

# PRACTICE EXAM 51 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

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1. In *Leviathan* (1651), Thomas Hobbes argued that
  - A. Government should be replaced by the spontaneous cooperation of free and equal individuals
  - B. Sovereignty belongs to the people, who may overthrow tyrannical rulers at any time
  - C. Without strong central authority, life in a "state of nature" would be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short"
  - D. The Catholic Church should be the supreme political authority in all of Christian Europe
  
2. As Holy Roman Emperor (1765–1790), Joseph II of Austria
  - A. Pursued sweeping enlightened reforms including the Edict of Toleration, the abolition of serfdom, and the dissolution of monasteries
  - B. Restored strict Catholic uniformity throughout the Habsburg lands and harshly persecuted Protestants and Jewish subjects
  - C. Withdrew the Habsburg Empire from all European wars and adopted a strict policy of neutrality across the continent
  - D. Voluntarily abdicated his throne in favor of a constitutional Hungarian republic governed by an elected diet
  
3. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, adopted by the French National Assembly in August 1789
  - A. Restored the traditional privileges of the French nobility and the established Catholic Church

- B. Granted full political rights to all French citizens regardless of property, race, sex, or religion
- C. Established the divine right of King Louis XVI to govern France without any restraint
- D. Proclaimed natural rights of liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression, drawing on Enlightenment ideals

4. The Reign of Terror (1793–1794) under the Committee of Public Safety in revolutionary France

- A. Was a relatively peaceful period of constitutional reform that established the early French Third Republic
- B. Used the guillotine to execute thousands deemed enemies of the Revolution under the leadership of Maximilien Robespierre
- C. Successfully restored King Louis XVI to power after a brief period of republican experimentation in France
- D. Established a free-market economy and limited government in the recently created French Revolutionary Republic

5. The Thermidorian Reaction of July 1794

- A. Restored the Bourbon monarchy to power and ended the French Revolutionary period entirely by 1795
- B. Overthrew and executed Maximilien Robespierre, ending the Reign of Terror and ushering in the more conservative Directory
- C. Established a powerful new revolutionary government even more radical than the Committee of Public Safety
- D. Successfully expanded the Revolutionary government's territorial control over much of continental Western Europe

6. The Coup of 18 Brumaire (November 1799)

- A. Brought Napoleon Bonaparte to power as First Consul of France, effectively ending the rule of the Directory
- B. Restored the French monarchy under Louis XVIII after a decade of revolutionary government in France

C. Established the First French Empire under Napoleon Bonaparte as a hereditary imperial dynasty in 1799

D. Reorganized France as a federal republic of autonomous regional states under a weak central government

7. Napoleon's Continental System, established by the 1806 Berlin Decree

A. Was a free-trade agreement that opened all European ports to British and American commerce

B. Established a continental military alliance against the British and Russian empires across Europe

C. Attempted to cripple Britain by banning European trade with British merchants and goods

D. Created a single European currency that lasted until the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815

8. The Monroe Doctrine, articulated by U.S. President James Monroe in 1823

A. Authorized European powers to recolonize newly independent Latin American republics under American supervision

B. Established a formal military alliance between the United States and the major Latin American republics

C. Withdrew the United States from all involvement in affairs west of the Mississippi River for the remainder of the 19th century

D. Warned European powers against new colonization in the Americas and pledged U.S. non-intervention in European affairs

9. The 1867 Ausgleich (Compromise) between Austria and Hungary

A. Created the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary, with the Habsburg ruler sharing power between separate Austrian and Hungarian parliaments

B. Established a single unified state of Austria-Hungary under a strong centralized Habsburg parliament in Vienna

C. Granted full independence to the Kingdom of Hungary from the Habsburg crown and the rest of Austria

D. Returned Hungary to direct rule of the Vienna government after the failed revolution of 1848

10. The Great Irish Famine (1845–1852)

- A. Was caused by a peaceful policy of agricultural reform fully implemented by the British colonial authorities in Ireland
- B. Was successfully relieved through generous British government aid that prevented any widespread loss of Irish life across the country
- C. Resulted from a potato blight combined with British policies that allowed mass starvation, killing around a million people and forcing mass emigration
- D. Affected only the southern provinces of Ireland and had little long-term impact on later Irish nationalist sentiment

