

# PRACTICE EXAM 57 — NEW YORK REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

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1. Austrian monk Gregor Mendel's experiments on pea plants in the 1860s
  - A. Established the modern theory of biological evolution through natural selection over multiple decades of work
  - B. Disproved the Catholic Church's teachings on the creation of life and were widely embraced at the time
  - C. Established the foundational laws of heredity, although his work was largely ignored until rediscovered around 1900
  - D. Demonstrated that environmental factors could permanently change the inherited traits of an entire population
  
2. Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis, developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries
  - A. Established the basis of modern behaviorist psychology and the rejection of all unconscious mental processes
  - B. Was based on Freud's experimental work with electrical brain stimulation in laboratory animals during the 1880s
  - C. Was rejected entirely during Freud's lifetime and had no significant cultural influence in the early 20th century
  - D. Introduced concepts including the unconscious, repression, and the Oedipus complex, which influenced 20th-century thought
  
3. Francisco Madero's 1911 challenge to Porfirio Díaz

- A. Sparked the Mexican Revolution by calling for "effective suffrage and no re-election" and forcing Díaz into exile
- B. Restored Porfirio Díaz to power for another decade after a brief revolutionary uprising in the Mexican capital
- C. Established a Marxist-Leninist government in Mexico under direct support of the Russian Bolsheviks in 1911
- D. Resulted in the immediate annexation of all of northern Mexico by the United States by the end of 1911

4. The Mexican Constitution of 1917

- A. Was one of the most progressive of its time, establishing land reform, labor rights, and state ownership of natural resources
- B. Restored the privileges of the Catholic Church and large landowners that had been the basis of the Porfiriato
- C. Established a one-party communist state in Mexico aligned closely with the Soviet Union after the Bolshevik Revolution
- D. Granted full sovereignty over Mexican territory to the United States as part of a postwar peace settlement

5. The "Bloody Sunday" massacre in St. Petersburg in January 1905

- A. Was a successful peaceful negotiation between Tsar Nicholas II and workers' delegations led by Father Gapon
- B. Saw imperial troops fire on a peaceful workers' procession petitioning the tsar, helping trigger the 1905 Russian Revolution
- C. Was a small-scale incident that had no significant effect on the political situation in the Russian Empire that year
- D. Resulted in the immediate overthrow of Tsar Nicholas II and the establishment of a Russian democratic republic

6. Russian Prime Minister Pyotr Stolypin's reforms (1906–1911)

- A. Restored serfdom in the Russian Empire after a brief experiment with peasant land ownership in the late 19th century
- B. Established a multiparty parliamentary democracy in Russia modeled on the constitutional system of imperial Germany at the time
- C. Combined harsh repression (the "Stolypin necktie") with agrarian reforms that allowed peasants to leave the village commune
- D. Successfully ended all major social unrest in the Russian Empire and prevented the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917

7. The French Second Empire (1852–1870) under Napoleon III

- A. Was a constitutional republic in which Napoleon III served as a ceremonial figurehead head of state in France
- B. Restored the Bourbon dynasty to the French throne after the brief Second Republic of 1848 and its revolutionary turmoil
- C. Was a Marxist regime that nationalized French industry under the direct leadership of the Paris Commune by 1852
- D. Combined authoritarian rule with industrial modernization, the rebuilding of Paris under Haussmann, and disastrous foreign wars

8. Count Camillo di Cavour, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia

- A. Was a Catholic theologian who defended the Pope's temporal power across the Italian peninsula in the 19th century
- B. Used diplomacy and a war with Austria allied with Napoleon III's France to expand Piedmont as the engine of Italian unification
- C. Founded the militant republican Young Italy movement and led volunteer expeditions to liberate southern Italy from Bourbon rule
- D. Established the modern Italian Communist Party as the dominant political force in unified Italy after the 1860s

9. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869

- A. Dramatically shortened the sea route between Europe and Asia and gave Britain a vital interest in Egyptian affairs
- B. Was a peaceful joint Ottoman-Russian project that bypassed European involvement in the wider eastern Mediterranean
- C. Restored the medieval overland Silk Road trade routes between Europe and East Asia for the rest of the 19th century
- D. Closed the Mediterranean to all British and French shipping in favor of Russian commercial dominance in the region

