

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Deciphering the Petrodollar: A 10th Grade Modern Era Challenge

Synthesize the geopolitical shifts and economic complexities that redefined American hegemony from the 1973 oil embargo through the digital transformation.

1. The 1978 Camp David Accords represented a landmark shift in U.S. foreign policy by brokering peace between which two historically antagonistic nations?

Answer: B) Egypt and Israel

Brokered by President Jimmy Carter, the Accords established a framework for peace in the Middle East, specifically ending the state of war between Egypt and Israel.

2. The _____, a political scandal during the Reagan administration, involved the secret sale of weapons to a Middle Eastern adversary to fund anti-communist rebels in Central America.

Answer: C) Iran-Contra Affair

The Iran-Contra Affair bypassed Congressional oversight by using funds from Iranian arms sales to support the Contras in Nicaragua, challenging constitutional checks and balances.

3. The 'Stagflation' of the 1970s was unique because it featured high unemployment and high inflation simultaneously, contradicting traditional Keynesian economic theories.

Answer: A) True

Historically, inflation and unemployment had an inverse relationship; stagflation forced economists to rethink monetary policy and led to the rise of supply-side economics.

4. Which 1990s legislative act significantly restructured the American social safety net by introducing work requirements and time limits for welfare recipients?

Answer: C) The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act

Signed by Bill Clinton in 1996, this act represented a bipartisan shift toward 'welfare-to-work' policies, fundamentally changing federal assistance programs.

5. The 1992 election of _____ highlighted the growing influence of third-party candidates, as he captured nearly 19% of the popular vote by focusing on the national debt.

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Answer: B) Ross Perot

Ross Perot's populist, anti-deficit campaign resonated with voters dissatisfied with the two-party system and influenced the fiscal policies of the ensuing decade.

6. The 'Bush Doctrine,' established after the 9/11 attacks, argued that the United States had the right to engage in preemptive strikes against perceived threats to national security.

Answer: A) True

This policy shifted U.S. strategy from containment/deterrence to preemption, serving as the primary justification for the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

7. Which landmark SCOTUS decision in 2010 altered the landscape of modern American elections by allowing corporations and unions to spend unlimited sums on political ads?

Answer: C) Citizens United v. FEC

The Court ruled that political spending is a form of protected speech under the First Amendment, leading to the rise of Super PACs.

8. The _____ of 1994, though controversial, aimed to reduce violent crime but has since been criticized for its role in the dramatic increase of mass incarceration in the U.S.

Answer: B) Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act

Often called the Clinton Crime Bill, it included 'three strikes' provisions and incentives for states to build more prisons, disproportionately affecting minority communities.

9. The 1972 SALT I treaty between the U.S. and the Soviet Union was a primary example of 'Détente,' a policy aimed at easing Cold War tensions through diplomacy.

Answer: A) True

The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) were central to the policy of Détente, focusing on nuclear arms control to reduce the risk of global conflict.

10. The 'Gig Economy' and the rise of platform-based labor (like Uber or TaskRabbit) in the 2010s is best described as a reflection of which broader economic trend?

Answer: B) The transition to a decentralized service economy

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Technological advancement allowed for the decentralization of labor, offering flexibility but also creating new debates regarding workers' rights and benefits in a post-industrial society.