

PRACTICE EXAM 29 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. Catherine the Great of Russia (1762–1796) is best described as
 - A. A Russian Orthodox saint who promoted strict religious orthodoxy and rejected secular thought
 - B. A Bolshevik revolutionary who established the world's first communist government in the 1700s
 - C. An "enlightened despot" who corresponded with leading philosophes while expanding Russian imperial territory
 - D. A peaceful constitutional monarch who voluntarily limited the power of the Russian throne

2. The events leading to the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, included
 - A. The convocation of the Estates-General and the formation of the National Assembly by the Third Estate
 - B. The execution of King Louis XVI by guillotine and the founding of the First French Republic
 - C. The overthrow of Napoleon Bonaparte and the restoration of the Bourbon royal family to power
 - D. The peaceful negotiation of a new constitution between French nobles and the Catholic bishops

3. Napoleon Bonaparte's empire collapsed following
 - A. His decisive victory over Russian forces at the Battle of Borodino in late 1812
 - B. The successful French defense of the city of Paris against allied European armies in 1813
 - C. His disastrous invasion of Russia in 1812 and final defeat at Waterloo in 1815
 - D. His voluntary abdication and retirement to a quiet estate in southern France in 1810

4. Czar Alexander II of Russia is best remembered for

- A. Establishing the Russian Orthodox Church as the official state religion of Imperial Russia
- B. Leading Russian forces to victory in the Crimean War against the British and the French
- C. Crushing the December 1825 Decembrist uprising that demanded constitutional political reform
- D. Emancipating Russia's serfs in 1861 in response to defeat in the Crimean War

5. The Zollverein, established in 1834 under Prussian leadership, was a

- A. Military alliance of German states designed to prevent French invasion of central Europe
- B. Customs union of German states that reduced tariffs and prepared the way for political unification
- C. Religious confederation of Protestant German states formed in opposition to Catholic Austrian leadership
- D. Cultural society that promoted German language and folk traditions across the German states

6. By 1907, Europe was divided into two major alliance systems on the eve of World War I:

- A. The Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy and the Triple Entente of France, Russia, and Britain
- B. The Allied Powers of the United States, Britain, and France and the Axis Powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan
- C. The Holy Alliance of Russia, Austria, and Prussia and the Republican League of France, Italy, and Spain
- D. The Warsaw Pact of Soviet bloc states and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization of Western nations

7. The Easter Rising of April 1916 in Dublin was

- A. A successful Irish military operation that drove all British forces out of the island of Ireland
- B. A peaceful political conference that established the present-day Republic of Ireland after extended negotiation

- C. An armed Irish republican uprising against British rule that was suppressed within six days
- D. A religious pilgrimage by Irish Catholics protesting Protestant rule throughout the British Isles

8. The 1918 influenza pandemic ("Spanish Flu")

- A. Was effectively controlled by widespread vaccination and quarantine within a few months
- B. Affected only the soldiers fighting on the Western Front during the final year of World War I
- C. Originated in Spain and remained largely confined to Spain and the Iberian peninsula
- D. Killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide and overlapped with the final year of World War I

9. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was formally established in 1922 by

- A. The merger of the Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian, and Transcaucasian Soviet republics under Bolshevik leadership
- B. A democratic vote of all the peoples of the former Russian Empire conducted under international observation
- C. A treaty signed between Vladimir Lenin and the leaders of the former Allied Powers of World War I
- D. The peaceful unification of communist and capitalist political parties throughout the former Czarist territory

10. The Communist International (Comintern), founded in 1919, was

- A. A trade organization that promoted commercial exchange between communist and capitalist nations
- B. An international organization that coordinated communist parties worldwide and promoted global revolution
- C. A peacekeeping organization established by communist countries within the League of Nations
- D. A defensive military alliance among the communist states that emerged after the First World War

