

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

## Answer Key: Grand Strategy: The College Geopolitics Survival Guide

Develop high-level analytical skills by evaluating the impact of maritime access, landmass theories, and resource scarcity on sovereign policy.

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**1. Which geopolitical theory suggests that control over the 'World Island' (Eurasia-Africa) is the key to global hegemony, emphasizing the strategic importance of the Eastern European pivot?**

**Answer:** B) Mackinder's Heartland Theory

Halford Mackinder proposed that control of the 'Heartland'—primarily the interior of Eurasia—would allow a power to dominate the world island and eventually the world.

**2. The 'Blue Banana' refers to a discontinuous corridor of urbanization in Western Europe that shapes the continent's economic and political core.**

**Answer:** A) True

The Blue Banana is a recognized spatial concept in geopolitics and urban planning, stretching from North West England to Northern Italy, highlighting the concentration of industry and power.

**3. How does the 'Resource Curse' (Dutch Disease) typically affect the geopolitical stability of a developing nation?**

**Answer:** C) It often results in authoritarianism and vulnerability to market fluctuations.

Reliance on a single high-value resource often concentrates wealth in the hands of the elite, stagnates other economic sectors, and breeds political corruption.

**4. The strategically vital \_\_\_\_\_ is a narrow passage between the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, through which a significant portion of the world's liquefied natural gas passes.**

**Answer:** C) Strait of Hormuz

The Strait of Hormuz is internationally recognized as the most critical oil and gas chokepoint globally due to the volume of transit.

**5. Evaluating the 'Rimland' theory by Nicholas Spykman, what is the primary strategic priority for a global superpower?**

**Answer:** B) Controlling the coastal fringes surrounding Eurasia.

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

Spykman argued that the Rimland—the coastal areas of Eurasia—was more vital than the Heartland because it provided access to both sea and land power.

**6. A 'Thalassocracy' is a state that derives its primary power from the control of land-based trade routes rather than naval supremacy.**

**Answer:** B) False

A thalassocracy is a state with primarily maritime realms, such as the Carthaginian Empire or the British Empire at its height.

**7. The concept of \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the projection of a state's power beyond its borders through economic, cultural, and political influence rather than military force.**

**Answer:** C) Soft Power

Coined by Joseph Nye, Soft Power is the ability to shape the preferences of others through appeal and attraction.

**8. What geopolitical phenomenon is characterized by the desire of a state to annex territory inhabited by people of the same ethnic or linguistic group in a neighboring country?**

**Answer:** C) Irredentism

Irredentism involves political or popular movement to reclaim a 'lost' or 'unredeemed' area based on historical or ethnic claims.

**9. The 'Nine-Dash Line' is a geographic delimiter used by South American nations to settle fishing rights in the Amazon River basin.**

**Answer:** B) False

The Nine-Dash Line refers to the demarcation line used by China for its claims in the South China Sea.

**10. An 'Exclave' is a portion of a state that is geographically separated from the main part by the territory of one or more foreign states, such as \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** A) Kaliningrad (Russia)

Kaliningrad is a Russian territory on the Baltic Sea, separated from the rest of Russia by Lithuania and Poland.