

# REGENTS EXAMINATION IN GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II — PRACTICE SIMULATION 50

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**Recommended Time: 3 hours**

**This examination has three parts. You are to answer all questions in all parts.**

## **PART 1 — Stimulus-Based Multiple-Choice Questions (28 questions)**

*Answer all 28 questions in this part. For each question, select the best of the four choices.*

**Base your answers to questions 1 and 2 on the document below.**

By the fifteenth century, the Indian Ocean trade network linked East Africa, Arabia, Persia, India, Southeast Asia, and China through a sophisticated system of seasonal monsoon-driven sailings. Swahili city-states on the East African coast (Kilwa, Mombasa, Mogadishu) exported gold, ivory, and slaves and imported textiles, spices, and Chinese porcelain. Muslim merchants dominated the trade, and Islam spread along these routes to Indonesia and the Philippines. The Chinese Treasure Fleets of Admiral Zheng He (1405–1433) demonstrated Chinese maritime capabilities, before Ming China abruptly withdrew from oceanic trade. Portuguese arrival in 1498 began the violent European disruption of this established network.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Indian Ocean world

1. The Indian Ocean trade network in 1500 was characterized by
  - A. a sophisticated multi-cultural commercial system across the Indian Ocean
  - B. the complete absence of any organized commercial activity

- C. the exclusive domination of European merchants over the trade
  - D. the voluntary withdrawal of non-European peoples from commerce
2. The spread of Islam across the Indian Ocean world primarily occurred through
- A. forced conversion by Arab military campaigns
  - B. political conquest of Southeast Asia by Ottomans
  - C. Muslim merchants whose networks carried Islamic faith
  - D. voluntary religious choice of European explorers

**Base your answers to questions 3, 4, and 5 on the document below.**

I cannot conceive how any man can have brought himself to that pitch of presumption, to consider his country as nothing but *carte blanche*, upon which he may scribble whatever he pleases. A man full of warm speculative benevolence may wish his society otherwise constituted than he finds it; but a good patriot, and a true politician, always considers how he shall make the most of the existing materials of his country. A disposition to preserve, and an ability to improve, taken together, would be my standard of a statesman.

— Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790)

3. Burke's central political argument is that
- A. revolutionary change is the reliable path to political improvement
  - B. sound political change must respect existing institutions and traditions
  - C. government should be abolished in favor of natural social cooperation

D. religious authority should determine all matters of political organization

4. Burke wrote *Reflections* in direct response to

A. the French Revolution and its overthrow of the French monarchy

B. the American Civil War and the abolition of slavery

C. the Industrial Revolution and the rise of factory production

D. the Spanish Inquisition's persecution of Protestant Christians

5. Burke is now recognized as the founder of

A. modern liberal individualism and free-market economics

B. Marxist revolutionary socialism and class analysis

C. religious fundamentalism and theocratic governance

D. modern conservatism and the defense of organic tradition

**Base your answers to questions 6 and 7 on the document below.**

Ambition must be made to counteract ambition. The interest of the man must be connected with the constitutional rights of the place. It may be a reflection on human nature that such devices should be necessary to control the abuses of government. But what is government itself but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.

— James Madison, *The Federalist Papers* No. 51 (1788)

6. Madison's central argument is that

A. human nature is fundamentally good and requires no governmental controls

- B. government should be eliminated as an unnecessary restriction on liberty
  - C. political institutions must be designed to check the abuses of human ambition
  - D. religious authority should govern all aspects of political organization
7. Madison's solution to the problem he describes is
- A. the establishment of a single all-powerful sovereign authority
  - B. separated powers with checks and balances between branches
  - C. complete elimination of all political institutions in favor of anarchy
  - D. voluntary cooperation of citizens without constitutional restraints

**Base your answers to questions 8, 9, and 10 on the document below.**

The Bessemer process, patented by Henry Bessemer in 1856, dramatically reduced the cost of producing steel from molten iron by blowing air through the metal to remove impurities. Steel production costs fell by roughly 90 percent within two decades. The new abundant steel transformed industrial production: railroad networks could now use steel rails that lasted decades rather than wrought-iron rails that wore out in months; tall buildings rose on steel frames; battleships, bridges, and machine tools were built on a scale previously impossible. Andrew Carnegie's Pittsburgh steel mills made him the richest American of his era; Germany's Krupp steel works became the foundation of German military power.

— Adapted from a historical account of the steel age

8. The Bessemer process is significant because it
- A. eliminated the demand for iron in industrial production
  - B. restored the dominance of small-scale craft production

- C. was rejected by the major industrial economies of the era
  - D. reduced the cost of steel and enabled new industrial production
9. The widespread availability of cheap steel directly enabled
- A. the peaceful integration of all European economies into one market
  - B. the voluntary abandonment of railroad transportation by industrial nations
  - C. the replacement of all steel construction with wooden building materials
  - D. the construction of skyscrapers, transcontinental railroads, and modern battleships
10. The steel age contributed to the rise of
- A. massive industrial corporations led by industrialists like Carnegie and Krupp
  - B. the complete elimination of social inequality in industrial economies
  - C. the voluntary withdrawal of industrial nations from international trade
  - D. the end of all military rivalry among industrial European powers

