

PRACTICE EXAM 31 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. Indonesia gained independence from Dutch colonial rule in 1949 under the leadership of
 - A. Mahatma Gandhi as inspiration for non-violent passive resistance movements
 - B. Ho Chi Minh leading communist guerrilla operations across the archipelago
 - C. Suharto, who later led the authoritarian New Order government
 - D. Sukarno, the first president of the new Indonesian Republic

2. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), founded in 1967, was originally established to
 - A. Coordinate communist resistance against the United States in Vietnam
 - B. Promote regional cooperation and contain the spread of communism
 - C. Negotiate independence terms with former European colonial powers
 - D. Create a customs union modeled on the European Economic Community

3. Lee Kuan Yew, who served as Prime Minister of Singapore from 1959 to 1990, transformed the country by
 - A. Establishing a communist single-party state allied with North Korea

- B. Adopting Western-style multiparty democratic political institutions and reforms
- C. Combining authoritarian governance with rapid free-market economic development
- D. Maintaining the traditional Malay sultanate system across the islands

4. South Korean President Park Chung-hee, who took power in a 1961 military coup, oversaw

- A. Rapid industrialization through state-directed economic development planning policies
- B. The peaceful negotiation of reunification with the North Korean regime
- C. The complete adoption of Soviet-style central planning across the economy
- D. The withdrawal of all American military forces from the Korean peninsula

5. Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978 primarily to

- A. Expand Vietnamese territory by annexing eastern Cambodian border provinces
- B. Restore the Cambodian monarchy under former King Norodom Sihanouk
- C. Overthrow the brutal Khmer Rouge regime under Pol Pot
- D. Establish a joint Vietnamese-Chinese coalition government in Phnom Penh

6. The 1979 Sino-Vietnamese War was a brief border conflict in which

- A. Vietnamese forces invaded southern Chinese frontier territory across the border
- B. Soviet and Chinese forces clashed over disputed Mongolian frontier territories
- C. Vietnamese and American forces fought a final battle after the Vietnam War

D. Chinese forces invaded Vietnam in response to its actions in Cambodia

7. The 1962 China-India War was a border conflict that resulted in

A. Indian victory and the recovery of disputed territory along the Himalayan border

B. Chinese victory and continued control of disputed Himalayan border territory

C. A negotiated settlement that resolved the border dispute permanently between them

D. The intervention of Pakistan to defend Indian-claimed border regions

8. Narendra Modi became Prime Minister of India in 2014, leading the

A. Bharatiya Janata Party advancing a Hindu nationalist political program

B. Indian National Congress in continuing the Nehru-Gandhi family legacy

C. Communist Party of India through a broad leftist electoral coalition

D. All India Trinamool Congress with a regional Bengali political base

9. Following the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989, the position of Supreme Leader of Iran passed to

A. President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the pragmatic conservative political leader

B. Mohammad Khatami, the reformist who later became president of Iran

C. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has held the position for decades since

D. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the hardliner who later served as Iranian president

10. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) signed in 2015 was

- A. A bilateral defense treaty between Iran and the Russian Federation
- B. A trade agreement between Iran and the European Union member states
- C. A peace settlement ending the long-running Iran-Iraq War conflict
- D. A nuclear agreement between Iran and six world powers including the U.S.

11. The ongoing Yemen civil war that began in 2014 involves the Houthi movement fighting against

- A. The internationally recognized government supported by a Saudi-led coalition
- B. The Islamic Republic of Iran and its allied militia forces in the region
- C. The Egyptian military government under Field Marshal Sisi's command staff
- D. The Israeli Defense Forces operating from the southern Negev desert

12. The 2006 Lebanon War was a 34-day conflict primarily between Israel and

- A. The Lebanese national armed forces under government command structure
- B. Hezbollah, the Shia Lebanese militant and political organization group
- C. The Palestine Liberation Organization based in southern Lebanon
- D. The Syrian armed forces operating across the Lebanese border

13. The Second Intifada from 2000 to 2005 was a Palestinian uprising marked by

- A. Peaceful demonstrations modeled on the Indian independence resistance movement
- B. A general labor strike paralyzing the Israeli economic infrastructure
- C. The successful negotiation of a Palestinian state under the Oslo framework
- D. Widespread suicide bombings and violent confrontations with Israeli forces

14. In 2005, Israel under Prime Minister Ariel Sharon implemented a unilateral

- A. Annexation of the entire West Bank into the State of Israel
- B. Peace treaty with Hamas formally recognizing the militant group's legitimacy
- C. Withdrawal of all Israeli settlers and forces from the Gaza Strip
- D. Military invasion of Lebanon to destroy Hezbollah's military infrastructure

15. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has dominated Turkish politics since 2003 as the leader of

- A. The Justice and Development Party (AKP) with Islamist-leaning policies
- B. The Republican People's Party (CHP) following Atatürk's secular tradition
- C. The Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) emphasizing Turkish ethnic identity
- D. The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) representing Kurdish minority interests

16. In July 2016, a faction of the Turkish military attempted a coup against Erdoğan that

- A. Succeeded briefly before being reversed by a popular Turkish counter-revolution
- B. Failed after large numbers of Turkish citizens took to the streets in opposition

- C. Resulted in the establishment of a temporary military government in Ankara
- D. Led to Turkey's expulsion from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

17. Robert Mugabe, who led Zimbabwe from 1980 to 2017, became internationally controversial after

- A. Establishing a Marxist single-party communist state based on the Soviet model
- B. Refusing to grant independence to the white settler population in 1980
- C. Implementing violent seizures of white-owned commercial farms from 2000
- D. Inviting NATO peacekeeping forces to oversee Zimbabwean national elections

18. South Sudan became the world's newest internationally recognized independent country in

- A. 2002, following the death of Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeiri in office
- B. 2005, with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan
- C. 2008, after the indictment of Omar al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court
- D. 2011, after a referendum approved separation from the rest of Sudan

19. The militant group Al-Shabaab, active since the late 2000s, is based primarily in

- A. Northern Sudan along the border with the Republic of South Sudan
- B. Somalia, where it has waged insurgency against the central national government
- C. Ethiopia in the contested eastern Ogaden desert region of the country
- D. Kenya along the disputed northeastern coastal frontier with Somalia

20. The Liberian Civil War of 1989–2003 ended with

- A. The exile of President Charles Taylor and his later war crimes conviction
- B. The peaceful re-election of President Samuel Doe to a new presidential term
- C. The military intervention of the United States to install a new government
- D. The reunification of Liberia with neighboring Sierra Leone into one nation

21. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, primarily

- A. Prosecutes individuals for war crimes and crimes against humanity
- B. Serves as the supreme court for European Union member state disputes
- C. Settles legal disputes between sovereign nations and gives advisory opinions
- D. Investigates international financial fraud and money laundering criminal cases

22. Jair Bolsonaro, who served as President of Brazil from 2019 to 2022, is best characterized as a

- A. Right-wing populist leader often compared to U.S. President Donald Trump
- B. Center-left progressive in the tradition of his predecessor Lula da Silva
- C. Communist sympathizer aligned with Cuba and Hugo Chávez's Venezuela
- D. Technocratic centrist focused mainly on free-market economic reform policies

23. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who served as President of Brazil from 2003 to 2010 and again from 2023, leads the

- A. Brazilian Social Democratic Party of the center-right political tradition
- B. Liberal Party of free-market reformers favoring widespread privatization policies
- C. Communist Party of Brazil aligned strictly with Marxist-Leninist ideology
- D. Workers' Party (Partido dos Trabalhadores) of the social democratic left

24. Following Fidel Castro's resignation due to illness in 2008, the Cuban presidency passed to

- A. Miguel Díaz-Canel as the immediate successor outside the Castro family
- B. Raúl Castro, his younger brother and longtime defense minister
- C. Camilo Cienfuegos, a leading revolutionary commander from 1959 onward
- D. Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, named as a transitional Cuban leader

25. The European debt crisis that began around 2010 most severely affected which member state's economy?

- A. Greece, which required multiple international bailouts to avoid economic default
- B. Germany, which experienced its first economic recession since reunification
- C. Britain, which left the eurozone before the crisis began to develop
- D. Italy, which formally exited the euro currency in 2012 due to crisis

26. Boris Yeltsin served as the first President of the Russian Federation from

- A. 1985 to 1991, succeeding Brezhnev as the last Soviet leader
- B. 1985 to 1999, transitioning from Soviet to Russian federal leadership

- C. 1995 to 2008, before voluntarily stepping aside to favor Putin
- D. 1991 to 1999, before voluntarily resigning in favor of Putin

27. The First and Second Chechen Wars from 1994 to 2009 were fought between Russia and

- A. Georgian forces seeking the return of South Ossetia and Abkhazia
- B. Chechen separatists seeking independence from the Russian Federation control
- C. Ukrainian forces during the early Crimean territorial disputes
- D. Islamic fundamentalists invading southern Russia from neighboring Afghanistan

