

PRACTICE EXAM 35 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

1. The Decembrist Uprising of December 1825 in Russia

A. Was an attempted military coup by liberal officers who sought constitutional reform during the succession crisis

B. Resulted in the immediate overthrow of the Romanov dynasty and creation of a Russian republic

C. Was a peasant revolt that successfully forced the emancipation of all Russian serfs from their landlords

D. Established a permanent Russian parliament and constitutional monarchy modeled directly on Great Britain

2. Robert Fulton's 1807 steamboat the Clermont demonstrated

A. The first practical use of the internal combustion engine for transportation along rivers

B. The first successful crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by a steam-powered passenger vessel

C. The first commercially successful application of steam power to water-based transportation systems

D. The first use of nuclear power for the propulsion of large oceangoing transport ships

3. Eli Whitney's 1793 invention of the cotton gin had the unintended effect of

- A. Permanently ending the institution of slavery throughout the southern United States within a decade
- B. Reducing the demand for cotton in the textile mills of the British Industrial Revolution
- C. Massively expanding the demand for enslaved labor on cotton plantations across the American South
- D. Eliminating the British dominance of the global textile industry by the year 1850

4. Benjamin Disraeli, who served twice as British prime minister in the 19th century, is best known for

- A. Establishing the modern British welfare state and the National Health Service before the year 1900
- B. Imperialist foreign policy including making Queen Victoria Empress of India and acquiring Suez Canal shares
- C. Withdrawing the United Kingdom from all colonial possessions outside of the British Isles
- D. Establishing the Liberal Party as the dominant force in British politics during his time in office

5. The Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) of the Roman Catholic Church

- A. Formally established the doctrine of papal infallibility for the first time in church history
- B. Voted to merge the Catholic and Orthodox churches into a single unified Christian denomination
- C. Endorsed the Latin Mass and rejected all forms of dialogue with non-Catholic religious traditions
- D. Modernized Catholic practice through reforms including Mass in vernacular languages and ecumenical outreach

6. The proposed Berlin-Baghdad Railway in the years before World War I

- A. Increased Anglo-German tensions by threatening British and Russian influence in the Middle East

- B. Was completed in 1910 and operated successfully until the outbreak of the First World War
- C. Was a joint Russian-Ottoman project designed to connect St. Petersburg with the Persian Gulf
- D. Established American economic dominance over the Ottoman Empire before the First World War began

7. The 1916 Battle of Jutland was

- A. The largest naval battle of World War I, between the British Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet
- B. A decisive German naval victory that established German control over the Atlantic Ocean shipping lanes
- C. The first major naval battle in which aircraft carriers played the decisive offensive role for both sides
- D. A peaceful naval review held by the British in the North Sea to celebrate their command of the seas

8. Manchukuo, established in 1932, was

- A. A democratic republic established by Chinese reformers in opposition to the Nationalist government
- B. A Japanese puppet state in northeastern China headed by the deposed last Qing emperor Puyi
- C. An independent Manchu kingdom that successfully resisted Japanese expansion throughout the 1930s
- D. A Soviet-backed communist enclave in northern China during the Russian Civil War period

9. Operation Market Garden (September 1944) was

- A. A successful Allied operation that captured Berlin before the arrival of Soviet forces from the east
- B. A German counteroffensive that briefly halted the Allied advance through the Ardennes Forest

C. The Allied amphibious landing on the southern coast of France that complemented the Normandy invasion

D. A failed Allied airborne and ground assault aimed at crossing the Rhine River into Germany via the Netherlands

10. The 1960 U-2 Incident, in which Soviet forces shot down an American spy plane piloted by Francis Gary Powers

A. Triggered direct military conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union over Eastern Europe

B. Resulted in the immediate withdrawal of American military forces from West Berlin and Western Europe

C. Embarrassed President Eisenhower and led to the collapse of a planned U.S.-Soviet summit in Paris

D. Demonstrated American technological superiority and forced the Soviets to abandon their air defense systems

11. The October 1968 Tlatelolco Massacre in Mexico City involved

A. A successful student-led overthrow of the Mexican PRI government before the Olympic Games began

B. A peaceful negotiation between Mexican authorities and student protesters resulting in democratic constitutional reform

