

Name: _____ Date: _____

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?

- A. Transitioning from low-cost manufacturing to a high-tech 'semiconductor corridor' through strategic Western partnerships.
- B. Implementing a strict isolationist monetary policy to peg the dong against the gold standard.
- C. Shifting the entire national economy to a decentralized cryptocurrency-based ledger system.
- D. Abandoning industrialization in favor of a purely agrarian export-led growth model.

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.

- A. True
- B. False

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 _____.

- A. African Union's regional trade agreements
- B. G7 and the existing Bretton Woods financial system
- C. Mercosur's dominance in South American agriculture
- D. ASEAN's diplomatic neutrality protocols

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?

- A. The outlawing of all forms of subsistence fishing to promote luxury tourism.
- B. The prohibition of satellite internet to protect local cable monopolies.
- C. Deep-sea mining prospects for rare earth minerals vs. coral reef biodiversity.
- D. The mandatory conversion of all maritime vessels to nuclear propulsion by 2030.

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.

- A. Open-Source
- B. Choice
- C. Resilient
- D. Attention

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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.

- A. True
- B. False

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?

- A. Europe prioritizes individual privacy rights, whereas the U.S. prioritizes First Amendment freedom of information.
- B. The U.S. has banned all search engines, while Europe encourages them to delete history at will.
- C. Europe requires all news to be deleted after 48 hours, while the U.S. archives it forever.
- D. The U.S. uses the 'right to be forgotten' to protect corporations, while Europe uses it for governments.

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.

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Germany
- D. Brazil

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.

- A. True
- B. False

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?

- A. The loss of hydro-electric potential in the Sahara Desert.
- B. The reduction of annual silt deposits for urban construction.
- C. National security threats related to water scarcity and agricultural collapse.
- D. The cooling of the Mediterranean Sea due to decreased inflow.