

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

## Geopolitical Chess for College Strategists

Synthesize spatial theory and tectonic power shifts through critical evaluation of the Rimland hypothesis and maritime hegemony in the Indo-Pacific.

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**1. Evaluate the contemporary relevance of Nicholas Spykman's Rimland Theory. Which scenario best illustrates a modern application of this strategy to contain a central Eurasian power?**

- A. The development of the Northern Sea Route as an internal Russian waterway.
- B. The strengthening of the 'Quad' alliance between the U.S., Japan, Australia, and India.
- C. Bolivia's pursuit of a sovereign corridor to the Pacific Ocean through Chile.
- D. The expansion of agricultural subsidies within the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy.

**2. According to the principles of 'Critical Geopolitics,' the concept of the 'state' is viewed as an objective, naturally occurring geographical entity rather than a discursive construct used to exercise power.**

- A. True
- B. False

**3. The concept of \_\_\_\_\_, often attributed to Friedrich Ratzel, suggests that states function as organic entities that must expand their territory to remain healthy, an idea later misappropriated as 'Lebensraum'.**

- A. Environmental Determinism
- B. Possibilism
- C. Biogeopolitics
- D. The Organic Theory of the State

**4. Analyzing the 'String of Pearls' strategy in the Indian Ocean, which geopolitical concept best explains the acquisition of port facilities in Gwadar and Hambantota?**

- A. Balkanization and ethnic fragmentation
- B. Strategic depth through territorial annexation
- C. Power projection through maritime chokepoint proximity
- D. Supranationalism through the African Union

**5. The 'Blue Economy' framework explores how nations can leverage maritime resources for sustainable development, yet it frequently exacerbates 'territorialization' disputes in international waters.**

- A. True
- B. False

**6. In the context of Central Asian geopolitics, the term \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the 19th-century strategic rivalry between the British and Russian Empires, which is often used as a template for modern resource competition in the region.**

- A. The Great Game

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- B. The Silk Road Gambit
- C. The Scramble for the Steppes
- D. The Westphalian Tug

**7. How does the concept of 'Shatterbelts' (as defined by Saul Cohen) differ from traditional buffer states?**

- A. Shatterbelts are regions of internal stability that separate warring empires.
- B. Shatterbelts are strategically localized areas that are immune to global trade fluctuations.
- C. Shatterbelts are regions caught between colliding 'Great Power' spheres, characterized by chronic instability.
- D. Shatterbelts refer specifically to polar regions where borders cannot be physically demarcated.

**8. The UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) defines a nation's \_\_\_\_\_ as extending 200 nautical miles from its coast, granting it sole rights to exploit all natural resources within that area.**

- A. Contiguous Zone
- B. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- C. Territorial Sea
- D. High Seas Mandate

**9. Alfred Thayer Mahan's theory of sea power suggested that a nation's greatness is primarily determined by its ability to maintain a massive land-based army to defend internal trade routes.**

- A. True
- B. False

**10. Synthesizing the impact of 'Cyber-Geopolitics,' how does the digitalization of infrastructure challenge the traditional Westphalian notion of sovereignty?**

- A. It strengthens borders by making physical migration impossible.
- B. It eliminates the need for physical resources like rare earth minerals.
- C. It allows for the projection of power and violation of territory without physical crossing of borders.
- D. It ensures that landlocked countries have equal naval power to island nations.