11. The Lei Áurea ("Golden Law"), signed by Princess Isabel of Brazil in 1888

- A. Established the basis for Brazil's modern democratic federal constitution under the new republican government
- B. Restored the Portuguese monarchy to power across the territory of independent Brazil for the rest of the 19th century
- C. Abolished slavery in Brazil, making it the last country in the Americas to formally end the institution
- D. Granted Indigenous Brazilians voting rights and full citizenship throughout the entire Empire of Brazil

12. The Brazilian Empire of Pedro II ended in 1889

- A. With the peaceful annexation of Brazil by neighboring Argentina under the Treaty of Buenos Aires
- B. When a military coup, supported by elites alienated by the abolition of slavery, overthrew the emperor and proclaimed the Republic of Brazil
- C. After Brazil's defeat in a major war with Portugal and the restoration of Portuguese authority over the country
- D. Through Pedro II's voluntary abdication in favor of an Indigenous federal government drawn from the Amazon basin

13. Iran's Constitutional Revolution of 1906–1911

- A. Restored the absolute monarchy of the Qajar dynasty after a brief experiment with democratic government
- B. Established a Soviet-style communist government in Tehran with the direct support of the Russian Bolsheviks
- C. Was an Anglo-Russian invasion that divided Persia into separate British and Russian zones of occupation
- D. Forced the Qajar shah to accept a constitution and a parliament (Majlis), although foreign intervention and royal counter-coups undermined it

14. The three Anglo-Burmese Wars of the 19th century

- A. Gradually brought all of Burma under British colonial rule, with Burma administered as a province of British India by 1886
- B. Restored an independent Burmese kingdom under the protection of the Qing dynasty in southern China
- C. Established a joint Anglo-Burmese protectorate over the territory of all of mainland Southeast Asia
- D. Were peacefully resolved trade negotiations that left the Burmese monarchy fully sovereign throughout the 19th century

15. The All-India Muslim League, founded in 1906

- A. Was a militant guerrilla movement that fought British colonial rule in India through armed insurrection
- B. Was a Hindu nationalist movement that opposed all Muslim political participation in colonial India during the period
- C. Sought to protect the political and religious interests of Indian Muslims and eventually led the movement for the creation of Pakistan
- D. Was the political wing of the British colonial administration in India until the granting of independence in 1947

16. Marie Curie's work in the late 19th and early 20th centuries

- A. Established the modern theory of evolution through natural selection in close collaboration with Charles Darwin himself

- B. Developed the first vaccine against the bacterial disease tuberculosis in collaboration with the German bacteriologist Robert Koch
- C. Disproved the existence of all subatomic particles such as electrons, protons, and neutrons in modern atomic physics
- D. Discovered the elements polonium and radium and pioneered research on radioactivity, winning Nobel Prizes in physics and chemistry

17. Albert Einstein's 1905 "annus mirabilis" papers

- A. Established the geocentric theory of the solar system as the dominant scientific view in modern physics
- B. Included his special theory of relativity, the famous equation  $E=mc^2$ , and the foundational paper on the photoelectric effect
- C. Disproved the wave-particle duality of light and returned all of physics to a purely Newtonian framework
- D. Established the foundations of the modern atomic bomb and were directly classified by the German military government

18. The Wright Brothers' achievement at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in December 1903

- A. Was the first sustained, controlled flight of a powered heavier-than-air aircraft in human history
- B. Was the first successful crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by a powered fixed-wing aircraft carrying passengers
- C. Established the world's first commercial airline service between the United States and Western Europe
- D. Was the first orbital flight of a human being around the planet Earth in a powered aircraft