28. In August 2019, the Modi government in India revoked Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which had

- A. Granted special autonomous status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Established Hinduism as the official religion of the Republic of India
- C. Recognized Sikhism as a separate religious tradition from Hinduism
- D. Prohibited the construction of Hindu temples in Muslim-majority regions

29. The Sri Lankan Civil War that ended in 2009 was fought between the government and

- A. The Sinhalese Buddhist majority demanding religious autonomy and recognition
- B. Communist insurgents supported by the Indian Naxalite revolutionary movement
- C. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) seeking a separate state
- D. Muslim militant groups along the eastern coast of the island

30. The 2020 Doha Agreement signed between the United States and the Taliban
- A. Established a permanent democratic government in Kabul under continued U.S. supervision
 - B. Set a timetable for the withdrawal of American military forces from Afghanistan
 - C. Authorized the establishment of permanent U.S. military bases in Afghanistan
 - D. Provided for the partition of Afghanistan between northern and southern regions
31. India officially surpassed which country to become the world's most populous nation in 2023?
- A. China, ending its decades-long status as the most populous nation
 - B. The United States, in a long-anticipated demographic transition shift
 - C. Indonesia, which had been the second most populous Asian country
 - D. Brazil, formerly the largest populous country in the Western Hemisphere
32. The climate activist Greta Thunberg launched her "Fridays for Future" movement in 2018 by
- A. Organizing a major protest at the United Nations General Assembly
 - B. Sailing across the Atlantic Ocean to a climate conference in New York
 - C. Founding the international Extinction Rebellion environmental activist organization
 - D. Beginning a solo school strike outside the Swedish parliament building
33. The Cedar Revolution in Lebanon in 2005 was a series of protests demanding

- A. The expulsion of all Christian Lebanese citizens from the country
- B. Lebanese membership in the European Union and NATO defense alliances
- C. The withdrawal of Syrian military forces from Lebanese territory
- D. The Israeli return of the Sheba Farms area in southern Lebanon

34. The Russian private military company known as the Wagner Group came to international attention through its involvement in

- A. NATO peacekeeping missions across the Balkans and Eastern Europe
- B. Combat operations in Syria, Africa, and the war in Ukraine
- C. United Nations humanitarian aid distribution in various conflict zones
- D. Anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden

35. The First Intifada from 1987 to 1993 was a Palestinian uprising characterized by

- A. Diplomatic boycotts by Arab League states of Israeli economic exports
- B. A coordinated military campaign launched by all Arab states against Israel
- C. Mass protests, stone-throwing, and civil disobedience against Israeli occupation
- D. Suicide bombing campaigns within Israeli cities by organized militant groups

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1–35)

- 1. D** — Sukarno, the first president of the new Indonesian Republic. After declaring independence on August 17, 1945, Sukarno led a four-year armed struggle and diplomatic campaign that finally forced the Netherlands to recognize Indonesian sovereignty in December 1949. He later became a founding leader of the Non-Aligned Movement at the 1955 Bandung Conference.
- 2. B** — Promote regional cooperation and contain the spread of communism. Founded in Bangkok by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand at the height of the Vietnam War, ASEAN sought stability through economic cooperation and consultation. The organization has since expanded to ten members and emphasizes consensus-based decision-making and non-interference.
- 3. C** — Combining authoritarian governance with rapid free-market economic development. Lee's People's Action Party dominated politics through restrictions on opposition while implementing pragmatic economic policies that transformed Singapore from a poor port into a high-income financial hub. His "Asian values" framework became influential among other developing-world authoritarian modernizers.
- 4. A** — Rapid industrialization through state-directed economic development planning policies. Park's regime aggressively promoted export-oriented industries through five-year plans and close cooperation with family-owned conglomerates known as chaebol, transforming South Korea from agricultural poverty to industrial power. His authoritarian rule ended with his assassination by his intelligence chief in 1979.
- 5. C** — Overthrow the brutal Khmer Rouge regime under Pol Pot. Following years of Khmer Rouge attacks on Vietnamese border villages, Vietnam invaded in December 1978 and captured Phnom Penh in January 1979. The intervention ended the genocide that had killed nearly two million Cambodians, though Vietnam was internationally isolated for the invasion for over a decade.
- 6. D** — Chinese forces invaded Vietnam in response to its actions in Cambodia. Deng Xiaoping launched the brief but bloody three-week war in February 1979 to "teach Vietnam a lesson" for overthrowing China's Khmer Rouge ally. Both sides claimed victory, but the war revealed serious weaknesses in the Chinese People's Liberation Army and contributed to subsequent military modernization.
- 7. B** — Chinese victory and continued control of disputed Himalayan border territory. Chinese forces overwhelmed unprepared Indian troops in Aksai Chin and along the McMahon Line in October–November 1962 before unilaterally withdrawing. The defeat humiliated India under Nehru and drove its later development of nuclear weapons; the border dispute remains unresolved to this day.
- 8. A** — Bharatiya Janata Party advancing a Hindu nationalist political program. Modi's BJP, rooted in the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, swept to power in 2014 ending decades of Congress Party dominance. His policies including the 2019 Citizenship Amendment Act and the revocation of Kashmir's autonomy have raised concerns about secular democratic norms.
- 9. C** — Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has held the position for decades since. Although Khamenei had been president rather than a high-ranking cleric, the Assembly of Experts selected him as Supreme Leader within hours of Khomeini's death. He has since shaped Iranian policy on every major question and remains the most powerful figure in the Islamic Republic.

