

Chapter 1, Russia (pp. 11-37)

Key Terms:

USSR: The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was a socialist state in Eurasia that was made up of formerly independent countries. Russia was the largest and most powerful of these. It existed from 1922 to 1991.

EU: The European Union is a group of 25-30 European countries which share a common currency and whose citizens can move freely within those member countries. Each country maintains its own government but is also subject to some overall EU policies.

NATO: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is a military alliance including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and several Western European countries. It was established in 1949.

Warsaw Pact: A mutual defense organization created in 1955 including the former members of the USSR and several other Eastern European countries. It was created to balance NATO.

Questions to Answer:

- The numbers which precede each question refer to pages in the print edition.
- You may answer in complete sentences or just take notes with the essential information.
- Use your own words; if you copy too much from the text, you are not likely to remember the information as well.

12-13. What makes Russia difficult to invade? See the experiences of Napoleon and Hitler.

14. What made Russia difficult to defend when it was a young country? See the experiences of the Kievan Rus, then the Grand Principality of Muscovy.

15-16. How did the important Russian leaders Ivan the Terrible, Ivan the Great, Peter the Great, and Catherine the Great overcome these difficulties so that their country would survive and thrive?

17. Why is Russia more of a European power than an Asian one?

19. Why has the possibility of a warm-water port always been important to Russia?

20-21. How and why is control of the Ukraine important to Russia?

22-26. Why did Vladimir Putin feel he had to annex Crimea?

25. What factors might explain why the Russian government declared that it would protect “ethnic Russians” in the Ukraine? How did the Ukrainian government’s statements help lead to Russia’s declaration?

27-28. How did NATO respond to Russia’s annexation of the Crimea?

29-31. What is Moldova’s strategic importance to Russia and what might happen as a result?

29-32. How can Russia influence the Baltic States (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia) Moldova, and Georgia from within?

32-34. What natural resources are Russia's most powerful weapon in maintaining control of this region? Why are these so important?

34. How is the USA responding to Russia's use of that powerful weapon? What are we doing to counter it?

35-36. Where is Russia trying to influence squares of the geopolitical chessboard away from its borders? how is Russia faring in these places? Why?

36. What new problems does Russia face in the future? Hint: One is a problem coming from outside the country and the other comes from within.

37. What problems does Russia have now that it has always had?

Questions to Ask:

What would you like to discuss in class from this chapter? Write 3 questions. These might be about things you didn't understand or about ideas which interested you.

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Chapter 2, China

40-41. How, and why, is China flexing its muscles in the East China Sea and South China Sea? Why?

41. Why has China never tried to become a naval power?

42. Who are the Han?

42-43. How has geography shaped the history of China? Why were the Great Wall (221-207 BCE) and the Grand Canal (604-609 CE) important in China's history?

44. What impact did the Mongol invasions of the 13<sup>th</sup> century CE have on China?

44-45. Xinjiang is a region the Chinese conquered but has been a source of both instability and protection for China over the centuries. Why? ...Europeans...Japanese...

45. Why is the notion of a liberal democracy developing in China "wishful thinking"? Know who Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong were, what they did, and why they were important.

46. The Long March. – what was it? Why was it important? Look it up on google. China has evolved into a situation in 2018 of "total control for the Communist Party in a capitalist economy."

45-46. What is Taiwan? How did it emerge as an independent country?

46-52. How geography shapes a nation and a people. Focus on the place Tibet plays in China's priorities. ...Again, the importance of water ("China's Water Tower"). China perceives controlling Tibet as essential to its national security. Human rights do not play into their priorities. The "One Belt, One Road" idea is China's plan to expand trade—economic growth matters.

53. The huge port China is building at Gwadar in Pakistan is critically important for China and Pakistan both, though it will be China which calls the shots.

52-53. The Han are spreading everywhere: Tibet, Xianjing, where they bump up against the Muslim Uighurs (pronounced "Wee-ghers") who want but will not get independence from China.

