

Fundamentals of Geopolitics

Geopolitics · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Which theory, proposed by Halford Mackinder, identifies the Eurasian interior as the key to global dominance?

- A) The Rimland Theory
- B) The Heartland Theory**
- C) The Domino Theory
- D) The Dependency Theory

2. What concept describes the ability of a state to project military and political power across long distances, often associated with maritime supremacy?

- A) Territoriality
- B) Thalassocracy**
- C) Autarky
- D) Irredentism

3. The 'Rimland Theory', which argues that power is derived from controlling the coastal fringes of Eurasia, was popularized by which scholar?

- A) Nicholas Spykman**
- B) Alfred Thayer Mahan
- C) Friedrich Ratzel
- D) Samuel Huntington

4. What is the term for a state that is completely surrounded by the land territory of one or more other states?

- A) Enclave state
- B) Landlocked state**
- C) Buffer state
- D) Archipelagic state

5. According to the Domino Theory, which was a significant influence on Cold War geopolitical strategy, what would likely happen if one state fell to communism?

- A) Regional economic collapse
- B) Widespread democratic reform
- C) Neighboring states would likely follow**
- D) Total global isolation

6. Which waterway is considered a major global 'chokepoint' due to its strategic importance for oil transit from the Persian Gulf?

A) Strait of Hormuz

- B) Panama Canal
- C) Suez Canal
- D) Strait of Malacca

7. In geopolitical terms, what is a 'shatterbelt'?

A) A region of resource abundance

B) An area of chronic instability caught between major powers

- C) A coastal zone defined by high trade volume
- D) An island nation with no borders

8. Friedrich Ratzel, often called the father of political geography, introduced the concept of 'Lebensraum', which implies:

A) Political neutrality

B) Living space for a state's population

- C) Strict border enforcement
- D) Resource independence

9. Which international agreement established the 12-nautical-mile limit for territorial waters?

A) The Treaty of Westphalia

B) The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- C) The Antarctic Treaty
- D) The Geneva Convention

10. What type of border exists when a boundary is drawn based on cultural traits such as language, religion, or ethnicity?

- A) Physical boundary
- B) Geometric boundary

C) Consequent boundary

D) Relic boundary

11. The concept of 'soft power', defined as the ability to influence others through attraction rather than coercion, was coined by:

A) Joseph Nye

- B) Henry Kissinger
- C) George Kennan
- D) Zbigniew Brzezinski

12. A 'buffer state' is best defined as a country that:

- A) Has no military capabilities
- B) Exists between two large, competing powers to prevent conflict**
- C) Contains only one ethnic group
- D) Is a member of a global superpower alliance

13. Which geographic factor is primarily studied in 'Critical Geopolitics' as a determinant of national power?

- A) Topography and resource distribution
- B) The social construction of space and identity**
- C) Climate-controlled interior design
- D) Urban density statistics

14. What is the geopolitical significance of the 'First Island Chain' in the Pacific Ocean?

- A) It serves as a barrier for maritime containment**
- B) It is a uninhabited scientific research zone
- C) It is the primary location for global fiber-optic cables
- D) It serves as a neutral trade zone

15. The 'Great Game' refers to the 19th-century geopolitical rivalry between which two empires over Central Asia?

- A) The British and Russian Empires**
- B) The French and German Empires
- C) The Spanish and Portuguese Empires
- D) The Ottoman and Persian Empires

16. In political geography, what is an 'exclave'?

- A) A portion of state territory separated from the main part**
- B) A state that does not belong to the United Nations
- C) An area with no defined sovereignty
- D) A capital city that is not the largest city

17. Which theory posits that international trade and interdependence significantly reduce the likelihood of war between states?

- A) Liberal Institutionalism**
- B) Realist Theory
- C) Isolationism
- D) Nationalism

18. The term 'bipolarity' in international relations refers to a system dominated by:

- A) Two equal superpowers**
- B) A single global hegemon
- C) Multiple small regional powers
- D) No dominant powers

19. What geographical feature is a 'chokepoint' that connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean?

- A) Strait of Gibraltar**
- B) Strait of Messina
- C) Bosphorus Strait
- D) Dardanelles

20. Which theory focuses on the 'security dilemma', where defensive actions by one state are perceived as threats by another?

- A) Structural Realism**
- B) Constructivism
- C) Marxism
- D) Behavioralism