19. The 1954 Battle of Dien Bien Phu

- A. Was a decisive French victory that secured French rule over Indochina for another full decade after 1954
- B. Marked the entry of the United States into direct ground combat in Vietnam against the Viet Minh
- C. Was a brief border skirmish that produced no significant changes in the political situation in Indochina

D. Was a decisive Viet Minh victory under General Vo Nguyen Giap that broke French will and led to the Geneva Accords

20. The 1954 Geneva Accords on Indochina

- A. Established a single unified Vietnamese state under the political leadership of Ho Chi Minh in Hanoi
- B. Restored full French colonial sovereignty over the entire territory of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia
- C. Temporarily divided Vietnam at the 17th parallel, with national reunification elections scheduled but never held
- D. Established a NATO-style military alliance between France, the United States, and South Vietnam against the communist north

21. The Sino-Soviet Split during the 1960s

- A. Reflected China's full acceptance of Soviet leadership of the international communist movement and led to closer cooperation
- B. Involved ideological disputes, border clashes, and Mao's accusation that Soviet leaders had become "revisionists" abandoning true Marxism-Leninism
- C. Was peacefully resolved through Khrushchev's visit to Beijing and the signing of a new Sino-Soviet alliance treaty
- D. Resulted in the immediate formal merger of China and the Soviet Union into a single Eurasian communist state by 1965

22. NASA's Apollo 11 mission in July 1969

- A. Landed Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the Moon, fulfilling President Kennedy's 1961 commitment to a manned lunar landing
- B. Was the first successful Soviet manned mission to the surface of the Moon during the Cold War space race
- C. Marked the first orbit of the Earth by a manned American spacecraft during the early years of NASA
- D. Was an uncrewed space probe to Mars that returned the first close-up photographs of the entire Martian surface

23. The death of Mao Zedong in September 1976 was quickly followed by

- A. A decade-long extension of the Cultural Revolution and increased political power for the radical Maoist leaders
- B. The arrest of the "Gang of Four" radical leaders and the eventual rise of Deng Xiaoping as China's paramount leader
- C. The peaceful return of the Chinese Nationalist government from Taiwan to the mainland under U.S. supervision
- D. A formal merger of the People's Republic of China with the Soviet Union into a single communist superstate

24. The "Velvet Divorce" of January 1, 1993

- A. Ended the Cold War with a comprehensive peace treaty between the United States and the new Russian Federation
- B. Reunified East and West Germany into a single federal republic under the West German constitution
- C. Restored the prewar borders of Yugoslavia and ended the violence of the early 1990s Balkan wars
- D. Peacefully separated Czechoslovakia into the independent Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic by parliamentary agreement

25. The Zapatista uprising in Chiapas, Mexico in January 1994

- A. Was an Indigenous-led rebellion that began on the day NAFTA took effect, demanding land reform and Indigenous rights
- B. Was a peaceful electoral campaign that brought the leftist EZLN to power in the Mexican federal government
- C. Was a successful Mexican military operation that brought all of the southern state of Chiapas under the federal government's control
- D. Was a coordinated armed campaign supported by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration against Mexican drug cartels

26. The July 7, 2005 attacks in London

- A. Were carried out by Irish Republican Army members opposed to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and the peace process in Northern Ireland
- B. Were a series of large-scale antiwar demonstrations that turned violent when British police responded with excessive force
- C. Were coordinated suicide bombings on the London Underground and a city bus by Islamist attackers, killing 52 commuters
- D. Involved a chemical weapons attack on the British Houses of Parliament that injured hundreds of members of the British government

27. The March 11, 2004 train bombings in Madrid

- A. Were carried out by Basque ETA separatist militants demanding the political independence of the Basque Country from Spain
- B. Were caused by a series of mechanical and electrical failures on the Madrid commuter rail network at rush hour
- C. Were a series of accidental explosions caused by leaking natural gas in Madrid's commuter rail tunnels
- D. Were carried out by Islamist attackers, killed 193 people, and influenced the Spanish general election held days later