54-55. Economics drives geopolitics. The Deal for its people: "We'll make you better off—you will follow our orders." And the Deal for the world: "We'll make you stuff for cheap—you buy it for cheap."

China must keep growing to feed its people and fund its ambitions. It consumes. It has to. And it's a Catch-22 (look up what that means).

And in China, the rights of the individual—so important in the West—is not the priority. The community and extended family are. Thus, the West vs East culture clash is clear.

56-57. China needs a blue-water navy, not just a green-water navy. What does that mean? Aircraft carriers are essential for blue-water navies. It has two, with a third coming. The USA has nine.

57-63. China is claiming islands as its own. Other nations are unhappy about its expansion. China wants to claim the possible gas and other resources beneath the East China Sea and the South China Sea. So do other nations. Japan, India, Philippines... This is a geopolitical chess game, and everyone wants to control critical pieces of the board. But China is the growing power.

59. Taiwan—23 million people—is independent but China wants it [back]. Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang fled there after losing the Civil War to Mao's Communist forces. The USA protects Taiwan, but for how long?

58. Only the USA can prevent them from controlling critical passageways like the Straits of Malacca, so other countries side up next to the USA. For now. Those Straits are critical choke points for global trade. Remember, always control the trade routes and choke points.

60. Demographics (population growth) and geopolitics might just decide the outcome of all this. China has 1.4 billion people. Taiwan has 23 million. So, China can utilize "soft power" to persuade other nations. (Look up what that means.)

China is playing a long game and waiting out the Americans. China is using diplomacy, building up its navy and building pipelines, roads, railroads, and ports to accomplish this goal.

63. The Americans, for their part, want to keep open global free trade (though Donald Trump's tariff wars begun this year are bafflingly contradicting a centuries-old world system begun by the Dutch in the 1600s, controlled for centuries by the British, and now led by the Americans).

62-63. China is not interested in free trade; it wants to control the waters and passageways. The USA, Japan, and other nations will not allow that. This, then, is a point of high tension.

63. The South China Sea is to the Chinese in the 21<sup>st</sup> century what the Caribbean Sea was to the Americans in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. – Robert D. Kaplan

China wishes to become a two-ocean power. And their diplomacy with nations to open new trade and energy pipeline routes is part of reducing their reliance on the Straits of Malacca.

64.. China is investing aggressively in Africa as well. It is sending tens of thousands of workers to Africa and investing billions. Where their workers go, their military will follow...

But China is not "agile." It is not as sophisticated as it is strong and lumbering, but it is unconcerned with human rights. If it can avoid conflict with Japan or the USA, its only real danger is itself.

China's great Achilles' Heel is its economy. If it falters and its people suffer economically, social unrest there could be massive.

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Chapter 3, United States

68-70. Location. Location. Location. Know what the author means when he starts the chapter this way.

70-76. You should already be aware of this general chronological history of the growth of the United States. Do note some key points: navigable rivers, New Orleans' importance, the "cultural memory" of the southwest.

77-78. Here again the vital importance of a navy—in particular, a blue-water navy—is explained by example. Thinking in terms of controlling waterways, control of the Caribbean (Cuba, Puerto Rico), then Hawai'i, then the Philippines...

The Panama Canal's importance becomes all the more important in this context.

Then Teddy Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet" in 1907 was an expression of soft and hard power.

78. "The Second World War changed everything." Why? How?

And make sure you know why the Marshall Plan was so very, very, very important in setting the course of the last 75 years of world history.

80. And there's NATO again...The notion of the two maps of the geopolitical power of the United States bears close reading. The system of alliances worldwide in case of tensions rising and threatening war or political tumult.

80-81. One three places can challenge the USA: a united Europe, Russia, and China. By now this must seem obvious to you, I hope.

Europe relies heavily on the USA for defense; and Brexit is destabilizing relationships.

Russia is limited in what it can do compared to its USSR days, but it is re-emerging nonetheless.

82-83. China is the real challenger. Obama's "pivot to China" was made because "the history of the 21st century will be written in Asia."