11. The 1929 Wall Street Crash

- A. Affected only American investors and had no significant impact on the economies of other nations
- B. Was quickly resolved through coordinated international action by all of the major industrial governments
- C. Demonstrated the strength of the global gold standard and the stability of international currencies
- D. Triggered the worldwide Great Depression as falling demand and bank failures spread across the globe

12. The Dawes Plan of 1924 attempted to stabilize the German Weimar Republic by

- A. Forcing Germany to accept additional territorial losses to France and to Poland in the east
- B. Authorizing French military occupation of the Ruhr industrial region for an indefinite period
- C. Restructuring German reparation payments and providing American loans to revive the German economy
- D. Reuniting Germany with neighboring Austria into a single democratic federal republic by treaty

13. The Spanish Civil War (1936–1939) ended with

- A. The victory of Nationalist forces under General Francisco Franco with German and Italian support
- B. The victory of the Spanish Republican government supported by the Soviet Union and France
- C. A negotiated truce that divided Spain between a Republican north and a Nationalist south
- D. The overthrow of the Spanish monarchy and the establishment of a constitutional democratic republic

14. Germany's rapid defeat of France in May–June 1940 was made possible largely by

- A. The successful British naval blockade of all French Atlantic and Mediterranean coastal ports
- B. The voluntary surrender of all French military forces in exchange for protection against Italy
- C. France's effective use of the Maginot Line of fortifications to repel the initial German invasion
- D. A German blitzkrieg attack through the Ardennes Forest that bypassed the Maginot Line entirely

15. The 1942 Second Battle of El Alamein in Egypt resulted in

- A. A decisive German victory that gave Field Marshal Rommel control of the entire Suez Canal zone
- B. A British Eighth Army victory under General Bernard Montgomery that turned the North African campaign
- C. The fall of Cairo to Axis forces and the collapse of British control over the Middle Eastern region
- D. A negotiated settlement that left Libya and Egypt under joint Italian and British military administration

16. The Siege of Leningrad (September 1941 to January 1944) is remembered for

- A. The quick German capture of the city following a brief and largely bloodless military assault
- B. Nearly 900 days of blockade in which more than a million Soviet civilians and soldiers died
- C. The peaceful Soviet evacuation of the entire city population before the arrival of German forces
- D. A combined American and Soviet operation that drove German forces back to the German homeland

17. The 1943 Battle of Kursk on the Eastern Front is historically significant because it

- A. Was the first Allied amphibious landing on the European mainland during World War II
- B. Marked the beginning of the German invasion of the Soviet Union during World War II
- C. Was the largest tank battle in history and ended any remaining German offensive capability in the east
- D. Resulted in a clear German victory that pushed Soviet forces back to the Ural Mountains region

18. The Manhattan Project, conducted by the United States during World War II, was

- A. The top-secret American program that developed the first atomic bombs used against Japan
- B. The American military campaign to liberate the Philippine Islands from Japanese military occupation
- C. The American naval operation that destroyed Japanese aircraft carriers at the Battle of Midway
- D. The American program that produced the long-range B-29 bombers used against German cities

19. At the Potsdam Conference of July–August 1945, Allied leaders agreed to

- A. Officially establish the United Nations and create a permanent international peacekeeping military force
- B. Divide France into separate American and British military occupation zones across its territory
- C. Restore the Japanese emperor as the supreme legal and political authority of postwar Japan
- D. Demand Japan's unconditional surrender and plan postwar Germany's denazification and total demilitarization

20. The Atlantic Charter of August 1941, issued by President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, articulated

- A. A formal military alliance between the United States and the Soviet Union against Nazi Germany
- B. The terms of Japan's unconditional surrender that would later be presented at the Potsdam Conference
- C. General principles for the postwar world including self-determination, free trade, and global disarmament
- D. The detailed military plans for the eventual Allied amphibious invasion of occupied northern France

