

PRACTICE EXAM 32 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. John Stuart Mill's 1859 essay *On Liberty* is a foundational text advocating
 - A. The absolute authority of the state over individual citizens' lives
 - B. Individual freedom and protection against the tyranny of the majority
 - C. Religious orthodoxy as the basis for moral political conduct
 - D. Strict economic regulation to prevent capitalist economic exploitation

2. Sigmund Freud, the Austrian neurologist active in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, is best known for
 - A. Pioneering modern bacteriology and the development of antibiotic medicine
 - B. Developing the theory of biological evolution through natural selection
 - C. Establishing quantum mechanics through study of subatomic particle behavior
 - D. Founding psychoanalysis and theories of the unconscious human mind

3. Marie Curie, the Polish-French physicist who won Nobel Prizes in 1903 and 1911, is best known for her pioneering research on
 - A. Radioactivity and the discovery of the chemical elements polonium and radium

- B. The role of vaccines in preventing infectious diseases in human populations
- C. The structure of the DNA molecule as the basis of genetic inheritance
- D. The principles of electromagnetic radiation and theoretical wave-particle physics

4. The Panama Canal, opened in 1914, was constructed under the supervision of

- A. The United Kingdom, which controlled most Latin American maritime shipping routes
- B. France, which had begun an earlier failed attempt under Ferdinand de Lesseps
- C. The United States, after Panama declared independence from Colombia in 1903
- D. Spain, which retained colonial influence over Central American territorial affairs

5. Emiliano Zapata, a major figure in the Mexican Revolution, demanded

- A. The restoration of the Aztec Empire as a constitutional monarchy
- B. Mexican annexation of southern Texas and California territorial regions
- C. A communist revolutionary state firmly allied with the Soviet Union
- D. Radical land reform with the slogan "Tierra y Libertad" (Land and Liberty)

6. The Mexican Constitution of 1917, one of the most progressive of its era, included provisions for

- A. Establishing a hereditary constitutional monarchy based in Mexico City
- B. Mandatory Roman Catholic religious instruction in all public schools
- C. Land redistribution, labor rights, and the secularization of the state

D. Continued Spanish-style colonial economic and political privilege arrangements

7. Eva Perón, the wife of Argentine President Juan Perón who died in 1952, is best remembered for

A. Leading Argentina to victory in the 1982 Falklands War conflict

B. Championing the political rights of working-class Argentines and women

C. Establishing Argentina's military dictatorship known as the Dirty War

D. Negotiating Argentina's withdrawal from the Andean Community trading bloc

8. The 1898 Hundred Days' Reform in Qing China was an attempt by Emperor Guangxu to

A. Modernize the imperial system along the lines of Japan's Meiji Reform

B. Restore strict Confucian traditional values across the imperial administration

C. Expel all foreign powers and Christian missionaries from Chinese soil

D. Establish a communist republic in alliance with Russian Bolshevik revolutionaries

9. The May Fourth Movement of 1919 in China was triggered by

A. The fall of the Qing Dynasty and the proclamation of the Republic

B. The Japanese invasion of Manchuria and the establishment of Manchukuo

C. The Treaty of Versailles transferring German concessions in Shandong to Japan

D. The launch of Mao Zedong's Long March from Jiangxi to Yan'an

10. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was founded in Shanghai in

- A. 1911 immediately after the Xinhai Revolution against the Qing dynasty
- B. 1921 with Mao Zedong among its early founding members
- C. 1928 following the Northern Expedition military victory in China
- D. 1949 with the proclamation of the People's Republic of China

11. The 1927 Shanghai Massacre marked the violent end of the First United Front when

- A. Communist forces killed thousands of Nationalist soldiers in central China
- B. Japanese troops massacred Chinese civilians during their initial invasion
- C. Warlord armies of the north destroyed the new Nationalist government
- D. Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist forces turned against and massacred Communist allies

12. The Quit India Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in August 1942 demanded

- A. Immediate British withdrawal from colonial India during World War II
- B. The partition of India along religious and linguistic lines
- C. Indian neutrality in the ongoing global Second World War
- D. The expulsion of all Indian Muslims to a separate Pakistan state

