

Renaissance Geopolitics: A Hard Challenge

Geopolitics · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which treaty, signed in 1494, is often cited as marking the beginning of the Italian Wars and fundamentally altered the balance of power in Italy by allowing French invasion?

- A) Treaty of Lodi**
- B) Treaty of Tordesillas
- C) Treaty of Cambrai
- D) Treaty of Épinay

2. The shifting alliances and rivalries between which two major Italian city-states were a constant factor in Renaissance geopolitics, particularly during the Italian Wars?

- A) Florence and Venice**
- B) Milan and Naples
- C) Genoa and Rome
- D) Siena and Ferrara

3. The Papal States, under powerful Renaissance pontiffs like Julius II, actively engaged in geopolitical maneuvering. What was a primary objective of their military and diplomatic actions during this period?

- A) Consolidating temporal power and expanding territorial influence**
- B) Promoting artistic patronage across Europe
- C) Negotiating a unified Christian front against the Ottoman Empire
- D) Facilitating overland trade routes to Asia

4. The discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus in 1492 had immediate geopolitical implications. Which papal bull, issued in 1493, divided the newly discovered lands between Spain and Portugal?

- A) Inter caetera**
- B) Romanus Pontifex
- C) Divinae Desiderio
- D) Ineffabilis Deus

5. The rise of the Ottoman Empire presented a significant geopolitical challenge to Christian Europe throughout the Renaissance. Which pivotal naval battle in 1571 saw a Holy League fleet decisively defeat the Ottoman navy, temporarily halting their westward expansion in the Mediterranean?

A) Battle of Lepanto

- B) Siege of Rhodes
- C) Battle of Varna
- D) Siege of Constantinople

6. The Holy Roman Empire, despite its theoretical universality, was fragmented and engaged in complex dynastic and territorial struggles. Which Habsburg ruler, through strategic marriages, significantly expanded their influence and territories, becoming a dominant force in the 16th century?

A) Charles V

- B) Maximilian I
- C) Frederick III
- D) Leopold I

7. The expansion of the Kingdom of France in the late 15th and early 16th centuries was driven by monarchs seeking to consolidate royal authority and claim territories. Which territories did they primarily target and fight for during the initial phase of the Italian Wars?

A) The Duchy of Milan and the Kingdom of Naples

- B) The Republic of Venice and the Papal States
- C) The Duchy of Savoy and the Republic of Genoa
- D) The Kingdom of Sicily and the Duchy of Florence

8. The rise of potent naval powers like the Republic of Venice and the Republic of Genoa was critical for controlling Mediterranean trade routes. What technological innovation, becoming more widespread in the Renaissance, significantly impacted naval warfare and trade, leading to new geopolitical considerations?

- A) Improved sail designs and the development of larger carracks
- B) The astrolabe and more accurate navigational charts

C) The adoption of gunpowder artillery on ships

- D) The invention of the printing press for disseminating naval knowledge

9. The Iberian Peninsula experienced significant geopolitical shifts during the Renaissance, culminating in the union of two major kingdoms. The marriage of Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile in 1469 was a pivotal event leading to:

A) The unification of Spain and the completion of the Reconquista

- B) The establishment of Portuguese dominance in the Atlantic
- C) The creation of a unified Italian peninsula
- D) The expansion of the Kingdom of Navarre

10. The constant threat of the Ottoman Empire led to various attempts at Christian alliances. The League of the Rhine (1460) was an early precursor to later alliances, aimed at mutual defense. Who was a primary initiator and influential figure in the formation of such defensive leagues among German principalities during this era?

A) George of Podebrady, King of Bohemia

- B) Maximilian I, Holy Roman Emperor
- C) Frederick III, Holy Roman Emperor
- D) Ludwig II, King of Hungary and Bohemia