21. The Geneva Conventions of 1949

- A. Established the United Nations as a permanent international peacekeeping and humanitarian organization in Switzerland
- B. Established the principles of free trade that would later become the basis of the GATT and the WTO
- C. Established international rules for the humane treatment of wounded soldiers, prisoners of war, and civilians
- D. Recognized the right of self-determination for all colonial peoples around the world after World War II

22. The 1954 Geneva Accords ending the First Indochina War

- A. Established a single unified Vietnamese government under Emperor Bao Dai of South Vietnam by treaty
- B. Temporarily divided Vietnam at the 17th parallel and called for nationwide elections within two years

- C. Restored full French colonial rule over the territories of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia
- D. Authorized the immediate large-scale American military intervention in support of South Vietnam

23. Gamal Abdel Nasser, who led Egypt from 1956 to 1970, was a major proponent of

- A. Pan-Arabism, the idea that all Arabic-speaking peoples should be politically united under a single state
- B. Pan-Islamism, the idea that all Muslims worldwide should be unified under a single caliph
- C. Pan-Africanism, the idea that all African nations should form a single political federation
- D. Pan-Europeanism, the idea that Egypt's future lay primarily with the nations of Europe

24. Marshal Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia is best known for

- A. Leading the Soviet invasion that established the communist government of Yugoslavia in 1948
- B. Negotiating Yugoslavia's permanent membership in the NATO Western collective military defense alliance
- C. Establishing a multi-party democratic system after the end of the Second World War in Yugoslavia
- D. Leading partisan resistance against the Nazis and maintaining Yugoslav independence from Soviet control

25. The Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that divides North and South Korea was created by the

- A. United Nations Charter and exists under the direct supervision of UN peacekeeping forces
- B. 1953 Korean armistice agreement that formally ended active fighting in the Korean War
- C. Treaty of Versailles signed at the conclusion of the First World War in Europe
- D. 1972 joint declaration by North and South Korea aimed at the peaceful reunification of the peninsula

26. Robert Mugabe came to power in 1980 as leader of

- A. Newly independent Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) and ruled until his removal from office in 2017

- B. The Republic of South Africa under the apartheid system as the first Black president of the country
- C. The Democratic Republic of the Congo following the assassination of Patrice Lumumba in the 1960s
- D. Mozambique after a long Portuguese colonial war and final independence in the mid-1970s

27. Mobutu Sese Seko ruled the Democratic Republic of the Congo (which he renamed Zaire) from 1965 to 1997

- A. As a popularly elected democratic president supported throughout by the People's Republic of China
- B. With strong economic ties to Cuba and the Soviet Union throughout most of his time in office
- C. As an authoritarian leader supported by Western powers as a Cold War ally against communism
- D. By voluntarily relinquishing power to elected legislators on multiple occasions during his time in office

28. The HIV/AIDS pandemic, which emerged as a global health crisis in the 1980s, has been particularly severe in

- A. The northern industrial nations of Western Europe and the territory of the former Soviet Union
- B. Latin America, where governments have failed to implement any effective national prevention programs
- C. Polar regions, where AIDS prevalence is the highest reported anywhere in the modern world
- D. Sub-Saharan Africa, where in some countries one in five adults have lived with the virus

29. The 1980 declaration by the World Health Organization that smallpox had been eradicated

- A. Was the result of a global vaccination campaign and marks the only human disease ever eliminated worldwide
- B. Failed to actually eliminate the disease, which has continued to spread among unvaccinated populations
- C. Was reversed less than ten years later when smallpox returned to several countries in Africa and Asia
- D. Was achieved through the use of antiviral medications rather than coordinated mass vaccination programs

30. Russia's transition under President Boris Yeltsin (1991–1999) involved

- A. The successful peaceful integration of Russia into NATO and the European Union by the year 1995
- B. The maintenance of Soviet-era central planning combined with entirely new democratic political institutions
- C. The voluntary return of all former Soviet republics to a new federal union led from Moscow
- D. Rapid privatization, economic chaos, the rise of oligarchs, and the emergence of Vladimir Putin