**Base your answers to questions 11 and 12 on the document below.**

Between 1885 and 1908, King Leopold II of Belgium ruled the Congo Free State as his personal property. Leopold extracted vast wealth from Congo's rubber and ivory through a system of forced labor and brutal violence — workers who failed to meet quotas had their hands cut off as punishment, and entire villages were massacred. Estimates of Congolese deaths range from five to fifteen million during Leopold's rule. International outcry led by Edmund Dene Morel, Joseph Conrad (whose *Heart of Darkness* was based on the Congo), and others eventually forced Belgium to take over the colony from Leopold in 1908.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Belgian Congo

11. The system Leopold II established in the Congo was characterized by
- A. peaceful integration of Congolese workers into European labor markets
  - B. forced labor enforced through extreme violence and systematic atrocities
  - C. voluntary cooperation of Congolese leaders with European demands
  - D. the complete absence of European economic exploitation of Africa

12. The international response to Leopold's atrocities demonstrates
- A. the complete absence of any criticism of European imperial conduct
  - B. the voluntary cooperation of all European powers with Leopold's system
  - C. the early emergence of international human rights advocacy against imperial abuses
  - D. the unanimous European support for accelerating colonial extraction

**Base your answers to questions 13, 14, and 15 on the document below.**

The Spanish Civil War (1936–1939) was both a domestic conflict and an international proxy war. Nationalist forces under General Francisco Franco, supported by fascist Germany and Italy, fought the Republican government supported by the Soviet Union and by international volunteer brigades (including American volunteers in the Lincoln Brigade). The war killed approximately 500,000 Spaniards. Germany used the war to test new military technologies — the bombing of Guernica by the Condor Legion was the first major aerial bombing of a civilian population in modern Europe. Franco's victory in April 1939 established a Spanish fascist dictatorship that would last until his death in 1975.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Spanish Civil War

13. The Spanish Civil War demonstrated

- A. the willingness of fascist powers to test their methods through proxy conflicts
- B. the complete absence of foreign involvement in Spanish affairs
- C. the successful enforcement of international neutrality by the League
- D. the voluntary withdrawal of Germany and Italy from European conflict

14. The bombing of Guernica by German aircraft was significant because

- A. it demonstrated the safety of civilian populations during modern wars
- B. it was conducted with the unanimous approval of the League of Nations
- C. it was condemned by the Spanish fascist government as inhumane
- D. it was the first major aerial bombing of civilians in modern European history

15. Franco's victory in the Spanish Civil War established

- A. a liberal democratic government in Spain modeled on Britain and France
- B. a fascist dictatorship that would last until Franco's death in 1975
- C. the peaceful integration of Spain into the European Common Market
- D. the voluntary return of Spanish workers to syndicalist self-government

**Base your answers to questions 16 and 17 on the document below.**

In December 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan to support a pro-Soviet communist government against Islamist insurgents. The invasion was opposed by the United States, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and other states, which provided weapons, training, and financial support to the Afghan mujahideen fighters

through the CIA's largest covert operation. The war became the Soviet Union's "Vietnam" — a decade-long quagmire that killed approximately 15,000 Soviet soldiers and one million Afghans. Soviet forces withdrew in 1989. Among the foreign fighters who joined the mujahideen was Osama bin Laden, who later founded al-Qaeda; the Taliban that emerged from the war's aftermath would shelter al-Qaeda before 2001.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Soviet-Afghan War

16. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is best understood as

- A. a Cold War proxy conflict in which superpowers backed opposing sides
- B. the peaceful negotiation of regional disputes among Asian nations
- C. the voluntary expansion of Soviet democratic institutions to Central Asia
- D. the complete absence of American interest in Afghan internal affairs

17. The long-term consequences of the Soviet-Afghan war included

- A. the peaceful democratic transformation of all Central Asian nations
- B. the complete elimination of Islamist political movements worldwide
- C. the emergence of al-Qaeda and the conditions that produced 9/11
- D. the voluntary withdrawal of all foreign powers from the Middle East

**Base your answers to questions 18, 19, and 20 on the document below.**

The Bandung Conference of April 1955 brought together representatives of 29 newly independent or soon-to-be-independent African and Asian nations in Indonesia. Hosted by Indonesian President Sukarno and attended by figures including India's Nehru, Egypt's Nasser, China's Zhou Enlai, and Yugoslavia's Tito (in spirit), the conference articulated principles of non-alignment in the Cold War, anti-colonialism, and

Third World solidarity. The Non-Aligned Movement that emerged from Bandung gave political voice to nations seeking to avoid alignment with either the American or Soviet bloc. By the 1970s, the Non-Aligned Movement had over 100 member states.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Bandung Conference

18. The Bandung Conference articulated principles of

- A. strict alignment with one of the two Cold War superpowers
- B. voluntary continuation of European colonial rule in Africa and Asia
- C. non-alignment, anti-colonialism, and Third World solidarity
- D. peaceful integration of newly independent states into NATO

19. The Non-Aligned Movement gave political voice to nations seeking

- A. to avoid being forced into either superpower's bloc
- B. to establish formal alliances with both superpowers
- C. to restore European colonial rule across Africa and Asia
- D. to integrate their economies into the European Common Market

20. The Bandung Conference demonstrated that decolonization was producing

- A. universal Western political and economic dominance over the Third World
- B. a new political voice for the developing world in international affairs
- C. the voluntary return of all former colonies to European imperial control
- D. the complete withdrawal of newly independent states from international politics

**Base your answers to questions 21 and 22 on the document below.**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, founded in 1932 by Abd al-Aziz ibn Saud, established Wahhabism — a strictly orthodox interpretation of Sunni Islam developed by Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab in the eighteenth century — as the state religion. The dramatic increase in Saudi oil wealth after the 1973 OPEC embargo enabled Saudi Arabia to fund the global spread of Wahhabist religious institutions: mosques, religious schools, and Islamic universities across the Muslim world and in Muslim communities in Western nations. Critics argue that Saudi religious export has contributed to the global spread of religious fundamentalism and to the political conditions that produced Islamist militant movements.

