
Please use the following to guide your study. Remember, the answers to these questions should come from Tim Marshall’s book and not the internet—as answers may vary depending upon the source. You are on your honor when completing/using the study guide.

Introduction

1. What permanently shapes world events?

Russia

1. How does Winston Churchill feel about Russia?
2. Why did Ivan the Terrible “practice the concept of attack as defense”?
3. What is the proximity of Russia to Alaskan territory?
4. Why did Stalin draw borders for countries such as Tajikistan?
5. Why did Putin annex Crimea?

China

1. Which part of China has been most positively affected by open trade?
2. Why does China seek control of Tibet?
3. What is the paradox China faces as it continues to industrialize?

United States

1. Why was Louisiana Purchase considered vital to the country’s ascension to that of a world power?
2. What might the ramifications have been had the Mexican army won the Texas Revolution of 1835-1836?
3. In his farewell address of 1796, George Washington gave what advice?
4. Where do many US foreign policy strategists predict world-changing events will occur during the 21st century.
5. Will the US remain a global superpower in the twenty-first century? Why or why not?
Western Europe

1. What are the reasons that the countries in Northern Europe have been richer than those of the south for several centuries.
2. Why was the EU originally created?
3. Which are the two main issues that cause the British to move toward Brexit?

Africa

1. Why is Africa not as technologically or politically successful as Western Europe or North America?
2. Why have virulent diseases, such as malaria, yellow fever, and HIV proliferated in Africa?
3. Which African countries could be described as healthy democracies?
4. How have most African countries been shaped, physically?
5. What outside entities are currently heavily influencing Africa?
6. How have the rivers in Africa affected the continent and the countries within?

The Middle East

1. From where does the Middle East get its name?
2. What explains why many countries in the Middle East are shaped (i.e. borders) the way they are?
3. Review the split in Islam that happened upon the death of Muhammad and that is the result of a dispute over the prophet’s succession, creating the Sunni Muslims (85% of the world’s Muslim population) and Shia Muslims.
4. Why do Palestinians and Jews each view Jerusalem as a holy city?
5. What language is primarily in Iran?
6. What is a major threat to Iranian leadership?
7. Describe the current state of Turkey?
8. Review the results of the Arab Spring, which began in 2010.

India and Pakistan

1. Which has historically created division on the Indian Subcontinent?
2. What are China’s interests in the region?
3. What is Pakistan’s current state?
4. Which land is presently most contested by India and Pakistan, in part, due to its importance to Chinese trade relations?

Korea and Japan

1. In 1945, why was the 38th parallel chosen as the line of demarcation separating a Communist regime from a pro-America dictatorship called the Republic of Korea?
2. Since 1950, which countries have backed North Korea and South Korea?
3. Why has Japan historically cultivated seafaring trade routes between their own islands and Korea?
4. Why does Japan maintain a close alliance with the US?

Latin America

1. Has the “Latin American decade” predicted by many been realized?
2. From where did the original inhabitants of Latin America come?
3. Which country controls a vast amount of South America’s western coastline, is in need of an oil supplier, and is currently in a border dispute with Bolivia.
4. What is China’s involvement in the region?
5. With whom do the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands (Las Malvinas) identify most?

The Arctic

1. As Arctic ice melts and countries begin more frequent endeavors in the region, what will happen?
2. What are reasons for hope as the world begins the New Great Game?

Conclusion

This is important to remember: “When we are reaching for the stars, the challenges ahead are such that we will perhaps have to come together to meet them: to travel the universe not as Russians, Americans, or Chinese but as representatives of humanity. But so far, although we have broken free from the shackles of gravity, we are still imprisoned by our own mind, confined by our suspicion of the ‘other,’ and thus our primal competition for resources. There is a long way to go.”