13. Following an alleged 1965 coup attempt in Indonesia, General Suharto led

- A. Indonesian withdrawal from the United Nations international system entirely
- B. A peaceful democratic transition that established multiparty national elections
- C. A mass killing of suspected communists that left hundreds of thousands dead
- D. The annexation of Papua New Guinea into the Indonesian Republic state

14. The People Power Revolution of February 1986 in the Philippines led to

- A. The overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos and the rise of Corazon Aquino
- B. The establishment of a permanent communist insurgency throughout the archipelago
- C. The withdrawal of all American military bases from Philippine soil
- D. The Spanish reassertion of colonial authority over the Philippine islands

15. Aung San Suu Kyi, who won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, led the democracy movement in

- A. Indonesia during the resistance to General Suharto's New Order regime
- B. Burma (Myanmar) during the long resistance to military dictatorial rule
- C. Thailand during the protests against military coup-makers in Bangkok
- D. Cambodia after the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime in 1979

16. In February 2021, a military coup in Myanmar

- A. Successfully resolved a long-running ethnic conflict in the Rakhine state
- B. Established a stable democratic transition from civilian to military rule

- C. Brought a Buddhist religious authority to power as head of government
- D. Overthrew the elected National League for Democracy government leadership

17. Vietnam's Doi Moi (Renovation) reforms launched in 1986 introduced

- A. A return to Soviet-style central economic planning and full collectivization
- B. Multiparty democratic elections and the legalization of all opposition parties
- C. Market-oriented economic reforms while maintaining Communist Party political rule
- D. The complete abolition of state ownership of major Vietnamese industries

18. Mohammad Khatami served as President of Iran from 1997 to 2005 and is associated with

- A. A reformist movement seeking gradual liberalization within the Islamic Republic
- B. Iran's nuclear weapons program development and underground uranium enrichment
- C. The Iranian invasion of Iraq during the long war from 1980 to 1988
- D. Iran's diplomatic alliance with the United States against Saudi Arabia

19. The Iranian Green Movement that emerged in June 2009 was a series of protests against

- A. The complete withdrawal of American forces from neighboring Iraqi territory
- B. International sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear development program
- C. The death of Ayatollah Khomeini and the succession of new Supreme Leader
- D. The disputed re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to a second term

20. The 2007 "surge" of U.S. forces in Iraq was a strategic effort to

- A. Capture and execute the remaining leaders of the Saddam Hussein regime
- B. Reduce sectarian violence and stabilize the country during the ongoing insurgency
- C. Force Iran to halt its support for Iraqi Shiite militia organizations
- D. Establish a permanent American military occupation of all Iraqi territory

21. The Russian military intervention in Syria that began in September 2015

- A. Helped preserve the Assad regime against multiple opposition rebel groups
- B. Resulted in the immediate fall of Damascus to Russian troops
- C. Led to a Russian-Turkish military alliance against Iranian forces
- D. Established a Russian Mediterranean naval base in northern Syria

22. In July 2013, Egyptian Field Marshal Abdel Fattah el-Sisi led a coup that

- A. Overthrew the long-ruling President Hosni Mubarak's military government regime
- B. Restored Egyptian democracy following the 2011 Tahrir Square protests
- C. Removed Muslim Brotherhood President Mohamed Morsi from his office
- D. Reunified Egypt and Sudan into a single Arab Islamic state

23. Kwame Nkrumah became the first leader of independent Ghana in 1957 and was a major proponent of

- A. The continued partnership of African nations with their former colonial rulers
- B. Pan-Africanism and the political unification of the African continent's nations
- C. South African apartheid policies of strict racial separation under law
- D. The economic exploitation of African resources by European mining companies

24. Idi Amin, who ruled Uganda from 1971 to 1979, became internationally infamous for

- A. Establishing a model democracy admired throughout the East African region
- B. Successfully unifying Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania into one East African federation
- C. Leading the African Union peacekeeping mission to Somalia and Sudan
- D. Brutal political repression and the expulsion of the Ugandan Asian community