— Adapted from an analysis of Saudi religious influence

21. The Saudi Kingdom established as its state religion

A. the liberal interpretive tradition of modern Islam

B. Wahhabism, a strict interpretation of Sunni Islam

C. Shia Islam from the Persian intellectual tradition

D. Sufi mysticism focused on individual spiritual experience

22. Saudi oil wealth after 1973 enabled

A. the complete elimination of religious extremism from the Muslim world

B. the peaceful integration of Muslim communities into Western democracy

C. the voluntary withdrawal of Saudi institutions from global politics

D. the global spread of Wahhabist religious institutions and ideology

**Base your answers to questions 23, 24, and 25 on the document below.**

In 1950, only two cities in the world had populations exceeding ten million: New York and Tokyo. By 2020, there were 33 "megacities" with populations over ten million, the vast majority in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Tokyo with 37 million, Delhi with 31 million, Shanghai with 27 million, and São Paulo with 22 million represent a dramatic shift in global demographic patterns. For the first time in human history, more than half the global population lives in cities. The growth of megacities has produced both economic opportunity and severe challenges: housing shortages, traffic and pollution, inequality, environmental stress, and political volatility.

— Adapted from a 2020 analysis of global urbanization

23. The growth of megacities since 1950 represents

- A. the voluntary depopulation of urban areas across the world
- B. the complete elimination of all rural populations worldwide
- C. a historically unprecedented shift in global demographic patterns
- D. the peaceful resolution of all urban housing and infrastructure problems

24. Most contemporary megacities are located in

- A. North America and Europe
- B. Asia, Africa, and Latin America
- C. Australia and Oceania
- D. Antarctica and the polar regions

25. The growth of megacities has produced

- A. the elimination of all urban poverty worldwide

- B. the withdrawal of all environmental regulations
  
- C. the resolution of all global political tensions
  
- D. both economic opportunity and severe environmental challenges

**Base your answers to questions 26, 27, and 28 on the document below.**

The early twenty-first century has seen multiple cases of systematic state-directed violence against ethnic and religious minorities. In Myanmar (Burma), the military government conducted operations against the Muslim Rohingya minority that the United Nations has characterized as bearing the "hallmarks of genocide" — driving approximately 750,000 refugees into Bangladesh in 2017. In China, the government has detained an estimated one million Uyghur Muslims in "reeducation" camps in Xinjiang province, while restricting religious practice and conducting forced labor and forced sterilization programs. International responses to both cases have been limited by the political weight of the responsible governments.

— Adapted from contemporary human rights reports

26. The Rohingya and Uyghur cases together demonstrate
- A. the complete elimination of mass atrocities in the twenty-first century
  
  - B. the unanimous international response to all human rights violations
  
  - C. the persistence of state-directed violence against ethnic minorities
  
  - D. the peaceful integration of all ethnic groups within their host nations
27. International responses to the Rohingya and Uyghur situations have been
- A. limited by the political and economic weight of the responsible governments
  
  - B. immediate and effective military intervention by United Nations forces

C. marked by unanimous American and European sanctions against both nations

D. sufficient to halt the systematic violence in both regions within months

28. The contemporary record demonstrates that

A. the 1948 Genocide Convention has eliminated all forms of mass atrocity

B. international institutions can always halt systematic state violence

C. modern liberal democracies are immune from ethnic conflict

D. the international legal framework against genocide has proved difficult to enforce

**PART 2 — Short-Answer Constructed-Response Questions (6 questions)**

*Analyze the documents and answer the questions that follow each set. Use complete sentences and refer specifically to the documents and your knowledge of social studies.*

CRQ Set 1

Document 1

The Holocaust — the systematic murder of approximately six million European Jews by Nazi Germany between 1941 and 1945 — was the product of a unique combination of factors: an ideological program of racial antisemitism developed by Hitler and the Nazi Party, the bureaucratic capacity of the modern state to identify and deport target populations, the cover of total war that enabled mass killings to be carried out far from public view, the construction of industrial-scale death camps including Auschwitz and Treblinka, and the cooperation or passivity of many ordinary citizens, civil servants, and military personnel. The Holocaust killed approximately two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Holocaust

Document 2

The international response to the Holocaust transformed the framework of international human rights. The Nuremberg Trials of 1945–1946 prosecuted Nazi leaders for crimes against peace, war crimes, and the newly defined crime of "crimes against humanity," establishing the principle that individuals — including heads of state and military commanders — could be held legally responsible for atrocities. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 1948 codified the principle that all human beings possess fundamental rights regardless of race, religion, or political status. The Genocide Convention of December 1948 defined genocide as a crime under international law. Together, these instruments established the postwar human rights regime.

