and outlawed Christianity, leaving only limited Dutch and Chinese trade through Nagasaki. The policy ended when U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry's gunboats forced Japan to open in 1853–54.
- 4. D** — Asian markets including India, Southeast Asia, and mainland China. Built under French engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps, the canal eliminated the long voyage around the Cape of Good Hope, cutting the Britain-to-India route by roughly 4,500 nautical miles. British control of the canal became a strategic priority after they bought a major stake from the bankrupt Egyptian ruler in 1875.
- 5. A** — Southern Africa and the territory that became known as Rhodesia. Through his British South Africa Company, Rhodes acquired vast mineral and territorial rights in what became Northern and Southern Rhodesia (modern Zambia and Zimbabwe). He famously declared his goal of building a Cape-to-Cairo railway under British control and bequeathed his fortune to fund Rhodes Scholarships.
- 6. C** — The Congo Free State in Central Africa. Recognized as Leopold's personal property by the 1885 Berlin Conference, the Free State extracted rubber and ivory through forced labor that killed an estimated 5 to 10 million Congolese. International outcry led the Belgian government to take over the colony in 1908, renaming it the Belgian Congo.
- 7. D** — The United States acquiring the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Spain ceded these territories to the U.S. for \$20 million, ending its centuries-old empire in the Americas and Pacific. Cuba received nominal independence but remained under U.S. influence through the Platt Amendment, while Filipino resistance led to the bloody Philippine-American War.
- 8. B** — The Dutch-descended Afrikaner republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State. The discovery of gold and diamonds on Afrikaner territory triggered British expansion under Cecil Rhodes and Alfred Milner. British use of concentration camps that killed thousands of Afrikaner women and children shocked global opinion, and the war ended with British victory and the eventual formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910.
- 9. C** — British rule in Ireland, aiming to establish an independent Irish republic. About 1,600 republican rebels seized Dublin's General Post Office and other sites during Easter Week, proclaiming the Irish

Republic before being crushed by British forces within six days. The execution of 15 leaders shifted Irish opinion toward independence, leading to the 1919–1921 War of Independence and partition.

**10. A** — Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. After leading Turkish nationalist forces to victory in the Turkish War of Independence, Atatürk abolished the caliphate, replaced Islamic law with secular European codes, romanized the alphabet, and granted women the vote. His program of state-led modernization defined Turkey for most of the twentieth century.

**11. B** — Led to Japanese seizure of Manchuria and the puppet state of Manchukuo. Japanese officers staged a bombing of a Japanese-owned railway near Mukden as a pretext for invasion in September 1931. The League of Nations condemned the aggression in the Lytton Report, prompting Japan's withdrawal from the League and signaling the collapse of interwar collective security.

**12. D** — Japanese forces during the Second Sino-Japanese War. After capturing the Chinese capital in December 1937, Imperial Japanese troops carried out six weeks of mass killings, rapes, and looting that killed an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 civilians and disarmed soldiers. The atrocity remains a source of major tension between Japan and China to this day.

**13. A** — The growing strength of African nationalism and the inevitability of decolonization. Delivered to the South African Parliament on February 3, 1960, Macmillan's speech warned that "the wind of change is blowing through this continent" and signaled British acceptance of African independence movements. Within a decade most British African colonies had become independent nations.

**14. C** — A space-based missile defense system to shield the United States from attack. Popularly nicknamed "Star Wars," SDI proposed using ground-based and space-based lasers, particle beams, and interceptors to destroy incoming Soviet missiles. Critics questioned its technical feasibility, but the program contributed to Soviet economic strain in attempting to match American defense spending.

**15. D** — Failed to produce an arms agreement but laid groundwork for later treaties. Reagan and Gorbachev came remarkably close to eliminating all nuclear weapons but deadlocked over Reagan's refusal to abandon SDI testing. The negotiations nonetheless produced momentum that led to the INF Treaty of 1987 and subsequent strategic arms reductions.

**16. B** — A disputed presidential election widely viewed as rigged in favor of one candidate. After official results declared pro-Russian Viktor Yanukovich the winner over Viktor Yushchenko, massive protests in Kyiv's Maidan square forced a court-ordered revote that Yushchenko won. The events marked a sharp turn toward European integration that Russia viewed as a strategic loss.

**17. D** — A massive infrastructure investment program connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa. The "Belt" refers to overland routes through Central Asia and Europe, while the "Road" denotes maritime routes through Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean. The initiative has financed ports, railways, and highways in over 140 countries, raising concerns about debt traps and Chinese geopolitical influence.

**18. C** — Competing claims to islands, reefs, and the surrounding maritime zones. China asserts a sweeping "nine-dash line" claim that overlaps with Philippine, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Bruneian, and Taiwanese

claims, including over the Spratly and Paracel island chains. A 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration largely rejected China's historic claims, but Beijing has rejected the ruling.

**19. A** — Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh following systematic military violence. A Myanmar military operation that began in August 2017 drove more than 740,000 Rohingya across the border in what UN officials described as ethnic cleansing with "genocidal intent." The crisis exposed the Buddhist-majority country's denial of citizenship to the Muslim minority population.

