

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

## Answer Key: Will Geography Redraw the Map? 7th Grade Geopolitics Challenge

Evaluate how mountain barriers, maritime lanes, and resource scarcity dictate the survival and strategy of modern nations in this advanced analytical quiz.

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**1. Bolivia remains South America's only truly 'landlocked' nation apart from Paraguay. How does this geographic reality most significantly impact its geopolitical power?**

**Answer:** B) It necessitates reliance on neighboring countries' infrastructure for global trade.

Landlocked nations lack direct access to the ocean, making them dependent on the stability and cooperation of transit neighbors to reach international markets.

**2. The concept of 'Strategic Depth' explains why a country like \_\_\_\_\_ uses its massive internal territory to absorb invasions and protect its core political centers.**

**Answer:** A) Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country; its immense size provides a buffer that complicates an enemy's ability to successfully occupy and control the entire territory.

**3. A 'shatterbelt' is a region where persistent political splintering and local conflicts are often intensified by the intervention of larger global powers.**

**Answer:** A) True

Shatterbelts are strategically located regions (like the Balkans or the Middle East) caught between the conflicting spheres of influence of major powers.

**4. The 'Basin and Range' topography of the American West creates a unique 'internal' geopolitical challenge because it:**

**Answer:** A) Makes the construction of unified transport networks extremely expensive.

High-altitude mountain ranges separated by arid basins create physical barriers that complicate and drive up the cost of building roads, rails, and pipelines.

**5. Control over the \_\_\_\_\_ is a primary geopolitical goal for Turkey because it regulates the movement of warships and trade between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.**

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**Answer:** B) Bosphorus Strait

The Bosphorus is a vital maritime chokepoint; Turkey's control of it through the Montreux Convention gives it significant leverage over regional naval movements.

**6. The 'Heartland Theory' suggests that whichever power controls the vast interior of the Eurasian continent could potentially dominate the entire world.**

**Answer:** A) True

Proposed by Halford Mackinder, this theory posits that the resource-rich 'World Island' interior is the key to global hegemony.

**7. Why is the Mekong River considered a site of 'Hydro-politics' among Southeast Asian nations like Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia?**

**Answer:** B) Upstream damming by one nation affects the water security and agriculture of downstream nations.

Hydro-politics involves conflict and cooperation over shared water resources, where upstream control can threaten the livelihoods of those living downstream.

**8. Nations often create \_\_\_\_\_ zones to expand their geopolitical influence into the ocean, claiming rights to resources 200 nautical miles from their coast.**

**Answer:** A) Exclusive Economic

Under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) allows a state to claim mineral and fishing rights far beyond its shoreline.

**9. An 'exclave' is a piece of a country's territory that is entirely surrounded by a different single country.**

**Answer:** B) False

A territory surrounded by a DIFFERENT single country is an 'enclave.' An 'exclave' is simply a territory separated from the main part of its country by the territory of one or more other states (e.g., Kaliningrad).

**10. What is the primary geopolitical reason some nations advocate for 'Buffer States' between themselves and their rivals?**

**Answer:** B) To increase the distance and reduce the likelihood of direct military friction.

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A buffer state acts as a neutral zone that prevents direct contact between two potentially hostile larger powers, reducing the risk of accidental or rapid conflict.