25. Julius Nyerere, who led Tanzania from 1961 to 1985, attempted to implement

- A. Ujamaa, an African socialist program based on traditional cooperative village communities
- B. A Soviet-style five-year plan modeled on the Stalin-era industrial system
- C. A free-market liberalization program based on the Singapore economic model
- D. A constitutional monarchy with the British queen as Tanzanian head of state

26. The Darfur conflict in western Sudan, which intensified in 2003, was characterized by

- A. A peaceful transition to democratic government after a contested election
- B. A border war between Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan over oil

- C. Anti-foreign protests modeled on the Chinese Boxer Rebellion movement
- D. Government-backed Janjaweed militia attacks targeting non-Arab civilian populations

27. Mobutu Sese Seko, who ruled Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) from 1965 to 1997, is best characterized as

- A. A democratic reformer who voluntarily handed power to the opposition
- B. A long-ruling authoritarian who plundered the country's mineral wealth
- C. A pan-African unity leader who united several countries into one state
- D. A liberation theology Catholic seeking social justice for the rural poor

28. The 2016 peace agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC

- A. Established the FARC as the new ruling Marxist-Leninist political party
- B. Granted full territorial sovereignty to FARC-controlled regions of southern Colombia
- C. Ended over half a century of armed conflict and demobilized FARC fighters
- D. Restored Colombia's previous military dictatorship under fresh civilian leadership

29. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which took effect in 2020

- A. Replaced the earlier NAFTA agreement with newly updated trade provisions
- B. Eliminated the European Union's free trade agreement with North America
- C. Established a new common currency among the three signatory countries
- D. Created a customs union including Mexico, Cuba, and the Caribbean nations

30. The 2008 global financial crisis was triggered in significant part by

- A. The collapse of major European Union banking institutions across the eurozone
- B. The default of Argentina on its substantial sovereign foreign debt obligations
- C. The failure of Lehman Brothers and a U.S. subprime mortgage market collapse
- D. The Chinese government's devaluation of the yuan against the U.S. dollar

31. The U.S.-China trade war that intensified from 2018 onwards involved

- A. American withdrawal from all bilateral trade with the People's Republic of China
- B. A formal Chinese declaration of economic war against the United States Treasury
- C. Joint World Trade Organization arbitration that resolved most major disputes
- D. Substantial mutual tariffs imposed by the Trump and Xi Jinping administrations

32. The Ebola outbreak from 2014 to 2016 was the largest in history and centered in

- A. Central African countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo
- B. Three West African countries: Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone alone
- C. East African nations along the borders of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda
- D. Southern African countries including Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Botswana

33. The November 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks were carried out by gunmen from

- A. Lashkar-e-Taiba, a Pakistan-based Islamist militant terrorist organization
- B. Al-Qaeda operating directly from caves in eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan
- C. The Islamic State controlling territory in Iraq and Syria
- D. The Tamil Tiger separatists in nearby Sri Lankan-controlled territory

34. The November 2015 Paris attacks that killed 130 people were claimed by

- A. Far-right white nationalist extremists targeting Muslim immigrant communities
- B. The Basque separatist organization ETA from northern Spain region
- C. The Irish Republican Army splinter group operating across Europe
- D. The Islamic State, which had declared a caliphate in Iraq and Syria

35. Viktor Orbán, who has served as Prime Minister of Hungary since 2010, has championed what he calls

- A. A return to Soviet-style central economic planning across Eastern European economies
- B. The dissolution of the European Union and Hungarian return to absolute monarchy
- C. An "illiberal democracy" emphasizing nationalism and conservative cultural traditional values
- D. A pan-Slavic confederation uniting Hungary with Russia and Eastern European Slavs

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1–35)

1. B — Individual freedom and protection against the tyranny of the majority. Mill argued that liberty must be defended not only against government coercion but also against the social pressure of public opinion, which could crush nonconformity. His harm principle — that the only justification for restricting individual liberty is to prevent harm to others — became a foundational principle of modern liberal democratic thought.