28. The May 2008 Sichuan earthquake in China

- A. Was a small-scale tremor that produced no significant casualties or damage to the Chinese province of Sichuan
- B. Was a man-made disaster directly caused by the Three Gorges Dam reservoir on the upper Yangtze River
- C. Killed roughly 87,000 people, including thousands of schoolchildren in collapsed school buildings, prompting public anger over "tofu-dreg" construction
- D. Was successfully predicted by Chinese seismologists, allowing the evacuation of the entire affected population well in advance

29. The Syrian government's recapture of eastern Aleppo from rebel forces in December 2016

- A. Marked the formal end of the Syrian Civil War and the immediate return of all Syrian refugees to their homes
- B. Was a major turning point in the war achieved with crucial Russian air support and Iranian-backed ground forces, displacing tens of thousands of civilians
- C. Established the city of Aleppo as the new capital of an independent Kurdish federation in northern Syria
- D. Resulted in the immediate overthrow of Bashar al-Assad and his replacement by a Western-backed transitional government

30. The 2016–2017 Battle of Mosul against the Islamic State

- A. Was a months-long urban offensive by Iraqi security forces, Kurdish Peshmerga, and a U.S.-led coalition that retook Iraq's second city from ISIS
- B. Was a brief peacekeeping mission led by the United Nations that produced a negotiated handover of Mosul by Islamic State leadership
- C. Resulted in the immediate withdrawal of all Iraqi security forces from northern Iraq and the recognition of an independent Sunni state in Mosul
- D. Was a Russian-led campaign that brought northern Iraq under Russian and Syrian government control before the year 2017

31. The Donbas War in eastern Ukraine from 2014 to 2022

- A. Was a peaceful constitutional referendum that recognized the full independence of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions from Ukraine
- B. Was a brief Ukrainian military operation that recovered all of eastern Ukraine from Russian control within months
- C. Pitted Ukrainian forces against Russian-backed separatist forces in Donetsk and Luhansk, killing roughly 14,000 people before Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion
- D. Was a peacekeeping operation conducted by the OSCE that brought lasting stability and peace to eastern Ukraine until 2022

32. The killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in May 2020 sparked

- A. A peaceful constitutional reform process that established a new American federal racial equality and reconciliation commission
- B. A brief two-day protest in Minneapolis that produced no significant national or global response or media coverage
- C. The immediate dismantling of all American police departments and their replacement by community-based safety organizations
- D. Mass Black Lives Matter protests that spread to dozens of countries and reopened global debate over policing, race, and colonial monuments

33. Donald Trump's election as U.S. president in November 2016

- A. Confirmed the global trend toward open-borders cooperation and rules-based multilateral institutions throughout the 2010s
- B. Reflected and reinforced a global wave of right-wing populist politics that also produced Brexit and the rise of similar movements in Europe and Latin America
- C. Was followed by his immediate withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions
- D. Resulted in the United States adopting a single global free-trade policy with no remaining tariffs on any imported goods

34. The June 2023 mutiny by the Wagner Group inside Russia

- A. Was led by Yevgeny Prigozhin in protest of Russia's military leadership and ended without significant violence after a deal brokered by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko
- B. Resulted in the immediate overthrow of Vladimir Putin and the establishment of a new democratic government in Moscow
- C. Was a peaceful demonstration by Russian soldiers against deployment to Ukraine that the Kremlin quickly addressed through pay raises
- D. Brought all Wagner mercenary forces under direct Ukrainian government control by the end of the summer of 2023

35. The euro replaced national banknotes and coins in 12 European Union member states on January 1, 2002, after

- A. The European Union's expansion to include Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus as part of its 2002 eastern enlargement
- B. A failed referendum in France and the Netherlands that briefly delayed the introduction of the common European currency
- C. The peaceful merger of all European Union member states into a single federal European republic with a common president
- D. The Treaty of Maastricht's 1992 commitment to economic and monetary union and a three-year transition during which euro accounts coexisted with national currencies