10. The 1825 opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in England

- A. Established the first commercial canal network linking the industrial cities of northern England with the seaports across the region
- B. Was a small-scale agricultural project that produced no lasting impact on British or European transportation
- C. Was the first public railway to use steam locomotives, helping launch the modern railway age in Britain and beyond
- D. Was a military rail line built to move troops across the British Isles and was closed to civilian passengers entirely

11. The 1950 Schuman Plan and the resulting 1951 Treaty of Paris

- A. Established the United Nations as the central forum for resolving European postwar disputes between France and Germany
- B. Created the modern North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a military alliance among the Western European democracies
- C. Restored the Holy Roman Empire as a peaceful political union of central European states under French leadership
- D. Created the European Coal and Steel Community, pooling French and West German coal and steel under a supranational authority

12. The February 1950 Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance

- A. Established the modern People's Republic of China as a colony of the Soviet Union for the duration of the Cold War
- B. Removed Soviet troops from Manchuria immediately and ended all Soviet military presence in East Asia by 1950
- C. Aligned the new People's Republic of China with the Soviet Union, providing economic and military assistance to Mao's government
- D. Recognized the Republic of China on Taiwan as the legitimate government of all of China against the People's Republic

13. The 1926–1928 Northern Expedition led by Chiang Kai-shek

- A. Was a Japanese military campaign that brought all of northern China under Tokyo's direct control by 1928
- B. Was a Nationalist (Kuomintang) military campaign from Guangzhou that defeated warlords and nominally unified much of China
- C. Was a peaceful diplomatic mission to negotiate the unification of Chinese provinces under the last Qing emperor
- D. Was a Communist expedition led by Mao Zedong from the south that established a Chinese Soviet Republic in Beijing

14. The April 1927 Shanghai Massacre

- A. Was Chiang Kai-shek's violent purge of Communist allies in Shanghai, ending the first KMT-CCP United Front and driving the Communists underground
- B. Was a Japanese atrocity against Chinese civilians during the early stages of the Sino-Japanese War of the 1930s
- C. Was a peaceful demonstration by Shanghai workers that produced significant labor reforms across the city of Shanghai
- D. Was a Communist uprising that successfully captured the city of Shanghai for the Chinese Soviet Republic that year

15. The 1921 Anglo-Irish Treat

- A. Established the modern United Kingdom of Great Britain by formally annexing all of Ireland into the British state
- B. Granted the Republic of Ireland full independence over all 32 counties of the island, including Northern Ireland
- C. Created the Irish Free State as a self-governing dominion within the British Empire while six northern counties remained in the UK
- D. Restored the medieval Kingdom of Ireland under a Catholic monarch supported by both Irish and British parliaments

16. The Irish Civil War of 1922–1923

- A. Was a peaceful constitutional dispute over the partition of Ireland resolved through negotiation within several months
- B. Restored British direct rule over the entire territory of Ireland after the failed Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921
- C. Was a Catholic-Protestant religious war that ended only with the partition of Ireland under British pressure
- D. Pitted pro-Treaty forces under Michael Collins against anti-Treaty Republicans, with the pro-Treaty side ultimately prevailing

17. The German bombing campaign against Britain known as "the Blitz" (1940–1941)

- A. Successfully forced Britain to surrender and accept a German occupation of the British Isles by the spring of 1941
- B. Killed roughly 40,000 British civilians but failed to break British morale or force the United Kingdom out of the war
- C. Was a relatively small-scale series of nuisance raids that produced no significant casualties or damage in Britain
- D. Was a joint German-Italian bombing campaign that completely destroyed the Royal Air Force in southern England

18. The May 1941 Battle of Crete

- A. Was the first major airborne invasion in history, in which German paratroopers captured the island despite heavy losses
- B. Was a successful Allied amphibious landing that secured Crete and the eastern Mediterranean for the rest of the war
- C. Was a peaceful occupation of the island of Crete by Italian forces after diplomatic negotiations with Greece
- D. Marked the entry of the Soviet Union into combat against Germany on the southern flank of the Eastern Front