- 2. D** — Founding psychoanalysis and theories of the unconscious human mind. Freud's work introduced concepts including the id, ego, and superego, repression, dream interpretation, and infantile sexuality, fundamentally reshaping Western understandings of human behavior. Though many specific theories have been challenged, his core insight that unconscious processes shape conscious life remains influential in psychology, literature, and the arts.
- 3. A** — Radioactivity and the discovery of the chemical elements polonium and radium. Working with her husband Pierre, Curie coined the term "radioactivity" and isolated two new elements from pitchblende ore, earning the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics and the 1911 Nobel in Chemistry. She remains the only person to win Nobels in two different sciences, and her research opened the path to nuclear physics and radiation therapy.
- 4. C** — The United States, after Panama declared independence from Colombia in 1903. President Theodore Roosevelt backed the Panamanian secession with a U.S. warship, and the new government promptly signed the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty granting permanent canal rights. The completed canal dramatically shortened shipping times between the Atlantic and Pacific, and the U.S. retained control of the Canal Zone until handing it over to Panama in 1999.
- 5. D** — Radical land reform with the slogan "Tierra y Libertad" (Land and Liberty). Zapata led the peasant army of the south demanding the return of communal lands seized under President Porfirio Díaz and articulated his program in the 1911 Plan de Ayala. He was assassinated by government forces in 1919, but his agrarian vision became central to the Mexican Constitution's land reform provisions.
- 6. C** — Land redistribution, labor rights, and the secularization of the state. The 1917 Constitution's Article 27 declared subsoil resources national property and enabled land reform, Article 123 established an eight-hour workday and the right to strike, and anti-clerical provisions restricted Church property and education. It served as a model for progressive constitutions throughout Latin America for decades.
- 7. B** — Championing the political rights of working-class Argentines and women. As First Lady from 1946 until her death from cancer in 1952, "Evita" ran the Eva Perón Foundation distributing aid to the poor and led the campaign that secured Argentine women's right to vote in 1947. Her cult-like popularity among the *descamisados* (shirtless ones) made her a central figure of Argentine Peronism long after her death.
- 8. A** — Modernize the imperial system along the lines of Japan's Meiji Reform. Inspired by reformer Kang Youwei and shocked by China's 1895 defeat by Japan, Emperor Guangxu issued a flurry of edicts on education, military modernization, and government restructuring. The reforms collapsed when the conservative Empress Dowager Cixi staged a coup, placed Guangxu under house arrest, and reversed nearly all the changes.
- 9. C** — The Treaty of Versailles transferring German concessions in Shandong to Japan. Chinese students were outraged that the post-WWI settlement awarded Germany's former Shandong territory to Japan rather than returning it to China, and on May 4, 1919, thousands protested in Tiananmen Square. The movement evolved into a broad cultural and political awakening that promoted science, democracy, and vernacular Chinese, helping create the climate that produced the Chinese Communist Party.

10. B — 1921 with Mao Zedong among its early founding members. The party's First Congress convened secretly in Shanghai with thirteen delegates, including Mao representing Hunan, and was guided by Comintern advisor Henk Sneevliet. The CCP initially cooperated with the Nationalist Kuomintang in the First United Front before Chiang Kai-shek's violent break with the communists in 1927.

11. D — Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist forces turned against and massacred Communist allies. On April 12, 1927, during the Northern Expedition, Chiang's troops and allied Green Gang criminals attacked Communist labor unions in Shanghai, killing thousands within days. The bloodshed shattered the First United Front and forced surviving Communists underground, eventually driving Mao's faction to the rural base areas that would launch the Long March.

12. A — Immediate British withdrawal from colonial India during World War II. Frustrated by Britain's refusal to commit to postwar independence, Gandhi launched the movement with the slogan "Do or Die," demanding the British leave India at once. The colonial authorities responded with mass arrests, jailing Gandhi, Nehru, and the entire Congress leadership for the duration of the war.

13. C — A mass killing of suspected communists that left hundreds of thousands dead. Following the murder of six generals attributed to the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), Suharto used the army to organize and direct nationwide killings that took an estimated 500,000 to over a million lives, particularly on Java and Bali. The bloodshed brought Suharto to power, displaced founding president Sukarno, and inaugurated his thirty-two-year "New Order" regime.