31. The French Resistance during World War II was

- A. The official policy of the Vichy government in occupied France during the German occupation
- B. A network of underground civilian groups that conducted sabotage, intelligence-gathering, and rescue operations
- C. A failed military uprising in 1940 that briefly threatened German control over occupied France
- D. A negotiated armistice that allowed France to remain neutral throughout the entire conflict

32. The 1941 Babi Yar massacre near Kyiv was

- A. A Soviet operation against German prisoners of war during the early phase of the Eastern Front campaign
- B. A battle in which Soviet partisans halted the German advance into the Ukrainian capital area
- C. The mass shooting of more than 33,000 Jews by Nazi forces over two days outside the city of Kyiv
- D. A successful evacuation of all Soviet civilians from the Ukrainian capital before the German occupation

33. The 1998 resignation of President Suharto of Indonesia followed

- A. The Asian Financial Crisis, economic collapse, and mass protests against his three-decade rule
- B. A successful military coup led by reformist officers within the Indonesian armed forces
- C. A peaceful negotiated transition in which Suharto voluntarily handed power to an elected successor

D. The complete invasion and military occupation of Indonesia by neighboring Malaysian armed forces

34. Brazilian President Getúlio Vargas's "Estado Novo" (1937–1945) was

A. A constitutional democracy with multiple competing political parties and freely contested national elections

B. A communist regime closely aligned with the Soviet Union during World War II

C. A peaceful negotiation between Brazilian conservatives and liberals to share executive political power

D. An authoritarian regime that promoted industrialization and nationalism in 1930s and 1940s Brazil

35. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), founded in 1967, was created to

A. Establish a single Southeast Asian government modeled directly on the European Union's structure

B. Promote regional economic and political cooperation among Southeast Asian sovereign member states

C. Coordinate the military defense of Southeast Asia against communist Chinese expansion in the region

D. Reestablish European colonial administration over the formerly colonized Southeast Asian territories and peoples

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1–35)

1. C — An "enlightened despot" who corresponded with leading philosophes while expanding Russian imperial territory. Catherine exchanged letters with Voltaire and Diderot, sponsored cultural projects, and considered reforms, while in practice expanding serfdom and ruthlessly crushing Pugachev's peasant revolt of 1773–1775. She extended Russia southward to the Black Sea and joined in three partitions of Poland, transforming Russia into a major European power.

2. A — The convocation of the Estates-General and the formation of the National Assembly by the Third Estate. Facing a financial crisis, Louis XVI summoned the Estates-General in May 1789 for the first time since 1614; when the clergy and nobility blocked reform, the Third Estate broke away and swore the Tennis Court Oath to write a constitution. Fear that the king would dissolve the Assembly by force led Parisians to storm the Bastille on July 14, beginning the French Revolution.