— Adapted from a historical analysis of the postwar human rights framework

1a. According to Document 1, identify ONE specific factor that contributed to the Holocaust. [1]

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1b. According to Document 2, identify ONE specific international legal instrument established in response to the Holocaust. [1]

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2a. Based on these documents and your knowledge of social studies, explain ONE cause-and-effect relationship between the Holocaust and the establishment of the postwar international human rights regime. [1]

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## CRQ Set 2

### Document 3

By the mid-1980s, the Soviet Union was under unprecedented strain. The economy was stagnating; the Afghan war was consuming resources and producing no victory; the arms race with Reagan's United States was straining the Soviet budget; and a younger generation was increasingly aware of the gap between Soviet propaganda and reality. Mikhail Gorbachev, who became General Secretary in March 1985, attempted to reform the system through glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring). The reforms unleashed forces Gorbachev could not control: long-suppressed nationalism in the Soviet republics, demands for political pluralism, and economic crisis.

— Adapted from a historical account of the late Soviet era

### Document 4

By December 25, 1991, the Soviet Union ceased to exist. Gorbachev resigned as president; the red flag was lowered over the Kremlin and replaced by the Russian tricolor; fifteen successor states emerged from the Soviet collapse. The Cold War, which had defined global politics for forty-five years, was over. The post-Cold War order produced rapid changes: the expansion of NATO and the European Union eastward into former Warsaw Pact countries, the integration of former communist economies into global markets, the emergence of the United States as the sole remaining superpower, and the acceleration of globalization. The post-1991 order has been challenged in recent years, most dramatically by Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

— Adapted from a historical account of the post-Soviet world

3a. Based on Documents 3 and 4, identify ONE turning point associated with the historical developments discussed. [1]

3b. Based on Documents 3 and 4, explain why the historical developments discussed are considered a turning point. [1]

4a. Based on these documents and your knowledge of social studies, explain how the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 reshaped the global political order in the decades that followed. [1]

### PART 3 — Enduring Issues Essay

Directions: Read and analyze the five documents that follow. Use the documents and your knowledge of social studies to write a well-organized essay in which you:

Identify and define an enduring issue raised by the documents

Argue why the issue you selected is significant and how it has endured across time

Use evidence from at least three documents to support your argument

Include relevant outside information from your knowledge of social studies

Theme: The Tension Between Tradition and Modernization Across Time

#### Document 1

The Industrial Revolution that began in Britain in the late eighteenth century transformed economic and social life with unprecedented speed. Cottage industries that had organized rural family life for centuries collapsed as factory production undercut their prices. Skilled artisan crafts that had structured urban life and identity were replaced by unskilled wage labor. Migrants from the countryside crowded into industrial cities living and working under conditions unrecognizable to their grandparents. Traditional patterns of community, family economy, religious authority, and customary law were all challenged by the new industrial order. The disruption produced both enthusiasm and bitter resistance.

— Adapted from a historical account of industrial transformation

## Document 2

The Meiji Restoration of 1868 produced one of the most dramatic transformations in modern history. Japan abolished the feudal samurai class, ended traditional land tenure, established a Western-style cabinet government, built railroads and telegraphs, sent missions abroad to study Western institutions, and adopted constitutional structures modeled partly on Germany. Within forty years, Japan had transformed itself from a feudal isolated society into an industrial military power. Yet Meiji modernization was carried out by leaders who insisted that adopting Western methods was the means to preserve Japanese cultural and political independence — defensive modernization on Japan's own terms.

— Adapted from a historical account of the Meiji Restoration

## Document 3

We are not opposed to modern science and technology. We are opposed to the wholesale abandonment of our traditions, our faith, and our identity. The Shah has imposed on Iran a Western culture that is alien to our history, our religion, and our values. We must reclaim our heritage and build a society grounded in Islamic principles. Western modernization that abandons the soul of a people is no progress at all — it is the corruption of a civilization for the sake of imitating foreign masters.

— Adapted from statements attributed to Ayatollah Khomeini during the Iranian Revolution (1978–79)

## Document 4

The Tiananmen Square protests of June 1989 revealed a profound tension within Chinese reform under Deng Xiaoping. Deng's policies after 1978 had liberalized the Chinese economy, opened the country to foreign investment, and dramatically improved Chinese living standards. But protesters in Tiananmen demanded that economic reform extend to political reform — democratic participation, freedom of the press, an end to corruption. The Communist Party's violent suppression of the protests on June 4, 1989, established the model that has defined China since: substantial economic modernization combined with the preservation of one-party political authority. The contradictions inherent in this combination have not been resolved.

— Adapted from a historical analysis of Chinese modernization

Document 5

The early twenty-first century has seen the rise of religious-nationalist movements in many countries that explicitly reject the modernization narrative that dominated the late twentieth century. The BJP in India promotes Hindutva — a vision of India as a Hindu civilization rather than a secular modern state. Christian nationalism in the United States asserts that American identity is fundamentally Christian rather than secular-pluralist. Russian Orthodox political activism, Buddhist nationalism in Sri Lanka and Myanmar, and various Islamist movements all challenge the assumption that modernization necessarily means secularization or convergence on Western liberal-democratic models.