19. The May 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea between Allied and Japanese forces

- A. Was the largest land battle of the Pacific theater, fought entirely on the island of New Guinea against Japanese ground forces
- B. Was a peaceful naval review by combined Allied and Japanese fleets that produced no significant military results in 1942
- C. Was a decisive Japanese victory that allowed Tokyo to land troops in Australia by the end of the year 1942
- D. Was the first naval battle fought entirely by carrier-based aircraft, halting Japan's advance toward Port Moresby

20. The 1941 Siege of Tobruk in North Africa

- A. Was a successful German tank breakthrough that captured the entire Egyptian Nile valley by the end of 1941
- B. Was a peaceful Italian occupation of Libya that produced no significant combat between the major Axis and Allied powers
- C. Saw an Australian-led Commonwealth garrison hold the fortified Libyan port against Rommel's Afrika Korps for 241 days
- D. Resulted in the immediate withdrawal of British forces from the entire Mediterranean theater of operations in 1941

21. The Polish October of 1956

- A. Was a violent armed uprising that overthrew the Polish communist regime and established a multiparty democracy by 1957
- B. Brought Władysław Gomułka to power as a reform-minded communist leader, narrowly avoiding direct Soviet military intervention
- C. Was a peaceful Soviet military exercise in Poland that produced no significant changes in the country's political leadership
- D. Established formal Polish independence from the Soviet bloc and brought Poland into the new European Economic Community

22. The 1974 Metapolitefsi (regime change) in Greece

- A. Established the Greek military junta in power after a long period of unstable parliamentary government in Athens
- B. Was a peaceful constitutional reform that produced no significant changes in the political system of Greece during this period
- C. Brought Greece formally into the Warsaw Pact under a left-wing government supported by the Soviet Union and Bulgaria
- D. Restored democracy under Konstantinos Karamanlis after the collapse of the military junta following the Cyprus crisis

23. Bloody Sunday in Derry, Northern Ireland in January 1972

- A. Saw British paratroopers shoot dead 14 unarmed civil rights demonstrators, dramatically escalating the Northern Ireland Troubles
- B. Was a peaceful negotiation between the British government and the Provisional IRA that ended the Troubles in 1972
- C. Was a small clash between rival paramilitary factions in Belfast that produced no significant political or media response
- D. Was an IRA bombing campaign in central London that killed dozens of British civilians on a single Sunday afternoon

24. The 1981 hunger strikes by Irish republican prisoners in Long Kesh / Maze prison

- A. Were quickly resolved through compromise with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government within days of beginning
- B. Were carried out by Loyalist prisoners demanding harsher treatment of their Republican counterparts within the prison
- C. Killed Bobby Sands and nine other prisoners, with Sands elected to the British Parliament during the strike, energizing Sinn Féin
- D. Were a series of peaceful protests by prison officers demanding better working conditions inside the Maze prison

25. The 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement

- A. Restored direct rule of Northern Ireland from London by suspending the Stormont power-sharing assembly indefinitely
- B. Gave the Republic of Ireland a formal consultative role in Northern Ireland's affairs, angering unionists and Ulster Protestants
- C. Established a single Irish republic uniting all 32 counties under a new constitutional arrangement between London and Dublin
- D. Created the European Union by extending economic integration between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland

26. The October 1984 Brighton hotel bombing

- A. Was an Italian Red Brigades attack on a NATO meeting taking place in the English seaside city of Brighton
- B. Was a Provisional IRA attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during the annual Conservative Party conference
- C. Was a peaceful demonstration by British miners that turned violent during the long 1984-85 miners' strike
- D. Was an Argentine attack on a British military hotel in retaliation for British actions during the Falklands War

27. The September 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre

- A. Was a peaceful exchange of populations between Lebanon and Israel during the 1982 Lebanon War period of the conflict
- B. Was a successful military operation by the Lebanese army to restore order in the suburbs of Beirut in 1982
- C. Was a Hezbollah attack on Israeli forces in southern Lebanon during the early phase of the 1982 war
- D. Was the killing of hundreds of Palestinian and Lebanese Shia civilians by Christian Phalangist militias while Israeli forces controlled the area