14. A — The overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos and the rise of Corazon Aquino. Millions of Filipinos took to the streets of Manila — particularly along the EDSA highway — to protect military defectors and demand the end of the Marcos dictatorship after a fraudulent snap election. Marcos fled to Hawaii, and Corazon Aquino, the widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino, was sworn in as president.

15. B — Burma (Myanmar) during the long resistance to military dictatorial rule. The daughter of independence hero Aung San, Suu Kyi led the National League for Democracy and spent roughly fifteen of the twenty-one years from 1989 to 2010 under house arrest by the military junta. Her later participation in a hybrid civilian-military government and silence on the persecution of the Rohingya Muslims significantly damaged her international reputation.

16. D — Overthrew the elected National League for Democracy government leadership. The military, citing fraud allegations from the November 2020 election, detained Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and other NLD leaders and installed General Min Aung Hlaing as head of state. The coup triggered massive nationwide protests, a brutal crackdown, and an ongoing civil war involving ethnic armed organizations and a new People's Defense Force.

17. C — Market-oriented economic reforms while maintaining Communist Party political rule. Faced with severe economic stagnation, the Sixth Party Congress in 1986 abandoned strict central planning, permitted private enterprise, encouraged foreign investment, and opened Vietnam to global trade. The reforms produced decades of rapid growth, transformed Vietnam from one of the world's poorest countries into a middle-income economy, and roughly paralleled Deng Xiaoping's earlier Chinese reforms.

18. A — A reformist movement seeking gradual liberalization within the Islamic Republic. A mid-ranking cleric, Khatami won a landslide victory in 1997 promising press freedom, civil society, and "dialogue among civilizations" abroad. His reform agenda was largely thwarted by the conservative-controlled judiciary, Guardian Council, and Supreme Leader Khamenei, though his presidency briefly raised hopes of political change inside Iran.

19. D — The disputed re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to a second term. Millions of Iranians wearing the campaign color of reformist candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi took to the streets after official results gave Ahmadinejad an implausibly large victory. The Basij militia and Revolutionary Guards crushed the protests, killing dozens including the iconic Neda Agha-Soltan, and the movement was eventually broken by mass arrests.

20. B — Reduce sectarian violence and stabilize the country during the ongoing insurgency. President George W. Bush dispatched roughly 30,000 additional troops under General David Petraeus and combined them with the Sunni "Awakening" movement that turned against Al-Qaeda in Iraq. The surge significantly reduced violence by 2008, though many of its gains were undone after U.S. withdrawal in 2011 and the rise of ISIS.

21. A — Helped preserve the Assad regime against multiple opposition rebel groups. Russian airstrikes targeted not only ISIS but also Western-backed rebels, and the intervention turned the tide of the civil war as Aleppo fell back to government forces in late 2016. Russia secured long-term access to its naval base at Tartus and the Hmeimim air base, reasserting itself as a major power in the Middle East.

22. C — Removed Muslim Brotherhood President Mohamed Morsi from office. Following massive protests against Morsi's constitutional decrees and Brotherhood-dominated rule, Sisi led the military in removing the elected president after only a year in office. The August 2013 Rabaa Square massacre of Brotherhood supporters killed hundreds, and Sisi has since ruled Egypt with greater repression than even the Mubarak era.

23. B — Pan-Africanism and the political unification of the African continent's nations. Nkrumah famously declared at independence that Ghana's freedom was "meaningless unless linked up with the total liberation of the African continent" and was a driving force behind the 1963 founding of the Organization of African Unity. His economic mismanagement and increasing authoritarianism led to his overthrow by a military coup in 1966.

24. D — Brutal political repression and the expulsion of the Ugandan Asian community. In 1972, Amin gave roughly 80,000 South Asian residents — many of whom had lived in Uganda for generations — ninety days to leave the country, devastating the Ugandan economy. His regime killed an estimated 100,000 to 500,000 people before he was overthrown in 1979 by Tanzanian forces and Ugandan exiles.