C. A natural disaster that struck the Mexican capital just days before the opening of the Olympic Games

D. The killing of hundreds of student protesters by Mexican security forces shortly before the Olympic opening

12. At the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos

- A. Refused to compete in any of the Olympic Games to protest racial discrimination in the United States
- B. Raised their fists in a Black Power salute on the medal podium during the playing of the U.S. national anthem
- C. Led the entire American team in boycotting the Olympic Games over the U.S. war in Vietnam
- D. Won gold medals for the United States and were warmly honored by President Lyndon Johnson upon their return

13. Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975 and quickly fell into a long civil war involving

- A. A peaceful negotiated transfer of power between Portuguese and Angolan democratic political leaders
- B. A direct American military intervention with U.S. ground troops fighting throughout southern Angola
- C. The Marxist MPLA government backed by the Soviet Union and Cuba against the U.S.-backed UNITA
- D. A Pan-African coalition that united all newly independent African nations against the Portuguese

14. Nicolás Maduro, who succeeded Hugo Chávez as Venezuelan president in 2013, has presided over

- A. Severe economic collapse, hyperinflation, mass emigration, and increasingly authoritarian rule across Venezuela
- B. Rapid economic growth that made Venezuela the wealthiest nation in South America by 2020
- C. A peaceful negotiated democratic transition to a multiparty constitutional system in Venezuela since 2015
- D. Venezuela's voluntary withdrawal from OPEC and integration into the European Union by 2020

15. The Tigray War (2020–2022) in Ethiopia involved

- A. A successful Ethiopian invasion that annexed neighboring Eritrea and the entire Horn of Africa
- B. A peaceful constitutional dispute resolved through negotiation between the federal and regional governments
- C. The federal government and Eritrean forces against the Tigray People's Liberation Front in northern Ethiopia
- D. A successful international peacekeeping operation that ended the conflict within just a few months

16. The AUKUS security pact announced in September 2021 brought together

- A. Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States to promote economic cooperation in Asian markets
- B. Australia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and the United States to coordinate responses to Russian foreign policy
- C. The African Union and the Caribbean Community for joint trade negotiations with the European Union
- D. Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States to share defense technology including nuclear submarines

17. The global campaign to eradicate polio, launched in 1988 by the World Health Organization and partners, has

- A. Failed to reduce the overall number of polio cases worldwide since the campaign was first launched
- B. Eliminated polio from most of the world, with cases remaining in Afghanistan and Pakistan as of recent years
- C. Been entirely funded by the World Health Organization without participation by other international partners
- D. Restored polio to many countries where it had been eliminated decades before the modern campaign

18. The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) regarding Iran's nuclear program

- A. Authorized Iran to develop nuclear weapons as a deterrent against Israeli and American military action
- B. Limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting major international sanctions on the Iranian economy
- C. Established an Iranian-American military alliance against the Islamic State and Saudi Arabia in the region
- D. Forced Iran to immediately dismantle all of its nuclear facilities under American supervision and control

19. The war between Israel and Hamas that began in October 2023 was triggered by

- A. A surprise Hamas attack from Gaza that killed roughly 1,200 Israelis and took over 200 hostages
- B. An Israeli ground invasion of Gaza launched in response to economic sanctions imposed by Arab states
- C. A coordinated military operation by Iran and Hezbollah to seize the entire territory of northern Israel
- D. The peaceful expiration of a long-standing ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority

20. The 2022–2023 protests across Iran were sparked by

- A. The Iranian government's signing of a new nuclear agreement with the major Western powers
- B. A sudden increase in Iranian fuel prices imposed by President Ebrahim Raisi's government
- C. The successful establishment of normal diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia in the region
- D. The death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish woman arrested for "improper hijab"

21. The 2019 Sudanese revolution

- A. Restored Omar al-Bashir to power after a brief period of civilian rule across the country
- B. Began with a foreign invasion of Sudan that overthrew the long-ruling government in Khartoum
- C. Toppled President Omar al-Bashir after months of mass popular protests, beginning a fragile political transition
- D. Was a peaceful constitutional reform that introduced a multiparty democratic system in 2019