**20. B** — Iraq and Syria following the chaos of the Syrian Civil War. Originating as a splinter of al-Qaeda in Iraq, ISIS exploited Sunni grievances against Baghdad and the breakdown of Syrian state authority to capture Mosul and Raqqa in 2014. The U.S.-led coalition and local forces destroyed the territorial caliphate by 2019, though scattered insurgent activity continues.

**21. C** — President Bashar al-Assad of the Syrian Arab Republic government. Peaceful protests in Daraa demanding political reforms were met with violent crackdowns, escalating into a multi-sided civil war involving the Assad regime, opposition forces, Kurdish groups, and jihadists. Russian and Iranian intervention preserved Assad's rule at the cost of half a million deaths and millions of refugees.

**22. A** — Three successive members of the Kim family ruling dynasty. Founder Kim Il Sung was succeeded by his son Kim Jong Il in 1994 and grandson Kim Jong Un in 2011, producing the world's only communist hereditary dynasty. The regime conducted six nuclear tests between 2006 and 2017 in defiance of UN Security Council sanctions.

**23. D** — Through the June Democratic Uprising and reforms of 1987. Mass demonstrations forced the military-backed Chun Doo-hwan government to accept direct presidential elections and constitutional reforms. South Korea's subsequent transition to a vibrant democracy and economic power is sometimes called the "Miracle on the Han River."

**24. B** — Integrated China into the global trading system on largely market terms. After fifteen years of negotiation, China agreed to reduce tariffs, open its markets to foreign goods and services, and accept WTO dispute settlement procedures. The decision accelerated China's emergence as the world's manufacturing center and led to dramatic shifts in global trade patterns.

**25. C** — The rapid collapse of the Afghan government and Taliban return to power. As the last U.S. troops departed under a withdrawal agreement signed by the Trump administration, Afghan security forces disintegrated within days. Kabul fell on August 15, 2021, and the Taliban established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan twenty years after their initial ouster.

**26. D** — The Black Lives Matter movement against racial injustice and police violence. Bystander video of Floyd's death under a police officer's knee for over nine minutes triggered the largest racial justice protests in U.S. history and demonstrations in dozens of countries. The movement led to widespread reexamination of policing, public monuments, and racial inequities globally.

**27. A** — A large-scale Hamas attack from Gaza into southern Israeli communities. On October 7, 2023, Hamas militants killed approximately 1,200 Israelis and took roughly 250 hostages in coordinated attacks

on Israeli border communities and a music festival. Israel's military response in Gaza produced massive civilian casualties and a regional humanitarian crisis.

**28. B** — March 2020 as confirmed cases spread rapidly across multiple continents. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared the outbreak a pandemic on March 11, 2020, when cases had reached over 118,000 in 114 countries. The declaration accelerated lockdowns, travel restrictions, and emergency economic measures worldwide.

**29. C** — War and persecution in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and parts of Africa. Roughly 1.3 million people sought asylum in Europe in 2015, with Germany alone receiving over 800,000. The crisis tested EU asylum policies, strained the Schengen border-free zone, and contributed to the rise of right-wing populist parties across the continent.

**30. D** — South Ossetia and Abkhazia within the borders of Republic of Georgia. After Georgian forces shelled the South Ossetian capital, Russian troops invaded Georgia proper in August 2008, reaching to within 25 miles of Tbilisi. Russia subsequently recognized the independence of both breakaway regions, foreshadowing its later actions in Ukraine.

**31. A** — Territorial losses, economic weakness, and inability to modernize effectively. The empire steadily lost European territory through nineteenth-century wars and nationalist uprisings, fell deeply into debt to European banks, and struggled to industrialize despite reform efforts like the Tanzimat. European powers competed to inherit Ottoman territory in what became known as the "Eastern Question."

**32. B** — The restoration of the 1876 constitution and a newly elected parliament. The Committee of Union and Progress forced Sultan Abdul Hamid II to restore the constitution he had suspended in 1878 and to convene a parliament. Their initial liberalism gave way to authoritarian rule that led the empire into World War I on the side of the Central Powers.

**33. D** — Dom Pedro I, son of Portugal's king, who became Brazilian emperor. When Lisbon demanded he return after his father had fled there during the Napoleonic Wars, Pedro instead declared Brazilian independence in September 1822 with the "Cry of Ipiranga." Brazil thus achieved a peaceful transition to independence as a constitutional monarchy, unlike most of Spanish America.

**34. C** — Marcus Garvey and W.E.B. Du Bois organizing international congresses. Jamaican-born Garvey founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association and promoted Black economic self-reliance, while American intellectual Du Bois organized a series of Pan-African Congresses starting in 1919. Their work influenced later African independence leaders including Nkrumah and Kenyatta.

**35. A** — 2000, succeeding Boris Yeltsin who had named him acting president. Putin took over as acting president on December 31, 1999, after Yeltsin's surprise resignation, and won election outright in March 2000. He has dominated Russian politics ever since, alternating between president and prime minister and overseeing constitutional changes that allow him to remain in office through 2036.