

Name: _____ Date: _____

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.

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

- A. It increases the nation's immunity to global economic recessions.
- B. It necessitates reliance on neighboring countries' infrastructure for global trade.
- C. It eliminates the need for a national military or border security.
- D. It guarantees a surplus of freshwater resources for agricultural export.

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.

- A. Kazakhstan
- B. Monaco
- C. South Korea
- D. The Vatican

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. Makes the construction of unified transport networks extremely expensive.
- B. Prevents the formation of high-density urban populations.
- C. Ensures an infinite supply of timber for construction.
- D. Isolates the region from any form of international trade.

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.

- A. English Channel
- B. Bosphorus Strait
- C. Bering Strait
- D. Strait of Magellan

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

- A. True

Name: _____ Date: _____

B. False

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

- A. The river is too shallow for any modern industrial use.
- B. Upstream damming by one nation affects the water security and agriculture of downstream nations.
- C. The river flows backward during half of the calendar year.
- D. Nations are fighting to prevent the river from being used for international trade.

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

- A. Exclusive Economic
- B. International Neutral
- C. No-Fly Military
- D. Agricultural Reserve

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. To encourage cultural exchange between the two rival powers.
- B. To increase the distance and reduce the likelihood of direct military friction.
- C. To create a shared space for joint industrial manufacturing.
- D. To ensure that neither rival power can access natural resources.