22. The 2019 protests in Lebanon (the "October Revolution") erupted over

- A. Government corruption and a proposed tax on WhatsApp messages amid a worsening economic crisis
- B. Foreign intervention by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in Lebanese internal affairs
- C. The 2020 Beirut port explosion that destroyed much of the Lebanese capital's industrial district
- D. Lebanon's decision to officially recognize the State of Israel and establish diplomatic relations

23. Mass protests in Chile that began in October 2019 were triggered by

- A. A successful return of the military to power and the suspension of the Chilean democratic constitution
- B. A subway fare increase that exposed deeper anger over economic inequality and Pinochet-era institutions
- C. Chile's voluntary withdrawal from the United Nations and other major international human rights organizations
- D. A natural disaster that struck Santiago and forced the temporary suspension of all government services

24. The unprecedented July 2021 protests in Cuba

- A. Resulted in the immediate overthrow of the Cuban Communist Party and the restoration of democracy
- B. Were quickly resolved through direct dialogue between the protesters and the Cuban government leadership
- C. Forced the immediate end of the U.S. economic embargo on the island that had begun in 1962
- D. Were driven by economic hardship and COVID-19 shortages and met with mass arrests by the government

25. The 2014 Scottish independence referendum

- A. Successfully separated Scotland from the United Kingdom and made it an independent nation in 2015
- B. Was cancelled by the British government before any votes could be cast across Scotland
- C. Resulted in Scottish voters rejecting independence by 55 to 45 percent, keeping Scotland in the United Kingdom
- D. Was followed by Scotland's immediate accession to the European Union as a fully independent member state

26. The 2017 Catalan independence referendum

- A. Was declared illegal by the Spanish government, which sent police to suppress voting and arrest Catalan leaders
- B. Was peacefully accepted by the Spanish government, which granted Catalonia full independence in 2018
- C. Resulted in Catalan voters rejecting independence and reaffirming their commitment to continued Spanish unity

D. Was supervised by the United Nations and resulted in the orderly partition of Spain into two states

27. The 2017 Qatar diplomatic crisis involved

A. A military invasion of Qatar by Iranian forces seeking access to its rich natural gas reserves

B. Qatar's voluntary withdrawal from the Gulf Cooperation Council to align more closely with the European Union

C. The peaceful expansion of Qatari investment throughout the Persian Gulf region with neighbors' approval

D. Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt cutting ties and imposing a blockade over Qatar's regional policies

28. The June 2020 Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese forces

A. Established a formal demilitarized zone along the entire length of the Indian-Chinese disputed Himalayan border

B. Was a peaceful joint patrol that resolved years of tensions between the two Asian neighbors permanently

C. Led to the immediate signing of a comprehensive territorial agreement between India and China that year

D. Killed at least 20 Indian and an undisclosed number of Chinese soldiers in the worst border violence in decades

29. The 1995 Dayton Peace Accords

A. Established the European Union and introduced the euro as the common European currency by 1999

B. Ended the Bosnian War by dividing Bosnia and Herzegovina into two largely autonomous entities

C. Negotiated the peaceful reunification of all of Yugoslavia under a new federal democratic government

D. Restored Ottoman Empire borders in the Balkans through international mediation hosted in Ohio

30. The 1998 Good Friday Agreement (Belfast Agreement)

A. Ended most of the violence of "the Troubles" in Northern Ireland and established a power-sharing government

B. Completed the peaceful unification of the entire island of Ireland into a single sovereign republic

C. Withdrew the United Kingdom from the European Union nearly two decades before Brexit took effect

D. Reestablished direct rule of Northern Ireland from London by the British Parliament and prime minister

31. China's accession to the World Trade Organization in December 2001

A. Required China to immediately adopt multiparty democracy and full freedom of the press as conditions

B. Was rejected by the United States and the European Union as incompatible with Western trade interests

C. Marked China's integration into the global trading system and accelerated its rise as a manufacturing power

D. Forced China to relinquish all state control of its major industries and adopt full free-market capitalism

32. Former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden's 2013 disclosures revealed

- A. A successful Chinese cyber-espionage campaign against major American defense contractors and government agencies worldwide
- B. Mass surveillance programs by the U.S. government collecting telephone and internet data on millions of people
- C. A covert American military operation aimed at the assassination of Russian and Chinese government leaders
- D. The peaceful negotiations underway between the United States and North Korea over the nuclear program