— Adapted from a 2020 analysis of contemporary politics

Write your essay below. Your essay should include an introduction defining the enduring issue, three body paragraphs each developing a specific era or example with both document evidence and outside historical knowledge, and a conclusion that reinforces your argument.

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## PRACTICE EXAM 50 — ANSWER KEY, EXPLANATIONS, AND MODEL RESPONSES

1. A — By 1500 the Indian Ocean network linked East Africa, Arabia, Persia, India, Southeast Asia, and China through monsoon-driven shipping in a sophisticated commercial system that long predated European arrival. Swahili city-states traded gold and ivory for Chinese porcelain and Indian textiles, and Muslim merchants moved goods and Islamic faith across the entire basin.
2. C — Islam spread along Indian Ocean trade routes through Muslim merchants whose commercial networks carried both goods and religious practice from Arabia to East Africa, India, and Southeast Asia. By the fifteenth century, Indonesia and the southern Philippines had been Islamized through this trade-based diffusion rather than through military conquest.
3. B — Burke argued that statesmen must work with the existing materials of their country — preserving what functions while improving what does not — rather than treating the nation as blank paper on which abstract theory may be inscribed. His standard of a statesman is the combination of "a disposition to preserve, and an ability to improve."
4. A — Burke published *Reflections on the Revolution in France* in 1790, one year after the storming of the Bastille and the early phase of the French Revolution. The book was the first major work to predict that the Revolution's abstract universal claims would produce terror and tyranny — a prediction vindicated by the Reign of Terror in 1793–94.
5. D — Burke is the founding figure of modern conservatism — the political tradition that values organic, gradually evolved institutions, defends inherited tradition as accumulated wisdom, and is skeptical of revolutionary projects to rebuild society on abstract rational foundations. His influence shaped British, American, and continental conservative thought for over two centuries.
6. C — Madison argued that institutions must be designed on the realistic premise that human nature is neither angelic nor wholly corrupt — that ambition is universal and must be channeled by constitutional structure rather than wished away. His statement "if men were angels, no government would be necessary" remains the classic articulation of institutional realism in political theory.
7. B — Madison's solution was the system of separated powers — legislative, executive, and judicial — combined with checks and balances that pit each branch's ambition against the others. The design ensures that "ambition must be made to counteract ambition" rather than relying on the virtue of officeholders.
8. D — The Bessemer process reduced steel production costs by roughly ninety percent within two decades, transforming steel from a scarce specialty metal into an abundant industrial material. Cheap steel made possible the construction of railroad networks, skyscrapers, battleships, bridges, and machine tools at a scale and durability previously impossible.
9. D — The widespread availability of cheap steel directly enabled three transformative nineteenth-century developments: the construction of skyscrapers on steel frames beginning with Chicago in the 1880s, the building of transcontinental railroads on durable steel rails, and the construction of modern steel-hulled battleships that reshaped naval warfare and imperial competition.
10. A — The steel age produced the first true industrial corporations operating at unprecedented scale, including Andrew Carnegie's Pittsburgh steel mills and Germany's Krupp Works. By 1900, a handful of massive vertically integrated steel firms had emerged in the United States, Germany, and Britain — the prototype of the modern industrial corporation.

11. B — Leopold II ruled the Congo Free State as personal property through a regime of forced labor enforced by extreme violence — workers who failed to meet rubber quotas had their hands cut off, and entire villages were massacred. Estimates of Congolese deaths during his rule range from five to fifteen million, making it one of the deadliest colonial regimes in modern history.
12. C — The international campaign against Leopold's atrocities — led by Edmund Dene Morel's Congo Reform Association, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, and Roger Casement's official British report — represented the early emergence of international human rights advocacy against imperial abuses. The pressure eventually forced Belgium to take over the colony from Leopold in 1908.
13. A — The Spanish Civil War demonstrated that fascist Germany and Italy were willing to test their military methods and ideological influence through proxy conflicts in third countries. Germany used the war to test its new Luftwaffe tactics — including the bombing of Guernica — while Italian troops fought directly alongside Franco's Nationalists.
14. D — The bombing of Guernica by the German Condor Legion in April 1937 was the first major aerial bombing of a civilian population in modern European history, killing several hundred Basque civilians in a market town. The attack established the template for later strategic bombing campaigns and inspired Picasso's painting *Guernica*, which became one of the most famous anti-war works of the twentieth century.
15. B — Franco's victory in April 1939 established a fascist dictatorship in Spain that lasted thirty-six years until his death in November 1975. The Franco regime maintained authoritarian one-party rule, censored press and speech, and aligned with the United States during the Cold War despite its fascist origins.
16. A — The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was a classic Cold War proxy conflict: the Soviet Union backed a communist government against Islamist insurgents while the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan funded and armed the *mujahideen* through the CIA's largest covert operation. The war became the Soviet Union's "Vietnam" — a decade-long quagmire that contributed to Soviet decline.
17. C — The long-term consequences of the Soviet-Afghan war included the emergence of al-Qaeda from among the foreign *mujahideen* fighters (including Osama bin Laden), the rise of the Taliban regime that sheltered al-Qaeda, and the conditions that produced the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. The CIA strategy succeeded in defeating the Soviets but produced unintended blowback two decades later.
18. C — The Bandung Conference articulated the principles of non-alignment in the Cold War, anti-colonialism against remaining European empires, and Third World solidarity among newly independent African and Asian states. These principles became the foundational charter of the Non-Aligned Movement that would grow to over 100 member states by the 1970s.
19. A — The Non-Aligned Movement gave political voice to newly independent nations that wished to avoid being forced into alignment with either the American or Soviet bloc. Leaders like Nehru, Nasser, Sukarno, and Tito sought to maintain freedom of action and to extract diplomatic and economic concessions from both superpowers rather than committing to one side.
20. B — The Bandung Conference demonstrated that decolonization was producing a new political voice for the developing world in international affairs — a voice that would shape United Nations debates, oil politics, and Cold War alignments throughout the second half of the twentieth century. The conference signaled that the era when European powers alone shaped global politics was ending.

