

PRACTICE EXAM 28 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. The Peace of Westphalia signed in 1648 ended the Thirty Years' War and established the principle of
 - A. Religious tolerance as the only basis for political legitimacy
 - B. Monarchical absolutism throughout all of central continental Europe
 - C. State sovereignty and non-interference in domestic political affairs
 - D. Universal Catholic authority over all German-speaking European states

2. Louis XIV of France (1643–1715) is most associated with the political principle of
 - A. Absolutism founded on the divine right of kings
 - B. Constitutional monarchy with elected parliamentary supremacy
 - C. Religious tolerance under the Edict of Nantes
 - D. Republican government based on popular sovereignty principles

3. Peter the Great of Russia (1682–1725) sought to modernize his empire by
 - A. Returning Russia to traditional Slavic and Orthodox customs
 - B. Adopting Western European technology, customs, and military methods
 - C. Establishing a constitutional government with an elected national parliament
 - D. Granting religious tolerance to Muslims and Jews across the empire

4. The Tennis Court Oath of June 1789 was a pledge by members of the Third Estate to
 - A. Restore the absolute authority of Louis XVI over French government
 - B. Establish a religious confederation among Catholic European nations and states
 - C. Renounce all property claims belonging to the French aristocracy
 - D. Not disband until they had written a new constitution for France

5. The Women's March on Versailles in October 1789 forced King Louis XVI to
 - A. Sign the formal declaration of war against the Habsburg Empire
 - B. Abdicate the throne in favor of his younger brother and heir
 - C. Relocate the royal family from Versailles to Paris under popular control
 - D. Recognize the Republic of France as a constitutional democratic state

6. The Concordat of 1801 between Napoleon and Pope Pius VII
 - A. Established Catholicism as the sole legal religion across the French empire
 - B. Restored the Catholic Church in France while maintaining state control
 - C. Required the Pope to recognize Napoleon as the supreme religious authority
 - D. Returned all confiscated church lands to the bishops and monastic orders

7. The Great Exhibition of 1851 held in the Crystal Palace in London
 - A. Showcased Britain's industrial supremacy and dominant global manufacturing leadership
 - B. Hosted a peace conference to settle the recent Crimean War
 - C. Coordinated international scientific research on infectious tropical diseases globally
 - D. Established the international standardization of measurement units and weights

8. Florence Nightingale became a pioneer of modern nursing during the

- A. American Civil War in the Confederate states of the southern country
- B. First World War on the trenches of the Western Front in France
- C. Boer War in southern Africa between Britain and the Afrikaner republics
- D. Crimean War tending to British soldiers at the Scutari military hospital

9. At the 1884–1885 Berlin Conference, the European powers agreed that

- A. Any colonial claim would require approval from an African continental assembly
- B. African territorial claims required effective occupation rather than just discovery
- C. All existing African kingdoms would be recognized as sovereign equal partners
- D. The slave trade across the Atlantic Ocean would resume under regulated terms

10. The 1896 Battle of Adwa was significant because

- A. Italy successfully conquered and colonized the Ethiopian highlands plateau
- B. Britain established direct control over the Ethiopian highlands plateau
- C. Ethiopian forces decisively defeated an Italian colonial invasion army
- D. France gained recognition of its claims to the Horn of Africa

11. Japan formally annexed Korea as a colony in 1910 following

- A. The Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty after years of growing Japanese influence
- B. A direct military invasion of the Korean capital by Japanese imperial forces
- C. A vote by the Korean parliament inviting Japanese governance and rule
- D. A negotiated peace treaty ending an extended Korean-Japanese armed war

12. By 1907, the major European powers had divided into two opposing alliance systems known as the

- A. North Atlantic Treaty Organization versus the Eastern Warsaw Pact alliance system
- B. League of Nations against the Central European Customs Union confederation members
- C. Quadruple Alliance against the Holy Roman Alliance of conservative European monarchies
- D. Triple Alliance versus the Triple Entente of opposing major European great powers

13. The 1920 Treaty of Sèvres signed after World War I called for the

- A. Restoration of the prewar territorial borders of the Russian Empire
- B. Recognition of Austria-Hungary as a single unified successor state
- C. Partition of the former Ottoman Empire among the Allied victorious powers
- D. Reunification of Germany with Austria into a single nation

14. The Wannsee Conference held in a Berlin suburb in January 1942 was a meeting of Nazi officials to

- A. Plan the German invasion of the Soviet Union codenamed Operation Barbarossa
- B. Coordinate the systematic implementation of the Final Solution to murder European Jews
- C. Negotiate a separate peace with Britain following the Battle of Britain
- D. Establish concentration camps for prisoners of war and political opponents