10. D — A nuclear agreement between Iran and six world powers including the U.S. The deal limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, with the U.S., U.K., France, Russia, China, and Germany (the P5+1) as signatories. President Trump withdrew the U.S. in 2018, leading Iran to gradually exceed the agreement's enrichment limits.

11. A — The internationally recognized government supported by a Saudi-led coalition. The Iran-aligned Houthi movement captured the Yemeni capital Sanaa in 2014, prompting a Saudi-led intervention in 2015 that has caused massive civilian casualties and what the UN has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis. A fragile truce was negotiated in 2022.

12. B — Hezbollah, the Shia Lebanese militant and political organization. The war began when Hezbollah fighters crossed the border, killed Israeli soldiers, and seized two as hostages, prompting massive Israeli air, sea, and ground retaliation. The conflict ended with a UN-brokered ceasefire that left Hezbollah politically strengthened despite extensive Lebanese destruction.

13. D — Widespread suicide bombings and violent confrontations with Israeli forces. The uprising erupted after Ariel Sharon's controversial visit to the Temple Mount and the failure of Camp David peace talks in 2000, killing roughly 3,000 Palestinians and 1,000 Israelis. The violence essentially destroyed the Oslo peace process and led Israel to construct the West Bank separation barrier.

14. C — Withdrawal of all Israeli settlers and forces from the Gaza Strip. Sharon's controversial "disengagement plan" removed roughly 8,000 Israeli settlers and military forces from Gaza but maintained Israeli control of borders, airspace, and territorial waters. Hamas won Palestinian legislative elections the following year and took full control of Gaza in 2007.

15. A — The Justice and Development Party (AKP) with Islamist-leaning policies. Erdoğan co-founded the AKP in 2001 after the closure of earlier Islamist parties and has served as prime minister (2003–2014) and president (2014–present). His tenure has seen economic growth, increasing political polarization, and a steady drift from Atatürk's strict secularist legacy.

16. B — Failed after large numbers of Turkish citizens took to the streets in opposition. Erdoğan called on supporters through smartphones and mosque loudspeakers, and crowds physically blocked tanks and seized soldiers. The aftermath produced a massive purge of military officers, judges, teachers, and civil servants accused of links to the Gülen movement, which Ankara blamed for the coup attempt.

17. C — Implementing violent seizures of white-owned commercial farms from 2000. The "fast-track" land reform program targeted roughly 4,500 white-owned farms and devastated Zimbabwe's commercial agricultural sector, triggering hyperinflation that reached 89.7 sextillion percent by 2008. Mugabe was finally ousted in a military takeover in November 2017.

18. D — 2011, after a referendum approved separation from the rest of Sudan. A 2005 peace deal ended the long civil war between the Arab-Muslim north and the largely Christian and animist south, providing for a self-determination referendum. South Sudan formally became independent on July 9, 2011, but soon descended into its own civil war.

19. B — Somalia, where it has waged insurgency against the central national government. Emerging from the radical wing of the Islamic Courts Union after Ethiopia's 2006 invasion, Al-Shabaab has pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda and conducted attacks across East Africa, including the 2013 Westgate mall attack in Nairobi. African Union peacekeepers have battled the group for over a decade.

20. A — The exile of President Charles Taylor and his later war crimes conviction. Taylor agreed to step down and accept exile in Nigeria in 2003 under intense international pressure as rebels closed in on Monrovia. He was later extradited to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which convicted him in 2012 of supporting atrocities during Sierra Leone's civil war.

21. C — Settles legal disputes between sovereign nations and gives advisory opinions. Headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the ICJ hears contentious cases only with the consent of the states involved and provides non-binding advisory opinions to UN bodies. It should not be confused with the International Criminal Court, which prosecutes individuals.