28. The October 1993 Russian constitutional crisis

- A. Was a peaceful constitutional reform that established the Russian Federation as a parliamentary democracy with a weak presidency
- B. Resulted in the restoration of the Soviet Union under a new collective leadership following Boris Yeltsin's voluntary resignation
- C. Saw President Boris Yeltsin order tanks to shell the parliament building after a standoff with the Supreme Soviet, then push through a strong presidential constitution
- D. Was a brief diplomatic exchange between Russia and the United States that produced no significant changes in Russian politics

29. Russia's 1998 financial crisis

- A. Saw the ruble devalue sharply, Russia default on its domestic debt, and ordinary Russians lose most of their savings
- B. Was a peaceful currency reform that brought renewed international confidence in the Russian economic system across the world
- C. Was successfully resolved through coordinated IMF assistance without significant economic disruption to the population
- D. Resulted in the immediate adoption of the euro as Russia's national currency by the end of the year 1998

30. The September 1999 Russian apartment bombings

- A. Were peaceful demonstrations against Russian housing policy that turned violent in Moscow and other Russian cities
- B. Were a series of accidental gas explosions in older Russian apartment buildings that produced few political consequences
- C. Killed roughly 300 people in Moscow, Volgograd, and Buynaksk, were blamed on Chechen terrorists, and helped fuel Vladimir Putin's rise to power
- D. Were carried out by Latvian nationalists demanding the withdrawal of remaining Russian forces from the Baltic republics

31. The Second Chechen War (1999–2009)

- A. Was a brief border conflict between Russia and Georgia over the Pankisi Gorge that ended within months
- B. Was a peaceful constitutional reform that recognized Chechnya as an independent state with full UN membership
- C. Was won quickly by Chechen forces and led to the formal recognition of Chechen independence by the Russian Federation
- D. Saw Russian forces level Grozny, install a pro-Moscow Chechen government under Akhmad and then Ramzan Kadyrov, and crush separatist resistance

32. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), established in 1993

- A. Was a regional military alliance that combined the armed forces of the new post-Yugoslav states for joint defense
- B. Was the first international war crimes tribunal since Nuremberg and Tokyo, eventually convicting figures including Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić
- C. Was a peacekeeping force that successfully prevented all atrocities in the Balkans during the wars of Yugoslav succession
- D. Was a free-trade organization that brought the former Yugoslav republics into the European Union by the end of the 1990s

33. The escalation between Israel and Hezbollah in 2024

- A. Saw Israeli pager and walkie-talkie attacks, airstrikes that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, and a ground incursion into southern Lebanon
- B. Was a peaceful exchange of prisoners that produced an end to all Israeli-Hezbollah hostilities for the foreseeable future
- C. Was a minor border incident in which neither side suffered significant casualties or political consequences from the violence
- D. Resulted in the immediate establishment of full diplomatic relations between Israel and Lebanon by the end of 2024

34. The fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria in December 2024

- A. Was the result of a peaceful internationally supervised democratic election that brought a new Syrian government to power
- B. Restored the Assad family to power after a brief constitutional dispute within the Syrian Baath Party leadership
- C. Was reversed within weeks by a successful Russian military intervention that returned Assad to power in Damascus
- D. Came after a swift offensive by rebel forces led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, sending Assad into exile in Russia after more than 50 years of family rule

35. The Italo-Turkish War of 1911–1912

- A. Saw Italy seize the Ottoman provinces of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, beginning Italian colonial rule over what became Libya
- B. Was a peaceful diplomatic agreement that returned the entire territory of North Africa to Ottoman sovereignty by 1912
- C. Resulted in an Ottoman victory that ended Italian colonial ambitions throughout the Mediterranean for the rest of the century
- D. Was a joint Italo-French military operation that partitioned the Ottoman Empire's African provinces by the year 1913

## ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS (Questions 1-35)

- 1. C** — Established the foundational laws of heredity, although his work was largely ignored until rediscovered around 1900. Working in his Augustinian monastery garden in Brno, Mendel crossbred thousands of pea plants and identified what we now call dominant and recessive alleles, segregation, and independent assortment. His findings, published in an obscure 1866 journal, were rediscovered independently by de Vries, Correns, and Tschermak in 1900 and became the foundation of modern genetics.
- 2. D** — Introduced concepts including the unconscious, repression, and the Oedipus complex, which influenced 20th-century thought. Through works like *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1900), *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* (1905), and *Civilization and Its Discontents* (1930), Freud argued that hidden mental drives shape personality and behavior. Although many of his specific clinical claims have been rejected, his vocabulary reshaped psychology, literature, art, and popular understanding of the self.
- 3. A** — Sparked the Mexican Revolution by calling for "effective suffrage and no re-election" and forcing Díaz into exile. Madero's Plan of San Luis Potosí, issued in 1910, called for a national uprising against the long-serving dictator, and revolts in Chihuahua and Morelos under Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata broke Díaz's grip on power within months. Madero became president in 1911 but was overthrown and killed by General Victoriano Huerta in 1913, opening the most violent phase of the revolution.
- 4. A** — Was one of the most progressive of its time, establishing land reform, labor rights, and state ownership of natural resources. Adopted under Venustiano Carranza, the constitution's Article 27 broke up large landed estates and declared subsoil resources (including oil) to be national property, while Article 123 set out an eight-hour workday, minimum wage, and right to organize. Its provisions on the church and education made it a model for progressive reformers across Latin America and the foundation for the later 1938 oil nationalization under Cárdenas.
- 5. B** — Saw imperial troops fire on a peaceful workers' procession petitioning the tsar, helping trigger the 1905 Russian Revolution. Father Georgi Gapon led tens of thousands of workers, families in tow and icons aloft, to deliver a petition for political and economic reform to Nicholas II at the Winter Palace, where troops opened fire and killed hundreds. The massacre destroyed popular faith in the "tsar-batiushka" and ignited months of strikes, mutinies, and peasant unrest that forced Nicholas to issue the October Manifesto and create the Duma.
- 6. C** — Combined harsh repression (the "Stolypin necktie") with agrarian reforms that allowed peasants to leave the village commune. Stolypin's field courts-martial executed thousands of revolutionaries (the hangman's noose was nicknamed for him), while his land reforms aimed to create a class of independent, conservative kulak farmers loyal to the regime. He was assassinated in a Kyiv opera house in 1911 before his program could fully transform Russian rural life, and his death is often cited as a missed last chance to avert the 1917 revolution.
- 7. D** — Combined authoritarian rule with industrial modernization, the rebuilding of Paris under Haussmann, and disastrous foreign wars. Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte seized power by coup in 1851 and proclaimed himself Emperor Napoleon III in 1852, presiding over rapid railway construction, Haussmann's transformation of Paris with grand boulevards, and the founding of the *Crédit Mobilier*

investment bank. The empire collapsed after his capture at Sedan in the 1870 Franco-Prussian War, replaced by the Third Republic.

**8. B** — Used diplomacy and a war with Austria allied with Napoleon III's France to expand Piedmont as the engine of Italian unification. Cavour brokered the 1858 Plombières meeting that secured French support, provoked Austria into the 1859 war that delivered Lombardy, and then orchestrated plebiscites that brought central Italian states into the Kingdom of Sardinia. He died in 1861 only months after Italian unification was proclaimed, leaving Garibaldi's southern conquests folded into the new state under King Victor Emmanuel II.

**9. A** — Dramatically shortened the sea route between Europe and Asia and gave Britain a vital interest in Egyptian affairs. Built under the direction of Ferdinand de Lesseps and the Egyptian Khedive, the canal eliminated the need to sail around the Cape of Good Hope and quickly became a strategic chokepoint for global trade. Britain bought the bankrupt khedive's shares in 1875 under Disraeli, occupied Egypt in 1882 to protect the canal, and held it as a strategic priority until the 1956 Suez Crisis ended its formal control.