21. B — The Saudi state established Wahhabism — the strict orthodox interpretation of Sunni Islam developed by Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab in the eighteenth century — as its official state religion at the kingdom's founding in 1932. The alliance between the House of Saud and the Wahhabi religious establishment remains the foundation of Saudi political legitimacy.
22. D — Saudi oil wealth after the 1973 OPEC embargo enabled the kingdom to fund the global spread of Wahhabist religious institutions: mosques, religious schools, and Islamic universities across the Muslim world and in Muslim communities in Western nations. Critics argue this religious export has contributed to the global spread of fundamentalist Islam and to the conditions that produced Islamist militant movements.
23. C — The growth from two megacities over ten million population in 1950 to thirty-three megacities by 2020, combined with the crossing of the threshold where more than half of humanity now lives in cities, represents a historically unprecedented shift in global demographic patterns. The scale and speed of urbanization in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries has no parallel in human history.
24. B — The vast majority of contemporary megacities are located in Asia, Africa, and Latin America — including Delhi (31 million), Shanghai (27 million), São Paulo (22 million), Mumbai, Lagos, Cairo, and Mexico City. The geographic concentration of megacities in the developing world reflects the shift of demographic and economic activity away from the historic centers of Europe and North America.
25. D — Megacity growth has produced both substantial economic opportunity through the concentration of jobs, innovation, and capital, and severe environmental and social challenges including housing shortages, air pollution, traffic congestion, inequality, and political volatility. The challenge for twenty-first-century governance is managing this combination at unprecedented scale.
26. C — The Rohingya and Uyghur cases together demonstrate the persistence of state-directed violence against ethnic and religious minorities in the twenty-first century — despite the post-Holocaust international human rights framework. Both cases involve systematic government action against minority populations characterized as undesirable by the dominant majority.
27. A — International responses to both the Rohingya situation in Myanmar and the Uyghur situation in China have been limited by the political and economic weight of the responsible governments. China's status as a UN Security Council permanent member and major trading partner has restricted available responses, while Myanmar's strategic position has limited Western leverage.
28. D — The contemporary record — Rwanda 1994, Srebrenica 1995, Darfur, Rohingya, Uyghur — demonstrates that the international legal framework against genocide established in 1948 has proved very difficult to enforce against states with significant political or economic leverage. The gap between the Genocide Convention's principles and effective international action remains one of the great unresolved problems of contemporary international politics.

## **PART 2 – CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE MODEL ANSWERS**

### **CRQ Set 1 — Holocaust and the Postwar Human Rights Regime**

#### **1a. Factor contributing to the Holocaust from Document 1 (1 point):**

One specific factor that contributed to the Holocaust was the ideological program of racial antisemitism developed by Hitler and the Nazi Party. According to Document 1, this ideology defined Jews as a biological and political threat to the German nation and provided the motivating framework for the systematic deportation and murder of approximately six million European Jews between 1941 and 1945.

#### **1b. International legal instrument from Document 2 (1 point):**

One specific international legal instrument established in response to the Holocaust was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1948. According to Document 2, the UDHR codified the principle that all human beings possess fundamental rights regardless of race, religion, or political status — directly addressing the Nazi denial of basic human worth to targeted populations.

#### **2a. Cause-and-effect relationship (1 point):**

The Holocaust caused the establishment of the postwar international human rights regime because its scale, systematic character, and documented atrocities produced an unprecedented political and moral consensus that the existing framework of international law — which had treated such conduct as a matter of state sovereignty — was inadequate. The Nuremberg Trials of 1945–46 established the principle that individuals could be prosecuted for crimes against humanity; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 codified universal individual rights; and the Genocide Convention of 1948 defined genocide as an international crime. Together, these instruments represented the most ambitious effort in modern history to build legal and institutional safeguards against the recurrence of state-directed mass murder, and they remain the foundation of international human rights law to the present day.

### **CRQ Set 2 — Dissolution of the Soviet Union (1991) as Turning Point**

#### **3a. Turning point identified (1 point):**

The historical turning point associated with the documents is the dissolution of the Soviet Union on December 25, 1991. As described in Document 4, Gorbachev resigned, the red flag was lowered over the Kremlin, and fifteen successor states emerged from the Soviet collapse — ending the world's first communist superpower and the bipolar order it had anchored.

