

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Geopolitical Chess: Winning the Global Game (9th Grade)

Crack 10 strategic puzzles focusing on demographic shifts, maritime law, and how landlocked status impacts a nation's sovereign power.

1. A nation that is completely surrounded by water and utilizes its territory to control underwater fiber-optic cables is exercising power through which geographic concept?

Answer: B) Thalassocracy

Thalassocracy refers to a state with primarily maritime realms, such as an island empire, where power is derived from the sea and naval connectivity.

2. True or False: According to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extends 2,000 nautical miles from a country's coast.

Answer: B) False

The standard EEZ extends only 200 nautical miles from the baseline, giving a state rights over natural resources in that area.

3. The _____ Theory, proposed by Halford Mackinder, suggests that whoever controls Eastern Europe and Northern Asia (the 'pivot area') could eventually dominate the world.

Answer: C) Heartland

Mackinder's Heartland Theory emphasized the strategic importance of the Eurasian interior compared to maritime borders.

4. Bolivia remains at a geopolitical disadvantage compared to its neighbors primarily because it transitioned to being a _____ state after the War of the Pacific.

Answer: B) Landlocked

Landlocked states lack direct access to the ocean, which often increases trade costs and reduces strategic maritime influence.

5. True or False: Geopolitically, 'Shatterbelts' are regions located between stronger colliding external cultural-political forces under persistent stress.

Answer: A) True

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Shatterbelts, like the Balkans or the Middle East, are regions where internal conflicts are often worsened by the intervention of global powers.

6. Critical mineral disputes today often focus on _____, which are essential for manufacturing electric vehicle batteries and high-tech weaponry.

Answer: A) Rare Earth Elements

Rare Earth Elements (REEs) are a modern geopolitical flashpoint as countries compete to secure supply chains for 21st-century technology.

7. Which term describes a sovereign state whose internal affairs are dominated by another more powerful state, often used during the Cold War in Eastern Europe?

Answer: C) Satellite state

A satellite state is technically independent but remains under heavy political, economic, and military influence from another nation.

8. True or False: Supranationalism occurs when three or more countries form an alliance for mutual benefit, which may involve giving up some individual sovereignty.

Answer: A) True

Organizations like the European Union (EU) or African Union (AU) are examples of supranationalism where members cooperate on shared goals.

9. When a country like Turkey sits on two continents, it is known as a _____ state, often providing it with unique geopolitical leverage.

Answer: C) Transcontinental

Transcontinental states bridge more than one continent, allowing them to act as physical and cultural gateways between regions.

10. The concept of 'Soft Power' in geopolitics refers to a nation's ability to influence others through:

Answer: C) Culture, values, and diplomacy

Soft power uses attraction and persuasion (like media or education) rather than coercion (hard power like military force) to achieve international goals.