

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Geopolitical Chess: Prove Your Mastery of 12th Grade Global Affairs

Examine shifting power dynamics and legislative impacts beyond the headlines using high-level synthesis of contemporary international relations and economic policy.

1. The 'Middle Income Trap' is a recurring theme in emerging market analysis. Which contemporary strategy is Vietnam currently utilizing to bypass this economic plateau compared to historical predecessors?

Answer: A) Transitioning from low-cost manufacturing to a high-tech 'semiconductor corridor' through strategic Western partnerships.

Vietnam is actively leveraging the 'China Plus One' strategy by upgrading its workforce and infrastructure to attract high-value tech manufacturing, specifically in semiconductors, to avoid stagnating at middle-income levels.

2. The concept of 'Strategic Autonomy' in modern European Union foreign policy refers to the goal of decreasing dependence on external powers for security and critical supply chains.

Answer: A) True

Strategic Autonomy is a key pillar of contemporary EU discourse, emphasizing the need for the bloc to act independently in matters of defense, energy, and technology.

3. The BRICS+ bloc recently expanded to include several new nations. This expansion is widely viewed by analysts as a challenge to the hegemony of the ____.

Answer: B) G7 and the existing Bretton Woods financial system

The expansion of BRICS (to include countries like Iran, Ethiopia, and others) is specifically designed to create an alternative to Western-led institutions like the G7 and the IMF/World Bank.

4. When analyzing the 'Blue Economy' initiatives in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Mauritius, which factor presents the most significant conflict between environmental preservation and economic sovereignty?

Answer: C) Deep-sea mining prospects for rare earth minerals vs. coral reef biodiversity.

SIDS face a complex trade-off between the potential high revenue from deep-sea mining for battery minerals and the devastating potential impact on the marine ecosystems they rely on.

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5. In the context of modern information warfare, the term '____ Architecture' refers to the design of social media algorithms that prioritize engagement over factual accuracy, often leading to polarization.

Answer: D) Attention

The 'Attention Economy' or 'Attention Architecture' focuses on capturing user time for ad revenue, which frequently results in the algorithmic promotion of sensationalist or divisive content.

6. The 'Resource Curse' (or Dutch Disease) suggests that nations with an abundance of natural resources, like lithium in the 'Lithium Triangle,' are guaranteed to experience higher democratic stability and economic equality.

Answer: B) False

The Resource Curse actually describes the paradox where countries with an abundance of natural resources often experience less economic growth, less democracy, and worse development outcomes.

7. How does the 'right to be forgotten'—a key component of the EU's GDPR—illustrate a fundamental divergence between European and American legal philosophies regarding current events in the digital age?

Answer: A) Europe prioritizes individual privacy rights, whereas the U.S. prioritizes First Amendment freedom of information.

This tension highlights the conflict between the European focus on 'dignity' and personal privacy versus the American legal emphasis on 'liberty' and the public's right to access information.

8. The 'Thucydides Trap' is a term frequently used by political scientists to describe the high risk of conflict when a rising power, like contemporary ____, threatens to displace a ruling power, like the United States.

Answer: B) China

Graham Allison's theory of the Thucydides Trap is most commonly applied today to the structural tension between the U.S. (incumbent power) and China (rising power).

9. In modern journalism, 'Lateral Reading' involves staying on one webpage to verify its claims through the site's 'About Us' section rather than opening new tabs to check external sources.

Answer: B) False

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Lateral reading actually refers to the practice of leaving the original site to see what other, trusted sources say about that site's claims or the site itself.

10. Contemporary 'Water Diplomacy' in the Nile River Basin, specifically regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), primarily revolves around which existential concern for downstream nations like Egypt?

Answer: C) National security threats related to water scarcity and agricultural collapse.

For Egypt, the Nile is the primary source of fresh water; any upstream control of flow by Ethiopia represents a direct threat to Egypt's food security and national stability.