84 This is why a strong navy is critical to influencing the world order.

85 China is playing a "long game." What does that mean?

85-86. The US is interested in relationships with Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore because the Strait of Malacca is a critical passageway to keep open and free of Chinese control.

86-87. The Flash Points in Asia: Taiwan & Iran

Energy independence is a supreme priority for all great powers.

The US wanted to make sure Iran couldn't acquire nuclear capability. Obama signed the deal;

Trump just abrogated it. And tensions between the US & Iran are again high.

88. US interest in Latin America and the Far East will outweigh its interest in Israel (though Israel is another flash point). The USA will make sure the Panama Canal will stay open, that post-Castro Cuba will fall under American influence better... Africa remains important, but China is far more aggressive these days in building their influence in Africa.

88-89. "America's experiment (in the 2000's) with nation building overseas appears over." Know why—especially using Iraq as an example.

89. "God has special providence for fools, drunks, and the United States of America." -- Otto von Bismarck.

Understand why USA is not in decline.

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Chapter 4, Western Europe

92. "The modern world springs from Europe." The Renaissance, Enlightenment, & Industrial Revolution

Favorable climate and geography helped.

The Danube River as an important border/waterway

94 Northern Europe has been more prosperous than the south for several centuries—industrially and economically.

95 Know the unprovable theories for northern Europe's comparative prosperity.

96-99. Pay attention to the list of the major countries and how they have fared historically: France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Germany and how geography shaped them.

99 Especially understand Greece's financial woes.

99-104. This is an important section. It explains some of the political tensions and alliances pre- and post WWII, the NATO alliance today, what the "German Question" was, and the critical relationship between Germany and France today.

104-105 The European Union (EU) needs to be fully appreciated –the creation of the common currency, the Euro. "The dream of an ever-closer union" is critical, as is the quiet fear among Europeans that Germany that could become resurgent.

107-108. The prominent role over the past 300 years of the United Kingdom (U.K., or Great Britain), its oversized colonial world empire, and its "splendid isolation." --108. How geography made it a global empire....

109 The story of the Brexit is critical to understand. Brexit argues against "an ever-closer union of Europe." Proponents call for Sovereignty and for controlling immigration. These are elements of what is called "Pan-Nationalism."

110. What is the Schengen Area?

111 This discussion regarding the new culture wars, as well as the fraying of NATO, is important to understand.

112. Note the appearance here of the mention of aircraft carriers. You should now know why these vessels are so important.

113. Finally, the last paragraph, focusing on the words of former chancellor Helmut Kohl, warrant close study. History indicates why should Europe work toward unity: peace. What does that mean? Isn't peace a good answer for everyone everywhere?

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Chapter 5, Africa

116. Africa's physical geography is a challenge to building complex trade networks.

116-119. Jared Diamond wrote a very influential book in 2005 explaining how geography and other physical factors encourage or impede trade, technology, development of political systems, etc. Read these pages carefully to understand this argument.

120-121. How the Arabs and later the Europeans engaged Africa.

121 Slavery's history in Africa—its long existence, how the Arabs and Europeans increased the slave trade and increased its barbarism.

121-123. How Europeans drew lines on the map of Africa—the European “Scramble for Africa” in the late 1800s--and carved it up for their benefit—and the consequences these arbitrary lines had on Africa today. Example: Libya.

123-126. Know the tragic histories of the Congo and Rwanda & how the decisions of European colonialists.

127. The Nile River and Egypt.

128. Importance of the Suez Canal... Egypt's tension with Ethiopia....Water's importance.

129. Oil and Nigeria. Another arbitrarily set of national borders. Most populous nation in Africa. 177 million people.

130. Know what Boko Haram (Wilayat al Sudan al Gharbi) is and what its goals are.

132. Know about Angola and its history as a pawn in the Cold War between the USSR and the USA.

133-136. The Chinese are all over Africa, investing, developing, influencing places like Kenya, Tanzania, Niger, South Africa... Know what China wants out of Africa. Know the East African Community of 5 nations.