## PRACTICE EXAM 51 : ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 1. C** — Without strong central authority, life in a "state of nature" would be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." Writing during the English Civil War, Hobbes argued that humans would consent to surrender most of their freedom to an absolute sovereign in exchange for security against the war of all against all. The work became foundational to modern social contract theory even as later thinkers like Locke and Rousseau rejected Hobbes's conclusion that absolutism was the only solution.
- 2. A** — Pursued sweeping enlightened reforms including the Edict of Toleration, the abolition of serfdom, and the dissolution of monasteries. Joseph II is the textbook example of "enlightened despotism," using royal power to impose religious toleration for Protestants and Jews, free the serfs, abolish judicial torture, and place the Catholic Church under state supervision. Many reforms were rolled back after his death amid noble and clerical resistance, but they prefigured many of the changes that the French Revolution would later impose by force.
- 3. D** — Proclaimed natural rights of liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression, drawing on Enlightenment ideals. The Declaration, modeled in part on the American Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Declaration of Rights, asserted that "men are born and remain free and equal in rights" and that sovereignty resides in the nation. Although it initially excluded women, the propertyless, and the enslaved, it became a universal touchstone for political reform and human rights movements far beyond France.
- 4. B** — Used the guillotine to execute thousands deemed enemies of the Revolution under the leadership of Maximilien Robespierre. The Committee of Public Safety, dominated by the Jacobins, faced foreign invasion, royalist uprising in the Vendée, and counter-revolution, and responded by centralizing power and using revolutionary tribunals to send roughly 17,000 people to the guillotine. Robespierre's "Republic of Virtue" turned on itself in increasingly arbitrary purges and ended when he was overthrown and executed on 9 Thermidor.
- 5. B** — Overthrew and executed Maximilien Robespierre, ending the Reign of Terror and ushering in the more conservative Directory. Members of the Convention, fearing they would be next on the guillotine, moved against Robespierre on 9 Thermidor (July 27, 1794), arrested him, and executed him the following day. The subsequent Thermidorian reaction dismantled the Jacobin apparatus, restored property

qualifications for political participation, and produced the unstable five-member Directory that governed until Napoleon's coup of 1799.

**6. A** — Brought Napoleon Bonaparte to power as First Consul of France, effectively ending the rule of the Directory. With the connivance of Abbé Sieyès, Talleyrand, and his brother Lucien, Napoleon used troops to drive the legislative councils out of their meeting halls and impose a new constitution that named him First Consul. The Consulate restored political stability, established the Banque de France, and laid the groundwork for the Napoleonic Code, before Napoleon proclaimed himself Emperor in 1804.

**7. C** — Attempted to cripple Britain by banning European trade with British merchants and goods. Frustrated by his inability to invade Britain after Trafalgar, Napoleon used the Berlin Decree (1806) and Milan Decree (1807) to close European ports to British shipping and require neutrals to be searched. The system damaged European economies, encouraged smuggling, and contributed directly to Napoleon's disastrous 1812 invasion of Russia after Tsar Alexander I withdrew from the system.

**8. D** — Warned European powers against new colonization in the Americas and pledged U.S. non-intervention in European affairs. Drafted by Secretary of State John Quincy Adams in response to fears that the Holy Alliance might help Spain recover its rebellious Latin American colonies, the doctrine declared the Western Hemisphere off-limits to further European colonization. Initially enforced mainly by the Royal Navy out of British self-interest, it became a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy and was later expanded by Theodore Roosevelt's "Roosevelt Corollary" to justify American interventions in Latin America.

**9. A** — Created the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary, with the Habsburg ruler sharing power between separate Austrian and Hungarian parliaments. After Austria's defeat by Prussia at Königgrätz in 1866, Emperor Franz Joseph negotiated with Hungarian leaders like Ferenc Deák to restore the Kingdom of Hungary with its own constitution, parliament, and prime minister while sharing foreign policy, defense, and finances with Austria. The arrangement helped preserve Habsburg rule for another half-century but failed to satisfy the empire's many Slavic and other nationalities, fueling tensions that exploded in 1914.