**10. C** — Was the first public railway to use steam locomotives, helping launch the modern railway age in Britain and beyond. Designed by George Stephenson, the line in northeast England primarily carried coal but also offered passenger service from its opening day, demonstrating the commercial viability of railways. The 1825 Liverpool and Manchester Railway built on its success, and within decades railway networks transformed economies and societies across Europe, the Americas, and European colonies worldwide.

**11. D** — Created the European Coal and Steel Community, pooling French and West German coal and steel under a supranational authority. Proposed by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman and drafted by Jean Monnet, the plan brought together France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg in the Treaty of Paris of 1951. By placing the war-making industries of coal and steel under a single High Authority, the ECSC made future Franco-German war "not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible" and was the first concrete step toward today's European Union.

**12. C** — Aligned the new People's Republic of China with the Soviet Union, providing economic and military assistance to Mao's government. Mao traveled to Moscow shortly after the founding of the PRC and, after weeks of difficult negotiations with Stalin, signed the 30-year treaty providing for Soviet credits, technical experts, and joint use of the Manchurian railways and Port Arthur. The treaty cemented the Sino-Soviet alliance during the Korean War, although tensions over autonomy and ideology would lead to the dramatic Sino-Soviet split within a decade.

**13. B** — Was a Nationalist (Kuomintang) military campaign from Guangzhou that defeated warlords and nominally unified much of China. Trained at the Whampoa Military Academy and supported initially by the Soviet Union and Chinese Communists in the First United Front, Chiang's National Revolutionary Army marched north through Hunan, captured Wuhan and Nanjing, and entered Beijing in 1928. The new Nationalist government at Nanjing brought a fragile unification under the Republic of China, although many warlords remained nominally autonomous and Communist forces survived in rural base areas.

**14. A** — Was Chiang Kai-shek's violent purge of Communist allies in Shanghai, ending the first KMT-CCP United Front and driving the Communists underground. With the help of Shanghai's Green Gang

criminal network and conservative business interests, Chiang's troops attacked labor unions and Communist organizers on April 12, 1927, killing thousands and arresting many more. The massacre split the Kuomintang from the Communist Party, drove Mao and others to the countryside, and shaped the next two decades of Chinese politics through the civil war that culminated in 1949.

**15. C** — Created the Irish Free State as a self-governing dominion within the British Empire while six northern counties remained in the UK. Negotiated between British Prime Minister David Lloyd George and Irish leaders including Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith, the treaty ended the Irish War of Independence but required an oath of allegiance to the Crown. Its acceptance by the Dáil split Sinn Féin and the IRA between pro- and anti-Treaty factions and triggered the Irish Civil War.

**16. D** — Pitted pro-Treaty forces under Michael Collins against anti-Treaty Republicans, with the pro-Treaty side ultimately prevailing. Anti-Treaty republicans under Éamon de Valera and the IRA's Liam Lynch rejected partition and the Crown oath, and Free State forces — armed by Britain — defeated them after roughly 11 months of fighting. Collins himself was killed in an ambush at Béal na Bláth in August 1922, and the war's bitterness shaped Irish politics for generations through the rival Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael parties.

**17. B** — Killed roughly 40,000 British civilians but failed to break British morale or force the United Kingdom out of the war. After failing to defeat the RAF in the Battle of Britain, the Luftwaffe shifted to night bombing of London and provincial cities including Coventry, Liverpool, and Birmingham from September 1940 through May 1941. Winston Churchill's defiant speeches, mass underground sheltering, and the eventual diversion of Luftwaffe units to Operation Barbarossa ensured that Britain remained in the war as the United States moved toward intervention.

**18. A** — Was the first major airborne invasion in history, in which German paratroopers captured the island despite heavy losses. Operation Mercury saw the elite Fallschirmjäger drop onto Crete and seize the Maleme airfield against fierce Allied and Cretan civilian resistance, ultimately forcing a British evacuation through the southern port of Sphakia. German casualties were so heavy that Hitler reportedly told Kurt Student "the day of the paratrooper is over," but the operation also delayed Barbarossa's start.