135. Again, consider China's attitude regarding human rights.

136-138. Understand South Africa's economic interests and goals. Know the South African Development Community and why it exists.

The new scramble for Africa contains a “scramble within” by African countries themselves now.

139-140. Understand how Africa now has to “embrace the modern globalized world to which it is connected.” This means harnessing its natural resources, use technology to overcome its geographic disadvantages, fight rampant political and economic corruption.

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## Chapter 6, The Middle East

142-145. Understand how it was that the political boundaries of the modern Middle East were set. Of particular note is to understand the Sykes-Picot Treaty (144) between Britain and France at the end of WWI. This is crucial to understanding current events.

145-147. The split between the Sunni and the Shia is critical to understanding Islamic history. Pay special attention to this section. At the bottom of 145 & 146 is a description of the various schools of Sunni Islamic thought, the Hanbali school, which has influenced the jihadis (ISIS, al Qaeda, etc) today.

146 The ultra-puritans of the Salafi school; the Shia, too, have divisions—the Twelvers, the Ismaili School, and the Zaidi school.  
And then further afield are the Druze and the Alawites.

Iraq is a mix of Sunni and Shia, Iran is primarily Shia. 85% of Muslims are Sunni, however.

147-149. Know who the Kurds are and what they want.

149-150. Know the Hashemite Kingdom, which we call Jordan today. Know that the British promised the Saudis and the Hashemites the same thing.

150-152. Know the French ruled Lebanon. Also know that part of Lebanon is controlled by a Shiite militia backed by Iran called Hezbollah.

152-154. Know the history of Syria ruled by the Assad family of dictators, who are Alawites.

153. Also know what the Muslim Brotherhood is. It is important.

154-160. This section on The Islamic State (ISIS, or DAESH) is critical. Especially know what is meant by “caliphate.”

160. “The Arab version of the Thirty Years’ War” (1618-1648). Historical comparisons are crucial in APWH.

161-166. The Arab-Israeli conflict is center stage on these pages. The history of events that have created the conflict is presented here.

162 Jewish Homeland...163 Six-Day War...164 The Gaza Strip...The West Bank...what drives Israel’s defense strategy...166 The Golan Heights...

166-170. The section on Iran begins here. Iran is not Arab; it is Persian. They speak Farsi, though the language of Islam is Arabic.

168 Iran’s nuclear weapons plans...the ayatollahs...169 the importance of the Straits of Hormuz...why Iran is anti-US...

170. Know why Iran and Saudi Arabia are regional rivals, not allies.

171-175. The awkward place of Turkey in the region is explored here. 172. Know Mustafa Kemal (Aataturk)...President Recep Tayyip Erdogan 173... the tense relationship between Russia and Turkey....the importance of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits...why Turkey wants to join the EU...and, again, the Kurdish problem.

175-179 . Know what the “Arab Spring” or “Arab Uprising” was and why it did not succeed. Page 176 has an especially important explanation contrasting the fall of communism in Europe in 1989 and the Arab Uprising. 177 & 178 the author critiques Western naivete about the social factors that prevent democracy from taking real root in the Middle East...Note that the Chinese are now a presence in the Middle East.

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Chapter 7, India and Pakistan

182. This chapter focuses on the South Asia. The headline is “India and Pakistan HATE each other.” Your job is to understand why...

183. As is so often the case, geography and history (the Umayyad Muslim expansion into India in the 7th and 8th centuries CE and European imperialism of the 18th and 19th centuries) bound these two countries together. Understanding the causes of the animosity between the two is critical.

Look at the map on pages 180-181. Pakistan & Bangladesh used to be one country (1946-1971) separated by hundreds of miles.

184 Pakistan’s development of nuclear weapons is a great equalizer in a competition between two very different nations.

186. In 1947, after WWII, the British departed India, leaving huge problems behind for the people to deal with. There was a huge migration of millions of people in opposite directions. Understand why.

185 Know why Pakistan is so difficult to unify.

189. Know why the port city of Gwadar is so critical, regionally and globally. What is it important in relationship to the Strait of Malacca for China?