25. A — Ujamaa, an African socialist program based on traditional cooperative village communities. Outlined in the 1967 Arusha Declaration, Ujamaa (Swahili for "familyhood") emphasized self-reliance, communal land use, and collective village agriculture as a uniquely African alternative to capitalism and Soviet-style communism. While the policy produced widespread literacy and national unity, the forced "villagization" program disrupted agricultural production and was largely abandoned by the 1980s.

26. D — Government-backed Janjaweed militia attacks targeting non-Arab civilian populations. The conflict began when non-Arab rebel groups attacked government installations, and Khartoum responded by arming Arab Janjaweed militias to conduct a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa peoples. The International Criminal Court indicted President Omar al-Bashir for genocide in 2009, the first sitting head of state ever charged by the court.

27. B — A long-ruling authoritarian who plundered the country's mineral wealth. Mobutu took power in a CIA-backed coup, renamed the country Zaire and himself Mobutu Sese Seko, and amassed a personal fortune estimated in the billions while infrastructure collapsed. His Cold War usefulness to the West kept him in power for decades, but he was finally overthrown by Laurent Kabila's forces in 1997 amid the chaos of the First Congo War.

28. C — Ended over half a century of armed conflict and demobilized FARC fighters. The accord negotiated in Havana between President Juan Manuel Santos and FARC commander Timoleón Jiménez ended the longest-running armed conflict in the Western Hemisphere, which had killed over 220,000 people. Santos received the Nobel Peace Prize for the agreement, though Colombian voters initially rejected it in a referendum before a revised version was approved by congress.

29. A — Replaced the earlier NAFTA agreement with newly updated trade provisions. Negotiated under President Trump, the USMCA preserved the basic trilateral free trade framework while updating rules on automotive content, labor standards, intellectual property, and digital trade. The agreement was ratified with bipartisan U.S. support and took effect on July 1, 2020.

30. C — The failure of Lehman Brothers and a U.S. subprime mortgage market collapse. The September 15, 2008 bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers — the largest in U.S. history — followed the collapse of the housing bubble and brought the global financial system to the brink of total seizure. Governments worldwide responded with massive bailouts and stimulus packages, but the resulting Great Recession produced years of high unemployment and political backlash including the Tea Party and Occupy movements.

31. D — Substantial mutual tariffs imposed by the Trump and Xi Jinping administrations. The Trump administration imposed tariffs eventually covering over \$360 billion in Chinese imports, citing intellectual property theft and the trade deficit; Beijing responded with retaliatory tariffs targeting U.S. agricultural exports. A "Phase One" deal signed in January 2020 paused escalation but left most tariffs in place, and the Biden administration has largely maintained them.

32. B — Three West African countries: Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone alone. The outbreak began in rural Guinea in December 2013 and spread rapidly through under-resourced health systems still recovering from civil war, ultimately killing over 11,000 people. The World Health Organization was widely criticized for its slow response, prompting reforms in global pandemic preparedness that proved insufficient for the COVID-19 emergency.

33. A — Lashkar-e-Taiba, a Pakistan-based Islamist militant terrorist organization. Ten gunmen who had trained in Pakistan arrived in Mumbai by sea and conducted coordinated attacks at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, the Oberoi Trident, Chhatrapati Shivaji railway terminus, and a Jewish center, killing 166 people

over four days. The attacks severely strained India-Pakistan relations and exposed the role of Pakistani intelligence services in supporting militant groups.

34. D — The Islamic State, which had declared a caliphate in Iraq and Syria. Coordinated attacks at the Bataclan concert hall, the Stade de France, and several Paris cafés and restaurants killed 130 and wounded hundreds, marking the deadliest attack on French soil since World War II. President Hollande declared a state of emergency that lasted nearly two years and intensified French airstrikes against ISIS in Syria.

35. C — An "illiberal democracy" emphasizing nationalism and conservative cultural traditional values. Orbán openly declared his ambition to build an illiberal state in a 2014 speech, and his Fidesz party has used its parliamentary supermajority to reshape the constitution, restrict press freedom, weaken judicial independence, and target NGOs. He has clashed repeatedly with the European Union over rule-of-law issues while maintaining close relations with Russia and China.