**19. D** — Was the first naval battle fought entirely by carrier-based aircraft, halting Japan's advance toward Port Moresby. American and Australian forces under Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher engaged the Japanese fleet covering the invasion of Port Moresby, with no ship ever firing on another ship by direct sight. The tactical outcome was roughly a draw, with each side losing an aircraft carrier (the USS Lexington and Japan's Shoho), but the strategic blocking of the invasion and the damage to Shokaku and Zuikaku helped pave the way for the decisive American victory at Midway one month later.

**20. C** — Saw an Australian-led Commonwealth garrison hold the fortified Libyan port against Rommel's Afrika Korps for 241 days. The "Rats of Tobruk" — including the Australian 9th Division and British, Indian, and Polish troops — denied Rommel a vital supply port and tied down Axis forces during his drive toward Egypt. The siege was lifted in November 1941 by Operation Crusader, although Tobruk fell to Rommel in June 1942 before the German advance was finally stopped at El Alamein.

**21. B** — Brought Władysław Gomułka to power as a reform-minded communist leader, narrowly avoiding direct Soviet military intervention. Mass protests over food prices in Poznań earlier in the year pushed the

Polish United Workers' Party to recall Gomułka, who had been purged for "Titoist" tendencies, just as Khrushchev arrived in Warsaw with the threat of a Soviet invasion. Gomułka's promise to remain loyal to the Warsaw Pact while pursuing modest internal reform let Poland step back from the brink even as Hungary's own uprising was being crushed.

**22. D** — Restored democracy under Konstantinos Karamanlis after the collapse of the military junta following the Cyprus crisis. The colonels' regime that had ruled since the 1967 coup d'état engineered a botched coup against Cypriot president Makarios in July 1974, triggering the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Discredited at home and abroad, the junta collapsed within days, Karamanlis returned from exile in Paris to form a government, and Greeks voted in a 1974 referendum to abolish the monarchy.

**23. A** — Saw British paratroopers shoot dead 14 unarmed civil rights demonstrators, dramatically escalating the Northern Ireland Troubles. The 1st Battalion, Parachute Regiment opened fire during a Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association march in the Bogside on January 30, 1972, killing 13 immediately and a fourteenth months later from his wounds. The killings boosted Provisional IRA recruitment and convinced many Catholics that peaceful protest was futile, while the 2010 Saville Inquiry finally confirmed that all the dead were innocent and triggered a formal apology from Prime Minister David Cameron.

**24. C** — Killed Bobby Sands and nine other prisoners, with Sands elected to the British Parliament during the strike, energizing Sinn Féin. After the Thatcher government revoked "special category" political status for paramilitary prisoners, IRA and INLA inmates refused food in sequence, demanding the right to wear their own clothes, free association, and exemption from prison work. Sands's election as MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone before his death after 66 days transformed Sinn Féin's strategy and laid the foundation for the "Armalite and ballot box" political path leading eventually to the Good Friday Agreement.

**25. B** — Gave the Republic of Ireland a formal consultative role in Northern Ireland's affairs, angering unionists and Ulster Protestants. Signed by Margaret Thatcher and Garret FitzGerald at Hillsborough Castle, the agreement set up an Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference allowing Dublin to make representations on security, justice, and political matters in the North. Although unionists held huge "Ulster Says No" rallies and the Democratic Unionist Party and Ulster Unionist Party walked out of Stormont, the agreement is now seen as a key precursor to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998.

**26. B** — Was a Provisional IRA attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during the annual Conservative Party conference. IRA volunteer Patrick Magee planted a long-delay timer bomb in the Grand Hotel weeks in advance, and it detonated in the early hours of October 12, killing five people including MP Anthony Berry and seriously injuring Norman Tebbit's wife Margaret. Thatcher narrowly escaped and famously delivered her scheduled conference speech later that morning, declaring that "all attempts to destroy democracy by terrorism will fail."

**27. D** — Was the killing of hundreds of Palestinian and Lebanese Shia civilians by Christian Phalangist militias while Israeli forces controlled the area. Following the assassination of Christian president-elect Bashir Gemayel, Israeli forces under Defense Minister Ariel Sharon allowed Phalangist fighters into the camps to root out PLO militants, where they instead massacred hundreds, perhaps thousands, of civilians

over three days. The Israeli Kahan Commission later found Sharon personally responsible for failing to prevent the bloodshed, forcing him to resign as defense minister.