**10. C** — Resulted from a potato blight combined with British policies that allowed mass starvation, killing around a million people and forcing mass emigration. While *Phytophthora infestans* destroyed the potato crop on which the rural poor depended, the British government's adherence to laissez-faire economics meant Ireland continued to export grain even as people starved, and limited relief was channeled through punitive workhouses. The famine killed roughly one million Irish, drove another million abroad (especially to the United States), and is widely seen as both a humanitarian catastrophe and a foundational grievance of modern Irish nationalism.

**11. C** — Abolished slavery in Brazil, making it the last country in the Americas to formally end the institution. Signed by Princess Imperial Regent Isabel while her father was abroad, the law was the culmination of decades of pressure from the Brazilian abolitionist movement led by figures like Joaquim Nabuco and André Rebouças. The lack of compensation for slaveholders and the absence of any state support for freed people contributed to Pedro II's overthrow the following year and to the entrenched racial inequality that has shaped Brazil ever since.

**12. B** — When a military coup, supported by elites alienated by the abolition of slavery, overthrew the emperor and proclaimed the Republic of Brazil. On November 15, 1889, Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca led the coup against Pedro II, who went into exile in Europe, and the new republic adopted a federal constitution modeled on that of the United States. The "Old Republic" was dominated by coffee elites from São Paulo and Minas Gerais in a "café com leite" rotation that lasted until the 1930 Revolution of Getúlio Vargas.

**13. D** — Forced the Qajar shah to accept a constitution and a parliament (Majlis), although foreign intervention and royal counter-coups undermined it. Merchants, clerics, and intellectuals took bast (sanctuary) in mosques and the British legation to demand a constitutional government, and Mozaffar al-Din Shah granted the constitution in 1906. The reform period was undermined by his successor's coup against the Majlis (which Russia helped suppress) and by the 1907 Anglo-Russian partition of Persia into spheres of influence.

**14. A** — Gradually brought all of Burma under British colonial rule, with Burma administered as a province of British India by 1886. Three wars (1824–26, 1852, and 1885) progressively annexed Lower Burma, Upper Burma, and finally exiled the last Konbaung king, Thibaw, to India. British rule reshaped Burma's economy around rice export, introduced large numbers of Indian laborers and administrators, and fueled the Burmese nationalism that would emerge in the 20th century under Aung San and others.

**15. C** — Sought to protect the political and religious interests of Indian Muslims and eventually led the movement for the creation of Pakistan. Founded at Dhaka in 1906 under the leadership of figures like the Aga Khan and Nawab Salimullah, the League initially worked within the British colonial framework but gradually became the chief vehicle for Muslim political demands. Under Muhammad Ali Jinnah, especially after the 1940 Lahore Resolution, the League championed the "two-nation theory" that produced the partition of British India into India and Pakistan in 1947.

**16. D** — Discovered the elements polonium and radium and pioneered research on radioactivity, winning Nobel Prizes in physics and chemistry. Working with her husband Pierre and Henri Becquerel, Marie Curie isolated radium from pitchblende ore in painstaking experiments and developed the field of radioactivity. She received the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics and the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, becoming the first person to win Nobel Prizes in two distinct sciences and a pioneering symbol of women in science.

**17. B** — Included his special theory of relativity, the famous equation  $E=mc^2$ , and the foundational paper on the photoelectric effect. While working in the Swiss patent office in Bern, Einstein published four papers in 1905 that revolutionized physics, including the special theory of relativity, mass-energy equivalence, the photoelectric effect (for which he later received the 1921 Nobel Prize), and a paper on Brownian motion confirming the existence of atoms. The papers reshaped modern physics and made him by the 1920s the most famous scientist in the world.

**18. A** — Was the first sustained, controlled flight of a powered heavier-than-air aircraft in human history. On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright's Flyer flew 120 feet in 12 seconds at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, after years of glider experiments and wind-tunnel research that solved the problem of three-axis control. The brothers protected their patents fiercely, and powered flight rapidly transformed warfare, commerce, and global culture across the 20th century.