33. The August 2021 American withdrawal from Afghanistan was followed by

- A. The rapid collapse of the Afghan government and the Taliban's return to power within just days
- B. A peaceful transition of authority to a democratically elected coalition government in the Afghan capital Kabul
- C. The continued American military presence at Bagram Airfield as a major regional counterterrorism base
- D. A successful Pakistani military intervention that prevented the Taliban from returning to power in Kabul

34. Cuba's "Special Period" following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 involved

- A. Cuba's rapid integration into the global capitalist economy and the end of the U.S. trade embargo
- B. The peaceful overthrow of the Castro government and the establishment of a democratic Cuban republic
- C. Severe economic hardship including food shortages, blackouts, and the loss of roughly 35 percent of GDP
- D. Cuba's voluntary admission into the European Union as a special associated member state by 1995

35. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), founded in 2001, is a

- A. Trade organization that promotes free trade among East Asian and Pacific Rim nations exclusively
- B. United Nations subsidiary body responsible for coordinating peacekeeping operations across Asia
- C. North Atlantic alliance designed to integrate Russia and China into joint Western security structures
- D. Eurasian political, economic, and security organization led by China and Russia with several other members

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1-35)

1. A — Was an attempted military coup by liberal officers who sought constitutional reform during the succession crisis. The Decembrists were young Russian army officers, many influenced by Western ideas during the Napoleonic Wars, who exploited the confusion between the deaths of Alexander I and the accession of Nicholas I to demand a constitution and the abolition of serfdom. The uprising was quickly crushed, but it inspired generations of Russian revolutionaries and is considered the symbolic beginning of the modern Russian revolutionary movement.

2. C — The first commercially successful application of steam power to water-based transportation systems. The Clermont steamed up the Hudson River from New York City to Albany in 1807, proving that steam power could be used profitably for passenger and freight transport along inland waterways. The invention dramatically reduced the time and cost of moving goods upstream against currents, transforming American commerce and accelerating westward expansion before the rise of the railroad.

3. C — Massively expanding the demand for enslaved labor on cotton plantations across the American South. By mechanically separating cotton fiber from its sticky seeds, the gin made short-staple cotton enormously profitable to grow but did not mechanize the picking of cotton in the fields, which still required intensive hand labor. Cotton plantations expanded rapidly westward into Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas, and the enslaved population of the United States more than tripled between 1790 and 1860.

4. B — Imperialist foreign policy including making Queen Victoria Empress of India and acquiring Suez Canal shares. Disraeli, a Conservative who served as prime minister in 1868 and 1874–1880, secured the Royal Titles Act of 1876 that proclaimed Victoria Empress of India and purchased the Khedive of Egypt's Suez Canal shares in 1875 to give Britain control of the route to India. His "One Nation" conservatism also passed major social reforms, but his global reputation rests on the assertive imperialism he championed.

5. D — Modernized Catholic practice through reforms including Mass in vernacular languages and ecumenical outreach. Called by Pope John XXIII and continued under Paul VI, Vatican II permitted the Mass to be celebrated in local languages rather than Latin, encouraged dialogue with other Christian

denominations and non-Christian religions, and renewed engagement with the modern world. Its reforms remain among the most significant changes in the Catholic Church since the Reformation and continue to shape debates within the Church today.

6. A — Increased Anglo-German tensions by threatening British and Russian influence in the Middle East. The proposed German-Ottoman railway from Berlin through Anatolia to Baghdad would have given Germany direct access to Persian Gulf oil and the route to British India, alarming both London and St. Petersburg. The railway became one of the major diplomatic flashpoints leading up to the First World War, alongside the Anglo-German naval race and the Balkan crises.