15. The Tokyo War Crimes Trials held from 1946 to 1948 prosecuted

- A. Japanese military and political leaders for war crimes during World War II
- B. American military officers accused of various atrocities during the Pacific war
- C. Soviet officials accused of war crimes against Japanese prisoners of war
- D. Korean collaborators with the Japanese occupation of the Korean peninsula

16. Mao Zedong's Hundred Flowers Campaign of 1956–1957 initially

- A. Forced peasants into agricultural communal collectives across the Chinese countryside
- B. Closed all Buddhist and Taoist temples across the People's Republic
- C. Established Special Economic Zones along the southeastern Chinese coastal cities
- D. Encouraged intellectuals to openly criticize the Communist Party government

17. The Prague Spring of 1968 was a period of liberalization in Czechoslovakia led by

- A. Czech intellectual dissidents demanding immediate withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact
- B. A general strike of Czech industrial workers demanding higher wage increases
- C. Communist Party First Secretary Alexander Dubček promoting "socialism with a human face"
- D. Catholic clergy demanding the restoration of religious property and freedoms

18. The Brezhnev Doctrine articulated by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in 1968 declared that

- A. The Soviet Union would no longer intervene in the internal affairs of Eastern European states
- B. The Soviet Union had the right to intervene militarily in any socialist state to preserve socialism
- C. All communist states must immediately adopt Soviet-style economic and political reform measures
- D. The Soviet Union would seek a permanent peaceful coexistence with the Western capitalist powers

19. U.S. President Richard Nixon's visit to China in February 1972

- A. Marked a historic breakthrough in U.S.-Chinese relations during the Cold War
- B. Resulted in the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Vietnam
- C. Led to the formal recognition of Taiwan as an independent sovereign nation
- D. Established a permanent military alliance between China and the United States

20. West German Chancellor Willy Brandt's Ostpolitik policy in the late 1960s and 1970s aimed to

- A. Establish closer military cooperation with NATO partners against the Warsaw Pact
- B. Expand West German economic influence into Africa and South America
- C. Improve relations between West Germany and the Soviet bloc countries
- D. Reunify West Germany with East Germany within ten years through unilateral action

21. The Iran-Contra Affair revealed in 1986 involved the Reagan administration's

- A. Secret negotiations with Iran to release the American Embassy hostages in Tehran
- B. Direct U.S. military intervention to overthrow the leftist Nicaraguan Sandinista government
- C. Public sale of advanced weapons systems to Iran during the Iran-Iraq War
- D. Covert sale of arms to Iran with profits funding Nicaraguan Contra rebels

22. In May 1998, both India and Pakistan conducted underground nuclear tests, which

- A. Confirmed both nations as nuclear powers and intensified regional tensions
- B. Were carried out jointly under a bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement
- C. Led to immediate UN Security Council military intervention in South Asia
- D. Resulted in both nations signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

23. China's One-Child Policy, in effect from 1979 to 2015, was instituted primarily to

- A. Improve gender equality and women's participation in the urban workforce
- B. Slow rapid population growth and reduce strain on economic resources
- C. Reduce the influence of traditional Confucian family-centered cultural values
- D. Encourage rural-to-urban migration to staff new manufacturing industrial zones

24. Xi Jinping became General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party in

- A. 1989, in the aftermath of the Tiananmen Square crackdown
- B. 2001, when China formally joined the World Trade Organization
- C. 2012, succeeding Hu Jintao at the 18th Party Congress
- D. 2008, during the celebrated Beijing Summer Olympic Games event

25. The 2016 Brexit referendum in the United Kingdom resulted in

- A. A decisive vote to remain in the European Union by over 60 percent
- B. A statistical tie that required a parliamentary vote to resolve the question
- C. The immediate adoption of the euro as the British national currency
- D. A narrow majority of voters choosing to leave the European Union

26. The 2011 Libyan Civil War ended with

- A. The capture and killing of longtime Libyan ruler Muammar Gaddafi
- B. Gaddafi's negotiated exile to neighboring Egypt and political retirement
- C. NATO troops occupying Libya as a UN administered protectorate
- D. The restoration of King Idris I as the constitutional monarch

27. The 2011 Egyptian Revolution led to the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak after

- A. A successful military coup organized by junior Egyptian army officers
- B. A vote of no confidence by the Egyptian Parliament in Cairo
- C. Eighteen days of mass protests centered on Tahrir Square in Cairo
- D. International sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council members

28. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission established in post-apartheid South Africa in 1995 was chaired by

- A. Frederik Willem de Klerk, the last president of the apartheid government
- B. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate from Cape Town
- C. Thabo Mbeki, who later became president of South Africa
- D. Walter Sisulu, the longtime African National Congress leadership figure

29. The militant group Boko Haram, which has carried out attacks since 2009, is primarily based in

- A. Somalia along the Horn of Africa coastline near to Yemen
- B. Mali in the Sahel region of West Africa near the Sahara
- C. Sudan along the disputed border with the new South Sudan
- D. Northern Nigeria in the Lake Chad region of West Africa

30. The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was adopted by the United Nations in 1948 in response to

- A. The atrocities of the Holocaust committed during World War II
- B. Mass violence following the 1947 partition of British India and Pakistan
- C. Stalin's purges and famine in the Soviet Union and Ukraine
- D. The Armenian massacres committed during the First World War conflict

31. The 1951 Refugee Convention, drafted under the United Nations, established the principle of

- A. Equal economic rights for all migrant workers across signatory countries
- B. Universal asylum granted to anyone fleeing economic hardship in their country
- C. Non-refoulement, prohibiting return of refugees to lands of persecution
- D. Mandatory military service for accepted refugees in their host countries

32. The 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, brokered by Pope Alexander VI, divided the newly discovered non-European world between

- A. France and England along a north-south meridian through the Atlantic
- B. The Netherlands and Britain across the East Indies trading routes
- C. Russia and the Ottoman Empire across the Eurasian steppe lands
- D. Spain and Portugal along a meridian line through the Atlantic Ocean

33. The Spanish colonial encomienda system established in the Americas during the sixteenth century

- A. Granted Spanish colonists rights to indigenous labor in exchange for Christianization
- B. Established free trade among all Spanish American mainland colonial possessions
- C. Required Spanish settlers to free their indigenous laborers after seven years
- D. Provided indigenous peoples with full Spanish citizenship and equal legal rights

34. The Spanish Dominican friar Bartolomé de las Casas (1484–1566) is best known for

- A. Leading military expeditions against the Aztec and Inca civilizations directly
- B. Defending indigenous American peoples against Spanish colonial abuses
- C. Establishing the first Jesuit missions throughout the Spanish American empire
- D. Writing the official history of the Spanish conquest of the Americas

35. The World Health Organization (WHO) was established in 1948 as a specialized agency of the United Nations to

- A. Coordinate international medical research funding for various cancer treatments alone
- B. Provide direct medical care to refugees in war zones around the world
- C. Manage worldwide pharmaceutical regulation and drug approval processes globally

D. Direct international public health efforts including disease eradication and prevention

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1-35)

1. C — State sovereignty and non-interference in domestic political affairs. The 1648 peace treaties signed at Münster and Osnabrück ended the devastating religious wars of the seventeenth century and established each ruler's right to determine the religion and policies of his own state. This principle of Westphalian sovereignty remains a foundation of the modern international state system.

2. A — Absolutism founded on the divine right of kings. Louis XIV's famous declaration "L'État, c'est moi" ("I am the state") captured his belief that royal authority came directly from God and was answerable to no earthly power. He centralized administration at Versailles, dominated the nobility through court ritual, and reigned for 72 years — the longest of any major European monarch.

3. B — Adopting Western European technology, customs, and military methods. Peter traveled incognito to Western Europe in 1697–98 to learn shipbuilding, manufacturing, and military techniques, then imported foreign experts and forced Russian nobles to adopt Western dress and shave their beards. His founding of Saint Petersburg in 1703 as a "window on the West" symbolized this reorientation.

4. D — Not disband until they had written a new constitution for France. Locked out of their meeting hall on June 20, 1789, deputies of the newly proclaimed National Assembly gathered on an indoor tennis court and swore not to separate until they had given France a constitution. The oath marked the practical end of royal absolutism and a key turning point of the French Revolution.

5. C — Relocate the royal family from Versailles to Paris under popular control. Thousands of Parisian market women, joined by armed National Guard, marched 12 miles to Versailles on October 5, 1789, demanding bread and the royal family's return to the capital. The royals never returned to Versailles, placing them under the watchful eye of revolutionary Paris.

6. B — Restored the Catholic Church in France while maintaining state control. The agreement recognized Catholicism as the religion of the majority of French citizens, allowed the church to function openly, and gave the pope authority over doctrine while leaving Napoleon power to nominate bishops. The Concordat remained the basis of French church-state relations until 1905.

