

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Think You Can Redraw the Map? 9th Grade Geopolitics Challenge

Macro-scale strategy, territorial disputes, and maritime law—analyze how geography dictates the survival of nations through synthesize-level scenarios.

1. A landlocked nation like Bolivia faces the 'geopolitical trap' of dependency on neighbors for maritime access. Which international legal framework primarily governs their right to transit to the high seas?

Answer: B) UNCLOS (UN Convention on the Law of the Sea)

UNCLOS provides specific provisions for landlocked states, granting them the right of access to and from the sea and freedom of transit through 'transit states'.

2. In the context of the 'Heartland Theory' proposed by Halford Mackinder, the pivot area primarily encompasses the interior of which landmass?

Answer: C) Eurasia

Mackinder's Heartland Theory posited that whoever controlled Central Asia/Eastern Europe (the Heartland of Eurasia) would eventually command the world.

3. True or False: A 'shatterbelt' refers to a region where local political fragmentation is aggravated by the intervention of external great powers.

Answer: A) True

Shatterbelts, such as Southeast Asia during the 20th century or the Caucasus today, are zones of chronic instability where global powers compete for influence.

4. Assess the strategic importance of the 'Blue Banana' corridor in Europe. What does this concept primarily describe?

Answer: C) A discontinuous urban corridor of high economic density

The Blue Banana is a discontinuous corridor of urbanization spreading from Northwest England to Northern Italy, representing Europe's core economic power center.

5. The concept of 'Lebensraum,' used to justify territorial expansion, was significantly influenced by the organic theory of state growth developed by _____.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Answer: A) Friedrich Ratzel

Ratzel compared the state to a biological organism that requires 'living space' (Lebensraum) to grow, a concept later misappropriated by the Third Reich.

6. True or False: An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) typically extends 12 nautical miles from a country's coast, giving them total sovereignty over all travel.

Answer: B) False

The EEZ extends 200 nautical miles, but it primarily grants rights to resources; it does not grant total sovereignty over navigation as territorial waters (12 miles) do.

7. Which term describes a boundary that was drawn across an area before it was well-populated or before the current cultural landscape developed?

Answer: B) Antecedent boundary

Antecedent boundaries, like the 49th parallel between the US and Canada, are established before the cultural landscape is fully formed.

8. The 'Rimland Theory,' which argues that control of the maritime fringes of Eurasia is more important than the interior, was proposed by _____.

Answer: B) Nicholas Spykman

Spykman's Rimland Theory challenged Mackinder, suggesting that the coastal edges (Rimland) were the key to global containment and power.

9. True or False: Supranationalism requires member states to give up some level of individual sovereignty to a higher collective body.

Answer: A) True

Organizations like the EU exemplify supranationalism, where nations yield certain powers (like currency or trade policy) to the group's governance.

10. Which geopolitical phenomenon occurs when a minority group within a state seeks greater autonomy or separation, potentially leading to the state breaking apart?

Answer: B) Devolution

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Devolution is the transfer of power from a central government to subnational levels, often driven by ethnic or regional pressures that threaten national unity.