7. A — The largest naval battle of World War I, between the British Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet. Fought off the coast of Denmark in May–June 1916, Jutland involved roughly 250 ships and produced heavier British losses in ships and men but ended with the German fleet retreating to port for the rest of the war. The outcome confirmed British command of the surface seas and pushed Germany to rely on unrestricted submarine warfare, which helped bring the United States into the war.

8. B — A Japanese puppet state in northeastern China headed by the deposed last Qing emperor Puyi. After the Mukden Incident of September 1931, Japan's Kwantung Army occupied Manchuria and installed Puyi, the last Qing emperor of China, as nominal ruler of the new "state" of Manchukuo. The League of Nations' Lytton Report condemned the seizure, and Japan responded by withdrawing from the League in 1933, marking a critical step in the collapse of the interwar collective security system.

9. D — A failed Allied airborne and ground assault aimed at crossing the Rhine River into Germany via the Netherlands. Field Marshal Montgomery's plan called for British, American, and Polish paratroopers to seize a series of bridges through the Netherlands while ground forces pushed up a single road to link them. The operation faltered at the bridge at Arnhem, where British 1st Airborne suffered devastating losses, and the failure to cross the Rhine in 1944 lengthened the war and was famously depicted in the film *A Bridge Too Far*.

10. C — Embarrassed President Eisenhower and led to the collapse of a planned U.S.-Soviet summit in Paris. The Soviets shot down the high-altitude reconnaissance plane on May 1, 1960, and produced both the wreckage and pilot Francis Gary Powers to refute Eisenhower's initial denial that the United States conducted overflights. Khrushchev walked out of the Paris summit days later, ending hopes for an early thaw and helping set the stage for the Berlin Wall and Cuban Missile Crisis under Kennedy.

11. D — The killing of hundreds of student protesters by Mexican security forces shortly before the Olympic opening. On October 2, 1968, security forces and paramilitaries opened fire on a peaceful student rally in the Plaza of the Three Cultures in the Tlatelolco neighborhood, killing an unknown number widely estimated in the hundreds. The Mexican government suppressed the truth for decades, and the massacre became a defining moment in modern Mexican political memory and a symbol of PRI authoritarianism.

12. B — Raised their fists in a Black Power salute on the medal podium during the playing of the U.S. national anthem. After winning gold and bronze in the 200 meters, Smith and Carlos bowed their heads and each raised a black-gloved fist during the anthem to protest racial inequality in the United States, while Australian silver medalist Peter Norman wore a human rights badge in solidarity. The two were

expelled from the Olympic Village and faced years of professional consequences, but the image is now considered one of the most famous political gestures in sports history.

13. C — The Marxist MPLA government backed by the Soviet Union and Cuba against the U.S.-backed UNITA. After Portugal's 1974 Carnation Revolution led to rapid decolonization, Angola became a Cold War proxy battleground in which Cuban troops arrived in 1975 to support the MPLA in Luanda while South Africa and the United States backed Jonas Savimbi's UNITA from the south. The civil war continued until Savimbi's death in 2002, making it one of the longest conflicts of the Cold War era.

14. A — Severe economic collapse, hyperinflation, mass emigration, and increasingly authoritarian rule across Venezuela. Under Maduro, Venezuela has experienced one of the worst peacetime economic collapses in modern history, with hyperinflation in the millions of percent, severe shortages of food and medicine, and the emigration of more than 7 million Venezuelans. Maduro has jailed opponents, sidelined the elected National Assembly, and remained in power despite contested elections and U.S. sanctions.

15. C — The federal government and Eritrean forces against the Tigray People's Liberation Front in northern Ethiopia. The war erupted in November 2020 when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (a Nobel Peace laureate the previous year) ordered military action after the TPLF attacked a federal army base. Combined Ethiopian-Eritrean operations and a Tigrayan counter-offensive produced widespread atrocities, mass starvation, and an estimated 600,000 deaths before a November 2022 ceasefire agreement.