7. A — Showcased Britain's industrial supremacy and dominant global manufacturing leadership. Held inside Joseph Paxton's revolutionary iron-and-glass Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, the exhibition attracted six million visitors over five months to view exhibits from around the world. Prince Albert championed the event to demonstrate that British industrial innovation led the world.

8. D — Crimean War tending to British soldiers at the Scutari military hospital. Nightingale and her team of nurses dramatically reduced death rates at the Barrack Hospital by improving sanitation, ventilation, and patient care. Her statistical work and 1860 founding of the Nightingale Training School established nursing as a respected modern profession.

9. B — African territorial claims required effective occupation rather than just discovery. The conference rules required colonial powers to demonstrate actual administrative presence to validate their claims, accelerating the "Scramble for Africa" as European powers raced to plant flags and build forts. No African representatives attended, and existing African political boundaries were ignored in the resulting partition.

10. C — Ethiopian forces decisively defeated an Italian colonial invasion army. Emperor Menelik II's army of roughly 100,000 troops, armed with modern Russian and French rifles, routed General Baratieri's smaller Italian force, killing or capturing nearly half of it. The victory preserved Ethiopian independence and inspired anti-colonial movements throughout Africa and the African diaspora.

11. A — The Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty after years of growing Japanese influence. After defeating Russia in 1905 and establishing a protectorate over Korea under the Eulsa Treaty, Japan formally annexed the peninsula on August 22, 1910. The 35-year colonial occupation that followed featured cultural suppression, forced labor, and the comfort women system that remain sensitive issues today.

12. D — Triple Alliance versus the Triple Entente of opposing major European great powers. Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed the Triple Alliance in 1882, while France, Russia, and Britain finalized the Triple Entente by 1907. The two interlocking alliance systems ensured that local Balkan disputes could escalate into general European war, as happened in 1914.

13. C — Partition of the former Ottoman Empire among the Allied victorious powers. The treaty stripped the Ottoman Empire of nearly all its non-Turkish territory, creating French and British mandates over Syria, Iraq, and Palestine, and assigning parts of Anatolia to Greece and the Armenians. Turkish nationalists under Mustafa Kemal rejected its terms and forced its replacement by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923.

14. B — Coordinate the systematic implementation of the Final Solution to murder European Jews. Chaired by SS official Reinhard Heydrich and including Adolf Eichmann, the 90-minute meeting on January 20, 1942 did not initiate genocide but coordinated existing killing operations into a comprehensive continental program. The conference's surviving minutes provide crucial documentary evidence of the systematic nature of the Holocaust.

15. A — Japanese military and political leaders for war crimes during World War II. The International Military Tribunal for the Far East tried 28 senior leaders for crimes including aggressive war and atrocities such as the Nanjing Massacre, sentencing seven including former Prime Minister Hideki Tojo to death by hanging. Emperor Hirohito was controversially spared prosecution to preserve postwar stability.

16. D — Encouraged intellectuals to openly criticize the Communist Party government. Under the slogan "Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend," Mao invited frank criticism in 1956. When critiques proved sharper than expected, he reversed course in 1957 with the Anti-Rightist Campaign that persecuted hundreds of thousands of intellectuals who had spoken out.

17. C — Communist Party First Secretary Alexander Dubček promoting "socialism with a human face." Beginning in January 1968, Dubček's reform program included press freedom, market-oriented economic adjustments, and limited democratic participation while maintaining Communist Party rule. Warsaw Pact forces led by the Soviet Union invaded in August 1968, ending the reform experiment.

18. B — The Soviet Union had the right to intervene militarily in any socialist state to preserve socialism. Articulated after the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, the doctrine asserted that the gains of socialism were the common property of all socialist states and could not be allowed to slip backward. It was effectively renounced by Gorbachev in 1988, opening the door to the peaceful revolutions of 1989.

19. A — Marked a historic breakthrough in U.S.-Chinese relations during the Cold War. Nixon's eight-day trip ended more than two decades of mutual non-recognition and produced the Shanghai Communiqué, which acknowledged "one China" while preserving U.S. ties with Taiwan. The opening drove a wedge between Beijing and Moscow and reshaped the global balance of power.

20. C — Improve relations between West Germany and the Soviet bloc countries. Brandt negotiated treaties with the USSR, Poland, and East Germany that recognized postwar borders and formally accepted the existence of a separate East German state. His famous spontaneous kneeling at the Warsaw Ghetto memorial in 1970 became a powerful symbol of German reconciliation with the East.