#### **3b. Why a turning point (1 point):**

The dissolution of the Soviet Union is considered a turning point because it ended the Cold War that had defined global politics for forty-five years, replaced the bipolar superpower order with a unipolar moment dominated by the United States, and dissolved a multinational empire that had governed one-sixth of the

world's land surface into fifteen independent successor states. According to Document 4, the post-1991 transformation was rapid and comprehensive: the eastward expansion of NATO and the European Union, the integration of former communist economies into global markets, and the acceleration of globalization all flowed from the Soviet collapse.

**4a. How the dissolution reshaped global order (1 point):**

The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 reshaped the global political order across multiple dimensions in the decades that followed. The end of bipolar superpower competition produced what Charles Krauthammer called the "unipolar moment" — roughly fifteen years in which the United States exercised unmatched global influence, intervening in the Balkans (1995, 1999), Iraq (1991, 2003), and Afghanistan (2001). The eastward expansion of NATO and the European Union integrated most former Warsaw Pact countries into Western political and security structures by 2004. China and India accelerated their integration into global markets in part because the Soviet alternative had collapsed. The post-1991 order has been progressively challenged since 2008: by the global financial crisis, by Russia's revanchist policies including the 2014 annexation of Crimea and 2022 invasion of Ukraine, by China's rise to near-peer competitor status, and by the populist movements that reject the liberal-internationalist consensus that briefly seemed triumphant in the 1990s. The post-Cold War order built on the Soviet collapse appears now to be giving way to a new period of great-power competition whose ultimate shape remains uncertain.

## PART 3 – ENDURING ISSUES ESSAY

**Scoring Rubric (0–5 Point Scale)**

Score	Criteria
<b>5 — Excellent</b>	Defines a clear, defensible enduring issue. Argues persuasively that the issue is genuinely enduring across time. Uses 4–5 documents substantively. Incorporates substantial relevant outside evidence (four or more specific facts, dates, or events). Demonstrates synthesis across multiple distinct eras. Well-organized and clearly written.
<b>4 — Good</b>	Defines an enduring issue clearly. Argues for its endurance with adequate support. Uses 3–4 documents substantively. Includes 2–3 pieces of outside evidence. Reasonably well-organized.
<b>3 — Satisfactory (Passing)</b>	Identifies an enduring issue. Provides some argument for its endurance. Uses at least 3 documents. Includes at least 1 piece of outside evidence. Generally organized but may have weaknesses.
<b>2 — Limited</b>	Identifies an issue but defines it weakly. Limited argument for endurance. Uses fewer than 3 documents substantively, OR over-relies on documents without outside evidence. Significant organizational problems.
<b>1 — Minimal</b>	Identifies an issue but provides little argument or supporting evidence. Minimal document engagement. Disorganized.
<b>0 — No credit</b>	Fails to address the prompt. Off-topic.

**Sample High-Scoring Response (Score: 5)**

## Introduction

An enduring issue in world history is the tension between tradition and modernization — the persistent question of how societies should respond when technological, economic, or political change threatens established religious, cultural, and social institutions. Every modernizing society confronts versions of this question: which traditions must be preserved as essential to identity, which can be modified, and which must be abandoned. The question has been answered differently in different eras and different places, and no answer has proved final. The documents in this packet trace this tension from the Industrial Revolution in Britain through the Meiji Restoration in Japan, the Iranian Revolution of 1979, the Tiananmen protests of 1989, and the religious-nationalist movements of the early twenty-first century.

### Body Paragraph 1 — Industrial Disruption of European Tradition

The first great modern collision between tradition and modernization occurred during the Industrial Revolution. Document 1 describes how the factory system that emerged in late-eighteenth-century Britain destroyed centuries-old patterns of life: cottage industries collapsed as factory production undercut their prices, skilled artisan crafts that had organized urban life were replaced by unskilled wage labor, and rural migrants poured into industrial cities living in conditions unrecognizable to their grandparents. The response was complex. Some embraced the change as progress: Adam Smith, in *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), defended commercial society as a path to general prosperity. Others resisted: the Luddites of 1811–16 smashed textile machinery that had destroyed their livelihoods, and Romantic writers like William Blake denounced the "dark satanic mills" that were transforming the English countryside. Still others tried to channel modernization through political reform: Britain's Factory Acts of 1833 and 1844 regulated child labor, the Chartist movement of the 1830s and 1840s demanded democratic political rights for industrial workers, and trade unions slowly built institutions of working-class self-defense. By the late nineteenth century, Britain had developed a workable compromise — industrial capitalism modified by political reform and a partial welfare state — but the cultural disruption of traditional life proved permanent. The Industrial Revolution did not preserve traditional England; it replaced it.