16. D — Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States to share defense technology including nuclear submarines. AUKUS commits the three nations to cooperate on advanced defense capabilities and centerpiece includes helping Australia acquire nuclear-powered (though not nuclear-armed) submarines. The pact is widely seen as a response to China's growing military assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific and angered France, whose existing submarine contract with Australia was cancelled to accommodate the new arrangement.

17. B — Eliminated polio from most of the world, with cases remaining in Afghanistan and Pakistan as of recent years. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, launched by the WHO with Rotary International, UNICEF, and the CDC, has reduced cases by more than 99 percent worldwide. Wild poliovirus remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where conflict, mistrust of vaccines, and attacks on health workers have prevented final eradication.

18. B — Limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting major international sanctions on the Iranian economy. The JCPOA, negotiated between Iran and the P5+1 (the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, and Germany), required Iran to reduce its enriched uranium stockpile, limit centrifuge numbers, and accept intrusive inspections in exchange for sanctions relief. President Trump withdrew the United States from the agreement in 2018, after which Iran progressively exceeded the deal's enrichment limits.

19. A — A surprise Hamas attack from Gaza that killed roughly 1,200 Israelis and took over 200 hostages. On October 7, 2023, Hamas militants broke through the Gaza border fence and attacked Israeli communities, military bases, and a music festival in the deadliest single day for Jews since the Holocaust. Israel responded with a massive military campaign in Gaza that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, displaced most of the territory's population, and produced a severe humanitarian crisis.

20. D — The death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish woman arrested for "improper hijab." After Amini died in September 2022 while held by Iran's morality police, protests erupted across the country under the slogan "Woman, Life, Freedom," with women publicly removing and burning their headscarves. The Iranian regime responded with mass arrests, executions of protesters, and internet shutdowns, but the protests marked the most serious sustained challenge to the Islamic Republic since the 2009 Green Movement.

21. C — Toppled President Omar al-Bashir after months of mass popular protests, beginning a fragile political transition. Beginning with protests over bread prices in December 2018, the movement grew into a nationwide uprising that led the military to remove al-Bashir, who had ruled since 1989 and was wanted by the International Criminal Court for genocide in Darfur. A power-sharing arrangement between civilians and the military collapsed in an October 2021 coup, and the country fell into devastating civil war between rival military factions in 2023.

22. A — Government corruption and a proposed tax on WhatsApp messages amid a worsening economic crisis. The protests united Lebanese across sectarian lines against the political class blamed for decades of corruption, mismanagement, and the collapsing currency and banking system. Lebanon subsequently suffered the August 2020 Beirut port explosion and one of the worst economic crises the World Bank has ranked anywhere in the world since the mid-19th century.

23. B — A subway fare increase that exposed deeper anger over economic inequality and Pinochet-era institutions. After students began jumping turnstiles in protest, the movement grew into nationwide demonstrations demanding reform of education, healthcare, pensions, and the constitution drafted under the Pinochet dictatorship. The protests led to a 2020 referendum in which Chileans voted to draft a new constitution, though voters ultimately rejected the resulting draft in 2022.

24. D — Were driven by economic hardship and COVID-19 shortages and met with mass arrests by the government. The July 11, 2021 protests were the largest in Cuba since the early 1990s, with thousands marching in cities across the island chanting "Patria y Vida" (Homeland and Life) in defiance of the Communist Party's slogan "Patria o Muerte." The government detained hundreds and handed down lengthy prison sentences, while the protests accelerated a wave of Cuban emigration toward the United States.

25. C — Resulted in Scottish voters rejecting independence by 55 to 45 percent, keeping Scotland in the United Kingdom. The referendum, agreed to by Prime Minister David Cameron after the Scottish National Party won an absolute majority in Holyrood, asked simply whether Scotland should be an independent country. The 2016 Brexit vote, in which Scotland voted heavily to remain in the EU while the UK as a whole voted to leave, has reopened debate over a second independence referendum.

26. A — Was declared illegal by the Spanish government, which sent police to suppress voting and arrest Catalan leaders. The Catalan regional government held the referendum on October 1, 2017, in defiance of Spain's Constitutional Court, and television images of Spanish police beating voters at polling stations shocked international audiences. Several Catalan leaders were imprisoned or fled abroad, and Madrid temporarily imposed direct rule under Article 155 of the Spanish constitution.