- 3. C** — His disastrous invasion of Russia in 1812 and final defeat at Waterloo in 1815. Napoleon's Grande Armée of 600,000 men was destroyed by Russian scorched-earth tactics and the brutal winter retreat from Moscow, with fewer than 100,000 returning. After his initial abdication and exile to Elba, his Hundred Days return ended at Waterloo, where British and Prussian forces under Wellington and Blücher defeated him; he died in exile on Saint Helena in 1821.
- 4. D** — Emancipating Russia's serfs in 1861 in response to defeat in the Crimean War. The Crimean defeat exposed Russian backwardness, prompting Alexander II's "Great Reforms" — emancipation of approximately 23 million serfs, modernization of local government, military service, and the judicial system. Although emancipation freed serfs legally, harsh redemption payments and continued peasant poverty fueled radical movements, and Alexander was assassinated by revolutionaries in 1881.
- 5. B** — Customs union of German states that reduced tariffs and prepared the way for political unification. The Zollverein eliminated internal customs barriers among most German states under Prussian leadership while excluding Austria, creating an integrated economic space that strengthened Prussian influence. Economic unification preceded and helped enable Bismarck's political unification of Germany in 1871.
- 6. A** — The Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy and the Triple Entente of France, Russia, and Britain. The Bismarckian system of alliances gradually divided Europe into two armed camps; the Franco-Russian Alliance (1894), Entente Cordiale (1904), and Anglo-Russian Convention (1907) completed the Entente. This rigid alliance system meant the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand could draw all the great powers into general war.
- 7. C** — An armed Irish republican uprising against British rule that was suppressed within six days. About 1,200 Irish Volunteers and Citizen Army members led by Patrick Pearse and James Connolly seized key Dublin buildings and proclaimed an Irish Republic before being defeated by British forces. The execution of 15 leaders, including the wounded Connolly tied to a chair, dramatically shifted Irish public opinion toward independence and helped lead to the Irish War of Independence (1919–1921).
- 8. D** — Killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide and overlapped with the final year of World War I. The H1N1 influenza pandemic infected roughly one-third of the world's population in waves from spring 1918 through 1919, with troop movements and crowded wartime conditions accelerating its spread. The name "Spanish Flu" came from press coverage in neutral Spain rather than its origin, and it killed more people than World War I itself.
- 9. A** — The merger of the Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian, and Transcaucasian Soviet republics under Bolshevik leadership. The treaty signed in December 1922 nominally created a voluntary federation of equal republics, though real power lay with the Communist Party in Moscow. The USSR would eventually include 15 republics and last until its dissolution in December 1991.
- 10. B** — An international organization that coordinated communist parties worldwide and promoted global revolution. Founded by Lenin in Moscow in March 1919, the Comintern (Third International) required member parties to follow strict Bolshevik organizational and ideological lines. Stalin gradually subordinated the Comintern to Soviet foreign policy interests before dissolving it in 1943 as a goodwill gesture to his wartime Western allies.

11. D — Triggered the worldwide Great Depression as falling demand and bank failures spread across the globe. The Dow lost almost 25% of its value over Black Thursday and Black Tuesday, wiping out billions of dollars and shattering confidence in the financial system. The collapse spread through American withdrawal of loans from Germany and Central Europe, falling commodity prices in colonial economies, and protectionist tariffs like Smoot-Hawley that worsened the global slump.

12. C — Restructuring German reparation payments and providing American loans to revive the German economy. American banker Charles Dawes brokered a plan that reduced annual reparations payments, ended the French occupation of the Ruhr, and channeled American loans to Germany. The plan brought several years of stabilization until the 1929 crash cut off American credit and pushed Germany toward the depression that brought Hitler to power.

13. A — The victory of Nationalist forces under General Francisco Franco with German and Italian support. Franco's Nationalists, backed by 80,000 Italian troops, the German Condor Legion (which bombed Guernica), and Moroccan colonial soldiers, defeated the Republican government despite Soviet aid and the International Brigades. Franco ruled Spain as dictator until his death in 1975, and the war was widely seen as a prelude to World War II.

14. D — A German blitzkrieg attack through the Ardennes Forest that bypassed the Maginot Line entirely. French and British forces expected the German attack along the Belgian plain as in 1914, but General von Manstein's plan sent Panzer divisions through the supposedly impassable Ardennes, racing to the English Channel and trapping the Allied armies. Paris fell on June 14, and France signed an armistice on June 22 — six weeks of fighting that overturned a French army many had considered Europe's strongest.

15. B — A British Eighth Army victory under General Bernard Montgomery that turned the North African campaign. Montgomery's careful preparation, superior numbers in tanks and artillery, and effective use of intelligence broke through Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps. Churchill later said "Before Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein we never had a defeat," marking it as a major morale-boosting turning point for the Western Allies.