### Body Paragraph 2 — Defensive Modernization in Meiji Japan

The Meiji Restoration of 1868 represents one of history's most successful attempts to manage the tension between tradition and modernization through deliberate state-directed transformation. Document 2 describes how Meiji leaders abolished the feudal samurai class, ended traditional land tenure, built railroads and telegraphs, sent missions abroad to study Western institutions, and adopted constitutional structures partly modeled on Germany. Within forty years Japan had transformed itself from a feudal isolated society into an industrial military power capable of defeating Russia in the 1904–05 Russo-Japanese War. Yet, crucially, Meiji modernization was carried out by leaders who insisted that adopting Western methods was the means to preserve Japanese cultural and political independence — what historians call "defensive modernization" or *wakon yosai* ("Japanese spirit, Western learning"). The Meiji Constitution of 1889 preserved imperial sovereignty while introducing Western parliamentary forms; State Shinto ideology was constructed to unify the modern nation around traditional religious symbols; and Japanese industrial firms developed in close partnership with the state rather than as independent market actors. The Meiji model — selective adoption of Western methods to preserve cultural independence — became a template that influenced modernizers across Asia, including Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary China, Atatürk's Turkish Republic, and Park Chung-hee's South Korea. Yet it also produced

the militaristic expansionism that culminated in the Pacific War of 1941–45, demonstrating the difficulties of controlling the social and political consequences of rapid modernization.

### **Body Paragraph 3 — Rejection of Modernization in Revolutionary Iran**

The Iranian Revolution of 1979 represents one of the twentieth century's most dramatic rejections of the modernization narrative. Document 3 captures the argument made by Ayatollah Khomeini and the revolutionary movement against Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi: that Western modernization imposed by the Shah was alien to Iranian history, religion, and values; that authentic progress required reclaiming Islamic heritage rather than imitating foreign masters; and that modernization which abandoned a people's soul was no progress at all. The Shah's "White Revolution" of the 1960s and 1970s had indeed transformed Iran through land reform, women's suffrage, secular education, industrial development, and oil-financed Westernization. But the rapid modernization produced massive social dislocation, the alienation of traditional clerical and bazaar classes, growing inequality, and a sense among many Iranians that their cultural identity was being erased. The revolution that overthrew the Shah in February 1979 established a theocratic Islamic Republic — a political form unprecedented in the modern world. The Iranian model influenced Islamic political movements across the Muslim world, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, and the Taliban in Afghanistan, all of which framed their politics as resistance to Western cultural imperialism. The Iranian Revolution forced the world to recognize that modernization could provoke not just adjustment or accommodation but full-scale ideological revolt.

### **Body Paragraph 4 — Selective Modernization in Contemporary China and the Rise of Religious Nationalism**

The contemporary world continues to grapple with the tradition-modernization tension. Document 4 describes the Tiananmen Square protests of June 1989, which revealed the central tension of Chinese reform under Deng Xiaoping: economic modernization without political modernization. The Communist Party's violent suppression of the protests on June 4, 1989 established the model that has defined China since: substantial economic modernization combined with the preservation of one-party political authority and what Xi Jinping calls "socialist core values" rooted in Chinese tradition. The Chinese model challenges the Western assumption that economic modernization will inevitably produce political democratization. Document 5 describes the broader pattern of contemporary religious nationalism: the BJP's vision of *Hindutva* in India, Christian nationalism in the United States, Russian Orthodox political activism under Putin, Buddhist nationalism in Sri Lanka and Myanmar that has produced communal violence, and various Islamist movements across the Muslim world. These movements share a common claim: that the post-1945 secular-modernizing consensus was a Western imposition that hollowed out authentic national identity, and that genuine progress requires reconnecting modern political life with deep religious and cultural traditions. The rise of these movements demonstrates that the tradition-modernization tension has not been resolved by globalization — if anything, the global integration of the late twentieth century has intensified the demand for cultural and religious authenticity in many societies.

## **Conclusion**

The tension between tradition and modernization has been one of the most persistent enduring issues in world history since the eighteenth century. The Industrial Revolution in Britain, the Meiji Restoration in Japan, the Iranian Revolution of 1979, the Tiananmen protests of 1989, and the religious-nationalist movements of the early twenty-first century together demonstrate that this tension has never been resolved, that different societies have answered it in dramatically different ways, and that each apparent settlement produces new contests. Some societies — Britain, the United States, much of Western Europe — accepted substantial cultural transformation as the price of industrial modernization. Some — Meiji Japan, post-1978 China — pursued selective modernization aimed at preserving cultural and political independence. Some — revolutionary Iran, contemporary religious-nationalist movements — have rejected the modernization narrative outright, insisting that authentic political life must be grounded in inherited tradition. As long as human societies value both the material benefits of modernization and the meaning provided by inherited religious and cultural tradition, the tension between the two will continue to shape political life. The history of the past two centuries suggests that the question of how to balance them has no permanent answer — only the provisional answers that each generation constructs for itself.

**Why this essay scores at the mastery level:**

- Defines the enduring issue clearly with a defensible framing.
- Argues for endurance across four distinct eras (Industrial Revolution → Meiji → Iranian Revolution → contemporary).
- Uses all five documents substantively.
- Brings in extensive outside evidence: Adam Smith *Wealth of Nations* (1776), Luddites (1811–16), William Blake, Factory Acts (1833, 1844), Chartists, Russo-Japanese War (1904–05), Meiji Constitution (1889), *wakon yosai*, Sun Yat-sen, Atatürk, Park Chung-hee, Pacific War, the Shah's White Revolution, Hezbollah, Muslim Brotherhood, Taliban, Xi Jinping, *Hindutva*, Christian nationalism, Buddhist nationalism in Sri Lanka and Myanmar.
- Synthesizes across four distinct eras and multiple regions (Europe, East Asia, Middle East, South Asia, North America).
- Concludes by connecting the issue to ongoing contemporary contests.