27. D — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt cutting ties and imposing a blockade over Qatar's regional policies. The four nations accused Qatar of supporting terrorism, maintaining ties with Iran, and providing a platform for Islamist movements through Al Jazeera, and demanded Qatar shut the network and sever ties with Iran. Qatar refused, weathered the blockade with Iranian and Turkish support, and the blockade was lifted in January 2021 with the al-Ula declaration.

28. D — Killed at least 20 Indian and an undisclosed number of Chinese soldiers in the worst border violence in decades. Indian and Chinese troops fought hand-to-hand with rocks and clubs along the disputed Line of Actual Control in the Karakoram Range, in a clash that resulted in the first deadly violence on the border since 1975. The incident accelerated India's strategic alignment with the United States and the Quad (with Japan and Australia) as a counterweight to China.

29. B — Ended the Bosnian War by dividing Bosnia and Herzegovina into two largely autonomous entities. Negotiated at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio under American leadership and signed in Paris, the accords created the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosniak-Croat) and Republika Srpska (Serb), held together under a weak central government and international High Representative. The agreement ended four years of war and ethnic cleansing but produced a fragile state that continues to face periodic political crises.

30. A — Ended most of the violence of "the Troubles" in Northern Ireland and established a power-sharing government. Signed in April 1998 by the British and Irish governments and most Northern Irish political parties, the agreement created the Northern Ireland Assembly with mandatory power-sharing between unionists and nationalists, established cross-border institutions with the Republic of Ireland, and committed paramilitaries to decommissioning. It ended a 30-year conflict that had killed roughly 3,500 people and is considered one of the most successful peace agreements of the late 20th century.

31. C — Marked China's integration into the global trading system and accelerated its rise as a manufacturing power. Accession required China to lower tariffs, open markets, and conform to WTO rules, and it gave Chinese exporters secure access to global markets at a moment when Chinese productive capacity was exploding. China became the world's largest exporter within a decade, the world's largest trading nation in goods, and its accession is widely credited as (or blamed for) accelerating the offshoring of manufacturing from Western economies.

32. B — Mass surveillance programs by the U.S. government collecting telephone and internet data on millions of people. Snowden, a former NSA contractor, fled to Hong Kong and then Russia and leaked documents showing programs including PRISM (collecting data from major U.S. internet companies) and bulk collection of American telephone metadata. The disclosures sparked global debate about privacy, surveillance, and intelligence oversight, prompted modest reforms under the USA Freedom Act, and damaged American relations with allies including Germany after revelations about surveillance of Chancellor Merkel.

33. A — The rapid collapse of the Afghan government and the Taliban's return to power within just days. As American forces withdrew under the February 2020 Doha Agreement negotiated by the Trump administration and executed by the Biden administration, Taliban fighters swept through provincial capitals far faster than U.S. intelligence had predicted. President Ashraf Ghani fled the country, Kabul fell

on August 15, 2021, and the chaotic American evacuation from Kabul airport, including a suicide bombing that killed 13 U.S. service members and 170 Afghans, marked the end of America's longest war.

34. C — Severe economic hardship including food shortages, blackouts, and the loss of roughly 35 percent of GDP. When the Soviet Union collapsed, Cuba lost the subsidized oil and trade arrangements that had supported its economy, plunging the island into rationing, daily blackouts, malnutrition, and a wave of rafters fleeing toward Florida. The crisis forced limited economic reforms including the legalization of the U.S. dollar, expanded tourism, and small private enterprise, though the centrally planned system remained largely intact under Fidel Castro.

35. D — Eurasian political, economic, and security organization led by China and Russia with several other members. The SCO grew out of the "Shanghai Five" border-demarcation talks of the 1990s and now includes China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran, and the Central Asian republics among its members. The organization promotes counterterrorism cooperation, regional trade, and is widely viewed as a vehicle for Chinese and Russian influence in Eurasia as a counterweight to Western-led institutions.