22. A — Right-wing populist leader often compared to U.S. President Donald Trump. A former army captain and longtime congressman, Bolsonaro embraced nationalist rhetoric, deregulation, and skepticism of COVID-19 measures while presiding over a surge in Amazon deforestation. He lost the 2022 election to Lula and faces multiple criminal investigations.

23. D — Workers' Party (Partido dos Trabalhadores) of the social democratic left. Co-founded by Lula in 1980, the PT emerged from the trade union and Catholic liberation theology movements opposing Brazil's military dictatorship. Lula's first two terms presided over major poverty reduction through the Bolsa Família welfare program, though the party later faced major corruption scandals.

24. B — Raúl Castro, his younger brother and longtime defense minister. Raúl assumed the presidency formally in 2008 after serving as acting president since 2006 due to Fidel's illness, and gradually introduced limited economic reforms. He stepped down in 2018, transferring the presidency to Miguel Díaz-Canel, the first non-Castro Cuban president since the 1959 revolution.

25. A — Greece, which required multiple international bailouts to avoid economic default. The Greek government's revelation of massive hidden deficits in 2009 triggered a crisis that ultimately produced three bailouts totaling roughly 280 billion euros, with austerity conditions imposed by the European Central Bank, IMF, and European Commission. The country lost roughly a quarter of its GDP during the crisis.

26. D — 1991 to 1999, before voluntarily resigning in favor of Putin. Yeltsin won Russia's first direct presidential election in June 1991, survived a hardline coup attempt in August, and oversaw the dissolution of the Soviet Union in December. His turbulent presidency featured economic collapse, the rise of oligarchs, and the bloody First Chechen War before his surprise New Year's Eve 1999 resignation.

27. B — Chechen separatists seeking independence from the Russian Federation control. The First Chechen War (1994–1996) ended in a humiliating Russian withdrawal, but the Second Chechen War launched by Putin in 1999 eventually crushed the separatists at enormous human cost. Russia subsequently installed loyalist rulers including Ramzan Kadyrov, who remains in power today.

- 28. A** — Granted special autonomous status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Article 370, included in the Indian Constitution since 1949, had allowed Kashmir its own constitution, flag, and autonomy in most matters except defense, foreign affairs, and communications. Its revocation, along with the splitting of the state into two union territories, sparked widespread protests and an extended communications blackout.
- 29. C** — The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) seeking a separate state. The 26-year conflict between the Sinhalese-dominated government and the LTTE, pioneers of modern suicide bombing tactics, killed an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 people. The war ended with the Sri Lankan military's brutal final offensive in May 2009 that crushed the LTTE leadership.
- 30. B** — Set a timetable for the withdrawal of American military forces from Afghanistan. Negotiated by the Trump administration without the participation of the Afghan government, the deal committed the U.S. to full withdrawal in exchange for Taliban pledges to prevent terrorist groups from using Afghan territory. The Biden administration completed the withdrawal in August 2021 amid the collapse of the Afghan government.
- 31. A** — China, ending its decades-long status as the most populous nation. UN demographic estimates confirmed India's population surpassed China's during 2023, with each at roughly 1.4 billion people. China's population began declining the previous year due to its long history of low fertility, while India continued to grow but at a slowing rate.
- 32. D** — Beginning a solo school strike outside the Swedish parliament building. Then 15 years old, Thunberg began sitting outside the Riksdag with a handmade sign reading "Skolstrejk för klimatet" in August 2018. Her example inspired millions of students worldwide to participate in school strikes, and she was named Time magazine's Person of the Year in 2019.
- 33. C** — The withdrawal of Syrian military forces from Lebanese territory. Triggered by the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in February 2005, widely blamed on Syrian intelligence, mass protests demanded an end to nearly three decades of Syrian military presence. Syrian forces withdrew within months, marking a significant if temporary setback for Damascus.
- 34. B** — Combat operations in Syria, Africa, and the war in Ukraine. Founded around 2014 and run by Yevgeny Prigozhin until his death in 2023, Wagner served as a deniable arm of Russian foreign policy across multiple continents. The group's brief mutiny against the Russian military leadership in June 2023 led to Prigozhin's death in a plane crash two months later.
- 35. C** — Mass protests, stone-throwing, and civil disobedience against Israeli occupation. The largely spontaneous uprising began in December 1987 in the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza and spread rapidly through the Palestinian territories. Unlike the Second Intifada, it relied primarily on rocks, tire-burning, and labor strikes, ultimately helping to make possible the 1993 Oslo peace process.