16. B — Nearly 900 days of blockade in which more than a million Soviet civilians and soldiers died. Hitler ordered Leningrad starved rather than captured, encircling the city in September 1941 while the only supply route — the "Road of Life" across frozen Lake Ladoga — provided minimal rations. The city held out heroically despite starvation, freezing temperatures, and constant bombardment, with the siege ranking among the longest and deadliest in modern history.

17. C — Was the largest tank battle in history and ended any remaining German offensive capability in the east. Soviet defenses absorbed Germany's last major eastern offensive on the Kursk salient in July 1943, destroying or damaging hundreds of German tanks in massive armored clashes. Following Stalingrad, Kursk confirmed the strategic initiative had passed permanently to the Red Army, which now advanced steadily westward toward Berlin.

18. A — The top-secret American program that developed the first atomic bombs used against Japan. Directed by General Leslie Groves with scientific leadership by J. Robert Oppenheimer at Los Alamos, the project employed roughly 130,000 people across multiple sites and cost about \$2 billion. The first

atomic test took place at Trinity, New Mexico in July 1945, and the resulting weapons were used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, ushering in the nuclear age.

19. D — Demand Japan's unconditional surrender and plan postwar Germany's denazification and demilitarization. Truman, Churchill (replaced mid-conference by Attlee), and Stalin met at Potsdam to issue the ultimatum to Japan that preceded the atomic bombings and to organize the "Four Ds" of German policy: denazification, demilitarization, decartelization, and democratization. The conference also revealed the growing tensions between the Western powers and the Soviet Union that would become the Cold War.

20. C — Principles for the postwar world including self-determination, free trade, and global disarmament. Drafted aboard warships off Newfoundland months before American entry into the war, the Charter committed both leaders to no territorial aggrandizement, self-determination, freedom of the seas, and economic cooperation. Its principles shaped the later United Nations Declaration of 1942 and the UN Charter of 1945.

21. C — Established international rules for the humane treatment of wounded soldiers, prisoners of war, and civilians. The four conventions, drafted in response to Nazi atrocities and earlier abuses, codified protections for the sick and wounded, prisoners of war, and civilians in occupied territories. They remain the cornerstone of international humanitarian law and are administered with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

22. B — Temporarily divided Vietnam at the 17th parallel and called for nationwide elections within two years. The Accords ended fighting between France and the Vietminh after Dien Bien Phu, creating a communist North under Ho Chi Minh and a non-communist South under Bao Dai and Ngo Dinh Diem. The elections scheduled for 1956 never took place because the South, backed by the United States, refused to participate — setting the stage for the Vietnam War.

23. A — Pan-Arabism, the idea that all Arabic-speaking peoples should be politically united under a single state. Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal in 1956, won prestige across the Arab world in defying Britain, France, and Israel, and briefly merged Egypt and Syria as the United Arab Republic (1958–1961). His socialist, secular, anti-imperialist vision dominated Arab politics until the crushing Arab defeat in the 1967 Six-Day War.

24. D — Leading partisan resistance against the Nazis and maintaining Yugoslav independence from Soviet control. Tito's communist partisans led the most effective resistance movement in occupied Europe, liberating most of Yugoslavia largely with their own forces. After breaking with Stalin in 1948, Tito pursued an independent path of "non-aligned" foreign policy and "workers' self-management" socialism that kept Yugoslavia distinct from the Soviet bloc until its violent breakup in the 1990s.

25. B — 1953 Korean armistice agreement that formally ended active fighting in the Korean War. The 2.5-mile wide, 160-mile long DMZ along the 38th parallel was established when commanders from the United Nations Command, North Korea, and China signed the armistice; South Korea refused to sign. No formal peace treaty has ever been signed, so North and South Korea technically remain at war, with the DMZ among the most heavily militarized borders in the world.

26. A — Newly independent Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) and ruled until his removal from office in 2017. After the white-minority Ian Smith regime gave way to Black majority rule following a lengthy guerrilla war, Mugabe's ZANU-PF won the 1980 election and ruled for 37 years. His later forced seizures of white-owned farms, hyperinflation reaching 89.7 sextillion percent in 2008, and brutal political repression destroyed the economy before a 2017 military intervention forced his resignation.

