

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Macro Realities, Micro Fates: College Current Events Analysis

Students synthesize geopolitical shifts and domestic policy trajectories to evaluate the long-term socioeconomic implications of contemporary international crises.

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**1. In the context of the 'resource curse' or Dutch Disease, how does a sudden surge in a nation's export of critical minerals for the green energy transition typically impact its domestic manufacturing sector?**

- A. It bolsters manufacturing by providing cheaper raw materials for local production.
- B. It strengthens the local currency, making domestic manufactured goods less competitive globally.
- C. It stabilizes the labor market by diversifying employment across all economic sectors.
- D. It leads to a mandatory reduction in corporate tax rates to encourage foreign investment.

**2. The concept of 'Strategic Autonomy' in European Union foreign policy refers to the Union's ability to act militarily and economically without reliance on traditional transatlantic alliances.**

- A. True
- B. False

**3. The ongoing shift toward 'near-shoring' or 'friend-shoring' in global supply chains is primarily a reactive strategy intended to mitigate risks associated with \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Hyper-globalization and low interest rates
- B. Geopolitical volatility and over-reliance on adversarial nations
- C. Universal Basic Income implementation in developing states
- D. The decline of digital currencies in emerging markets

**4. When analyzing the 'democratic backsliding' observed in some Eastern European or Latin American nations, which indicator is most often cited by political scientists as a precursor to systemic change?**

- A. The rapid expansion of universal healthcare programs
- B. The centralization of executive power and erosion of judicial independence
- C. A shift from gold-backed currency to fiat currency
- D. The increasing participation of youth in digital equity forums

**5. The 'Thucydides Trap' is a contemporary analytical framework used to argue that conflict is inevitable when a rising power threatens to displace an existing hegemon.**

- A. True
- B. False

**6. The emergence of 'Central Bank Digital Currencies' (CBDCs) represents a significant shift in monetary policy, potentially allowing governments to directly manage \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Peer-to-peer bartering in rural economies
- B. The total elimination of the national debt within one fiscal year
- C. Consumer liquidity and the direct distribution of fiscal stimulus

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D. The physical printing of antiquated paper currency notes

**7. Which of the following best describes the 'Brussels Effect' in the context of international regulatory trends?**

- A. The tendency of NATO members to increase defense spending during Belgian summits
- B. The process by which EU data privacy and environmental standards become the de facto global norm
- C. The migration of tech startups from Silicon Valley to Western Europe
- D. The specific economic downturn associated with the adoption of the Euro

**8. In modern geopolitical analysis, 'Lawfare' refers to the use of \_\_\_\_\_ as a substitute for traditional military means to achieve a political or military objective.**

- A. High-altitude surveillance balloons
- B. Legal systems and international judicial bodies
- C. Deep-sea mining expeditions
- D. Biometric data encryption

**9. The concept of the 'Splinternet' suggests that the global World Wide Web is fragmenting into distinct regional networks controlled by different sets of regulations and censorship.**

- A. True
- B. False

**10. What is the primary implication of 'Soft Power' in Joseph Nye's framework for assessing a nation's global influence?**

- A. The ability to coerce other nations through economic sanctions
- B. The strength of a nation's military industrial complex
- C. The ability to shape the preferences of others through appeal and attraction
- D. The total value of a nation's Sovereign Wealth Fund