**19. D** — Was a decisive Viet Minh victory under General Vo Nguyen Giap that broke French will and led to the Geneva Accords. The French had fortified a valley deep in northwestern Vietnam in hopes of drawing the Viet Minh into a set-piece battle, but Giap moved heavy artillery into the surrounding hills and besieged the garrison for 56 days. The fall of Dien Bien Phu in May 1954 made continued French military effort politically impossible and brought negotiators to Geneva, where French Indochina was partitioned and Vietnam divided.

**20. C** — Temporarily divided Vietnam at the 17th parallel, with national reunification elections scheduled but never held. The accords ended the First Indochina War, partitioned Vietnam between Ho Chi Minh's Democratic Republic in the north and the State of Vietnam under Bao Dai in the south, and recognized the independence of Cambodia and Laos. The reunification elections planned for 1956 were never held because Ngo Dinh Diem in the south and his American backers feared a communist victory, setting the stage for the Second Indochina War.

**21. B** — Involved ideological disputes, border clashes, and Mao's accusation that Soviet leaders had become "revisionists" abandoning true Marxism-Leninism. Tensions sharpened after Khrushchev's 1956 secret speech denouncing Stalin, Soviet withdrawal of nuclear assistance in 1959, and Mao's attacks on Khrushchev's "peaceful coexistence" with the West. The split culminated in clashes along the Ussuri River in 1969 and pushed China toward the dramatic rapprochement with the United States that produced Nixon's 1972 visit.

**22. A** — Landed Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the Moon, fulfilling President Kennedy's 1961 commitment to a manned lunar landing. On July 20, 1969, Armstrong stepped onto the lunar surface and declared it "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," watched by an estimated 600 million people worldwide. The landing represented the U.S. victory in the Space Race ignited by Sputnik in 1957 and remains a high-water mark of human technological achievement.

**23. B** — The arrest of the "Gang of Four" radical leaders and the eventual rise of Deng Xiaoping as China's paramount leader. Less than a month after Mao's death, his designated successor Hua Guofeng moved against Mao's widow Jiang Qing, Zhang Chunqiao, Wang Hongwen, and Yao Wenyuan, all blamed for the excesses of the Cultural Revolution. Hua himself was politically outmaneuvered by Deng, whose 1978 "reform and opening" policies launched the transformations that produced modern China's economic rise.

**24. D** — Peacefully separated Czechoslovakia into the independent Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic by parliamentary agreement. Slovak demands for greater autonomy after the 1989 Velvet Revolution led prime ministers Václav Klaus and Vladimír Mečiar to negotiate a peaceful division of state assets, government functions, and even the federal army. The split, in contrast to the bloody breakup of Yugoslavia, is often cited as a model of peaceful national divorce and saw both new states accede to NATO and the European Union within the next 15 years.

**25. A** — Was an Indigenous-led rebellion that began on the day NAFTA took effect, demanding land reform and Indigenous rights. The Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN), led by the masked Subcomandante Marcos, briefly seized several towns in Chiapas on January 1, 1994, before pulling back into the Lacandon jungle. The movement combined Indigenous demands with critiques of neoliberalism and became a touchstone for the wider global justice movement of the late 1990s and 2000s.

**26. C** — Were coordinated suicide bombings on the London Underground and a city bus by Islamist attackers, killing 52 commuters. Four British-born Islamist attackers, three of Pakistani descent and one of Jamaican descent, detonated explosive devices on three Underground trains and a London bus during the morning rush hour. The attacks took place the day after London won the 2012 Olympics bid and prompted extensive expansion of British counterterrorism law and surveillance powers.

**27. D** — Were carried out by Islamist attackers, killed 193 people, and influenced the Spanish general election held days later. Coordinated bombings on four packed commuter trains in Madrid in the morning rush hour produced Spain's deadliest terrorist attack and were carried out by a cell inspired by al-Qaeda in retaliation for Spanish participation in the Iraq War. The ruling Popular Party's initial attempt to blame Basque ETA backfired, and three days later voters elected the Socialist José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, who quickly withdrew Spanish troops from Iraq.