**28. C** — Saw President Boris Yeltsin order tanks to shell the parliament building after a standoff with the Supreme Soviet, then push through a strong presidential constitution. After months of paralysis between Yeltsin and a Soviet-era parliament led by Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and Vice President Alexander Rutskoy, Yeltsin dissolved the legislature unconstitutionally in September. The October standoff ended with tanks firing on the White House on live television, the arrest of parliamentary leaders, and a December referendum approving the strong presidential 1993 constitution that has shaped Russian politics ever since.

**29. A** — Saw the ruble devalue sharply, Russia default on its domestic debt, and ordinary Russians lose most of their savings. After years of mounting budget deficits, falling oil prices, and contagion from the Asian financial crisis, the Russian government in August 1998 devalued the ruble, defaulted on its short-term GKO bonds, and imposed a moratorium on payments to foreign creditors. The crisis discredited the liberal economic team around Yegor Gaidar and Anatoly Chubais, paved the way for the rise of Vladimir Putin under Yeltsin, and forced major adjustments at the IMF.

**30. C** — Killed roughly 300 people in Moscow, Volgograd, and Buynaksk, were blamed on Chechen terrorists, and helped fuel Vladimir Putin's rise to power. The bombings of apartment buildings in the middle of the night terrified Russian society and gave then-Prime Minister Putin the political opening to launch the Second Chechen War, vowing to "wipe out the terrorists in the outhouse." A suspicious incident in Ryazan, where FSB officers were caught with hexogen explosives, fueled persistent claims that elements of the Russian security services were involved, though the Kremlin has consistently denied any role.

**31. D** — Saw Russian forces level Grozny, install a pro-Moscow Chechen government under Akhmad and then Ramzan Kadyrov, and crush separatist resistance. Vladimir Putin launched the war shortly after the apartment bombings and a Chechen incursion into Dagestan, using overwhelming firepower that left Grozny in ruins. The Kremlin installed former mufti Akhmad Kadyrov, and after his 2004 assassination his son Ramzan as a ruthless local strongman whose paramilitaries enforce Moscow's control over the region.

**32. B** — Was the first international war crimes tribunal since Nuremberg and Tokyo, eventually convicting figures including Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić. Established by UN Security Council Resolution 827 and seated in The Hague, the ICTY indicted 161 individuals over its life and held 90-plus convictions for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Slobodan Milošević died in custody in 2006 before his trial concluded, while Bosnian Serb leaders Karadžić and Mladić received life sentences for the Srebrenica genocide and other crimes.

**33. A** — Saw Israeli pager and walkie-talkie attacks, airstrikes that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, and a ground incursion into southern Lebanon. After nearly a year of cross-border fire that displaced tens of thousands on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border, Israel detonated thousands of weaponized pagers and walkie-talkies in September 2024, killing and wounding Hezbollah operatives across Lebanon. An airstrike on Hezbollah's headquarters killed Nasrallah, an Israeli ground operation followed, and a U.S.- and French-brokered ceasefire took effect in late November.

**34. D** — Came after a swift offensive by rebel forces led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, sending Assad into exile in Russia after more than 50 years of family rule. Beginning with the fall of Aleppo on November 30 and accelerating through Hama and Homs, the rebel offensive faced little resistance as Iranian and Russian backing for Assad weakened amid the wars in Ukraine and Lebanon. Assad fled to Moscow on December 8, ending 24 years of his rule and 54 years of Assad family power, and HTS leader Ahmad al-Sharaa (Abu Mohammad al-Jolani) emerged as the dominant transitional figure.

**35. A** — Saw Italy seize the Ottoman provinces of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, beginning Italian colonial rule over what became Libya. Italy declared war in September 1911 and quickly seized the Libyan coast, although Senussi resistance in the interior continued for years. The war exposed Ottoman military weakness, encouraged the Balkan League to launch the First Balkan War in 1912, and saw the first ever use of aircraft to drop bombs in combat over Tripoli.