27. C — As an authoritarian leader supported by Western powers as a Cold War ally against communism. Mobutu seized power in a 1965 coup with CIA backing after the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, and the United States and Western allies supported his rule because of his anti-communism in central Africa. He looted the country of billions while ordinary Congolese suffered, and his regime collapsed in 1997 after the Cold War's end ended Western support, replaced by Laurent Kabila.

28. D — Sub-Saharan Africa, where in some countries one in five adults have lived with the virus. Botswana, Eswatini (Swaziland), South Africa, and Zimbabwe reached the highest HIV prevalence rates worldwide, with the disease orphaning millions of children and reducing life expectancy by decades in heavily affected countries. Antiretroviral therapy, the Global Fund, and PEPFAR have dramatically reduced mortality since the early 2000s, but the epidemic remains a major public health challenge in the region.

29. A — Was the result of a global vaccination campaign and marks the only human disease ever eliminated worldwide. A WHO-led program from 1967 to 1980 used ring vaccination — vaccinating contacts of infected individuals — to track down and contain outbreaks, achieving eradication after centuries in which smallpox killed hundreds of millions. The last natural case was recorded in Somalia in 1977, and the success became a model for other global health campaigns including the ongoing effort to eradicate polio.

30. D — Rapid privatization, economic chaos, the rise of oligarchs, and the emergence of Vladimir Putin. Yeltsin's "shock therapy" reforms produced runaway inflation, collapsing GDP, and the transfer of state assets to a small group of well-connected oligarchs at fire-sale prices. After defeating a 1993 parliamentary uprising by force, surviving the 1998 financial crisis, and waging the First Chechen War, Yeltsin resigned on December 31, 1999, naming Vladimir Putin as his successor.

31. B — A network of underground civilian groups that conducted sabotage, intelligence-gathering, and rescue operations. Resistance organizations including the maquis sheltered downed Allied airmen, transmitted intelligence to Britain, sabotaged railways and factories supporting the German occupation, and produced clandestine newspapers. Charles de Gaulle's Free French government coordinated many resistance activities from London, and the resistance played a significant role in the liberation of Paris in August 1944.

32. C — The mass shooting of more than 33,000 Jews by Nazi forces over two days outside the city of Kyiv. On September 29–30, 1941, Einsatzgruppe C forced Kyiv's Jewish population to a ravine on the city's outskirts, where they were stripped, shot, and buried in mass graves. Babi Yar became one of the largest single massacres of the Holocaust and a symbol of the "Holocaust by Bullets" that killed roughly 1.5 million Jews across Eastern Europe before the gas chambers became operational.

33. A — The Asian Financial Crisis, economic collapse, and mass protests against his three-decade rule. The 1997 collapse of the Indonesian rupiah produced economic devastation, food riots, and student-led demonstrations that turned against Suharto's family corruption and political repression. After security forces killed student protesters at Trisakti University, Suharto resigned on May 21, 1998, beginning Indonesia's democratic Reformasi period.

34. D — An authoritarian regime that promoted industrialization and nationalism in 1930s and 1940s Brazil. Vargas dissolved Congress, banned political parties, imposed censorship, and ruled by decree under the Estado Novo ("New State"), promoting state-led industrialization, labor laws, and Brazilian nationalism. Brazil eventually joined the Allies in World War II, sending troops to Italy, and Vargas was deposed in a 1945 coup before returning to power as elected president in 1951.

35. B — Promote regional economic and political cooperation among Southeast Asian sovereign member states. Founded by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand at the height of the Vietnam War, ASEAN aimed to promote regional stability and economic development against the backdrop of communist insurgencies. The organization has since grown to 10 members, established the ASEAN Free Trade Area, and become an important forum for managing regional disputes, including tensions in the South China Sea.