**28. C** — Killed roughly 87,000 people, including thousands of schoolchildren in collapsed school buildings, prompting public anger over "tofu-dreg" construction. The magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck Sichuan province on May 12, 2008, devastating the city of Wenchuan and surrounding towns. Public anger over the disproportionate collapse of school buildings, while government buildings nearby stood, led activists like artist Ai Weiwei to document the names of dead children and produced government efforts to suppress that investigation.

**29. B** — Was a major turning point in the war achieved with crucial Russian air support and Iranian-backed ground forces, displacing tens of thousands of civilians. After years of stalemate, intensive Russian air strikes and the deployment of Iranian Revolutionary Guard and Hezbollah fighters allowed the Assad government to gradually encircle and squeeze rebel-held eastern Aleppo. The fall of the city in December 2016 marked the effective end of significant urban rebel resistance in western Syria, though the war continued in Idlib and elsewhere.

**30. A** — Was a months-long urban offensive by Iraqi security forces, Kurdish Peshmerga, and a U.S.-led coalition that retook Iraq's second city from ISIS. The battle lasted from October 2016 to July 2017 and turned into some of the most intense urban warfare since the Second World War, devastating Mosul's Old City and the Great Mosque of al-Nuri from which ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi had declared the caliphate in 2014. Roughly 10,000 civilians died and most of the city's Christian and Yazidi communities were displaced.

**31. C** — Pitted Ukrainian forces against Russian-backed separatist forces in Donetsk and Luhansk, killing roughly 14,000 people before Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion. Following Russia's annexation of Crimea, armed groups seized government buildings in Donetsk and Luhansk and proclaimed "People's Republics" backed by Russian troops, equipment, and "volunteers" who shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in July 2014. The Minsk agreements (2014 and 2015) failed to produce a lasting settlement, and the conflict became the prelude to Russia's all-out invasion in February 2022.

**32. D** — Mass Black Lives Matter protests that spread to dozens of countries and reopened global debate over policing, race, and colonial monuments. Floyd's killing on May 25, 2020, recorded on video by a bystander, prompted what some scholars consider the largest protest movement in American history and a wave of solidarity protests from Bristol to Sydney. Demonstrators tore down statues of slave traders and

colonial figures, and a global conversation about institutional racism, policing, and historical memory intensified during the pandemic.

**33. B** — Reflected and reinforced a global wave of right-wing populist politics that also produced Brexit and the rise of similar movements in Europe and Latin America. Trump's nativist, anti-trade, and anti-establishment campaign drew on the same currents that had produced the Brexit vote five months earlier and that would lift Marine Le Pen, Matteo Salvini, Jair Bolsonaro, and Narendra Modi in their own systems. The Trump presidency accelerated American withdrawal from multilateral institutions like the Paris Agreement, the Iran nuclear deal, and the World Health Organization.

**34. A** — Was led by Yevgeny Prigozhin in protest of Russia's military leadership and ended without significant violence after a deal brokered by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. Prigozhin's Wagner forces seized the city of Rostov-on-Don and began a march on Moscow before Lukashenko brokered an arrangement under which Prigozhin and his fighters were offered safe passage to Belarus. The mutiny exposed serious weaknesses in Putin's authority, and Prigozhin died two months later in a suspicious plane crash widely attributed to Kremlin retaliation.

**35. D** — The Treaty of Maastricht's 1992 commitment to economic and monetary union and a three-year transition during which euro accounts coexisted with national currencies. Maastricht set out convergence criteria on inflation, deficits, debt, and interest rates that members had to meet to join the new currency, and the euro became an accounting currency on January 1, 1999, before notes and coins entered circulation three years later. The euro replaced familiar currencies like the French franc, German Deutsche Mark, and Italian lira and remains one of the most ambitious experiments in monetary integration in history.