21. D — Covert sale of arms to Iran with profits funding Nicaraguan Contra rebels. National Security Council staff including Oliver North circumvented a congressional ban on aid to the Contras by diverting profits from secret arms sales to Iran. The scandal led to multiple criminal convictions and damaged but did not end the Reagan presidency.

22. A — Confirmed both nations as nuclear powers and intensified regional tensions. India conducted five tests in May 1998 followed by Pakistan's six tests later the same month, ending years of ambiguity about both nations' nuclear capabilities. The tests prompted American and Japanese sanctions and made the Kashmir dispute one of the world's most dangerous potential nuclear flashpoints.

23. B — Slow rapid population growth and reduce strain on economic resources. Introduced under Deng Xiaoping, the policy used a combination of incentives and harsh penalties including fines, forced sterilizations, and forced abortions to limit most urban couples to one child. The policy contributed to a severe gender imbalance and an aging population that prompted China to allow two and then three children.

24. C — 2012, succeeding Hu Jintao at the 18th Party Congress. Xi consolidated power more rapidly than expected, launching a major anti-corruption campaign and eliminating presidential term limits in 2018 to allow indefinite rule. He has presided over China's growing global assertiveness and rising rivalry with the United States.

25. D — A narrow majority of voters choosing to leave the European Union. The June 23, 2016 referendum produced a 51.9 percent vote for Leave against 48.1 percent for Remain, surprising most observers and political establishments. Brexit was formally completed on January 31, 2020, after years of contentious negotiations over the terms of withdrawal.

26. A — The capture and killing of longtime Libyan ruler Muammar Gaddafi. Following NATO airstrikes authorized by UN Security Council Resolution 1973, rebel forces captured Gaddafi near his hometown of Sirte on October 20, 2011, where he was beaten and shot. Libya's subsequent descent into civil war and chaos has often been cited as a cautionary tale about external military intervention.

- 27. C** — Eighteen days of mass protests centered on Tahrir Square in Cairo. Beginning January 25, 2011, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators called for the end of Mubarak's three-decade rule, ultimately forcing his resignation on February 11. The military took power and was followed by the brief presidency of Muslim Brotherhood-backed Mohamed Morsi, then the 2013 coup by Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.
- 28. B** — Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate. The TRC held public hearings from 1996 to 1998 in which victims of apartheid-era violence shared their experiences and perpetrators could apply for amnesty in exchange for full disclosure. Though imperfect, the commission's restorative justice approach became an internationally influential model for post-conflict reconciliation.
- 29. D** — Northern Nigeria in the Lake Chad region of West Africa. Founded in 2002 and turning to armed insurgency around 2009, the jihadist group's name roughly means "Western education is forbidden." Its 2014 abduction of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok sparked the global #BringBackOurGirls campaign, and the group has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions across the Lake Chad basin.
- 30. A** — The atrocities of the Holocaust committed during World War II. Polish-Jewish lawyer Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term "genocide" in 1944, lobbied tirelessly for the convention, which made genocide a crime under international law for the first time. It defines genocide as acts committed with intent to destroy a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group.
- 31. C** — Non-refoulement, prohibiting return of refugees to lands of persecution. Article 33 of the convention bars signatory states from sending refugees back to territories where they face threats to life or freedom based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group membership. The principle is now considered customary international law binding even on non-signatory states.
- 32. D** — Spain and Portugal along a meridian line through the Atlantic Ocean. Negotiated to resolve disputes following Columbus's voyages, the treaty drew a line roughly 1,200 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands, with lands to the east going to Portugal and lands to the west to Spain. This is why Brazil developed as a Portuguese colony while most of South America became Spanish.
- 33. A** — Granted Spanish colonists rights to indigenous labor in exchange for Christianization. Conquistadors who received encomiendas were expected to protect and instruct native peoples in the Catholic faith in return for labor and tribute, but in practice the system enabled brutal exploitation. The system contributed to catastrophic indigenous population decline and was gradually replaced by other labor arrangements like the repartimiento.
- 34. B** — Defending indigenous American peoples against Spanish colonial abuses. A former encomendero who renounced his holdings, Las Casas spent decades documenting Spanish atrocities in works like *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* and arguing before the crown for indigenous rights. His advocacy contributed to the 1542 New Laws limiting the encomienda system.
- 35. D** — Direct international public health efforts including disease eradication and prevention. The WHO led the global campaign that eliminated smallpox by 1980 — the first human disease to be eradicated — and has coordinated responses to polio, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, and COVID-19. Its 194 member states collaborate on disease surveillance, health emergencies, and setting international health standards.