Do you see how essential economic activity is for every country throughout history???

191. Know why Kashmir is such a place of contention between India and Pakistan. Look up the Mumbai Massacre of 2008 by Islamic extremists.

192. Know why access to WATER is so critical.

193. You need to understand the very complicated diplomatic relationships of the last 40 years (the old word is “byzantine” for reasons we’ll understand later) among the USSR, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Taliban, al Qaeda, and the United States. Each country has different priorities,

each depends on another for something. Massive military might is not always appropriate when situations are local or regional.

194. What is the Durand Line? Why is Peshawar important?

195-201. How did September 11, 2001, change everything? What followed from that day's events?

195. What is Islamabad?

198. Osama bin Laden is an important figure in all this. Why?

200. What is the most likely scenario to play out in Afghanistan?

201. Understand India's relationship with China.

201-205. Who is the Dalai Lama? Why is the movement for Tibetan independence not going to succeed?

204. Why is India finding it advantageous to side up next to the United States?

205. And in the end, "With India, it always comes back to Pakistan, and with Pakistan, to India."

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### Chapter 8, Korea and Japan

208-212 Explains the history of the current political tensions around North Korea.

209. Look up what a Catch-22 is.

211 Kim Jong Un

212 The Hermit Kingdom...the Yalu River...the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel

212-215. The history of WWII and the history of the Korean War

215-216. South Korea becomes the focus of the chapter...know what the DMZ is.

216-218. This section explains how a war might proceed between North Korea and South Korea and that it would likely be catastrophic.

218-220. The political and economic considerations and consequences of a war on the Korean peninsula.

220-222. This section explores Japan's geography and how it shaped its history.... "The Divine Wind" ...Today, Japan's 127 million people live mainly on four islands...It became a maritime power which imitated the western model in the late 1800s and in 1905 defeated Russia. But, then as now, it has few natural resources and must import gas and oil and coal.

222-224. Japan's role in WWII, why it attacked the USA at Pearl Harbor, why it was a massive overstretch which led to the nuclear catastrophes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and why Japan has only recently begun re-arming militarily.

224. Chapter II, Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution...

224. "Collective Defense"

225. Know why it is important that the Japanese have an aircraft carrier now (and why it is officially a helicopter-carrying destroyer."

225. The islands called Senkaku or Diaoyu, respectively, and why they are important.

226-227. This last section explains that China is expanding its power and influence in the region, which is a big reason why Japan keeps good ties with the USA—and why the US is staying in both Korea and Japan—the US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet in Tokyo Bay and US Marines on Okinawa.

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Chapter 9, Latin America

230 How the geography of Latin America impeded its chances of economic or political emergence....

How economic inequality grew, why the coasts were populated but not the interior.

231. Nature and history dealt Latin America a difficult hand.

231-233. Know the important physical features of Latin America.

233. The Treaty of Tordesillas of 1494 in VERY important.

234 Simon Bolivar, Jose de San Martin...Bolivarian Ideology—what does that mean? Anti-colonialist? Pro-socialist?

234-235 Border disputes: Bolivia's and Chile's bitter border relationship. – what is has meant to Bolivia...Who is Evo Morales? What is the "gas for coastline" deal?

235 Belize & Guatemala, Chile & Argentina, Venezuela & Guiana, Ecuador & Peru...1946-1991
What does it mean that Latin America was a "proxy battlefield for the Cold War"?

236-239 Know the relationship of Mexico to the USA, how geography determines Mexico's history and development...Understand the drug trade with the US in a different context, and note why it is so important.

240-243. Be able to understand the importance of the Panama Canal, opened in 1914, and why China has an interest in the Nicaragua Grand Canal Project funded by Wang Jing for an estimated \$50 billion. And know why Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega finds himself in a different position than when he was a Sandinista Revolutionary in the 18980s.

243 Why is China investing so much in Latin America? See Chapter 2 on China...and Chapter 5 on Africa.

243-245 The Monroe Doctrine of 1823 – know its importance. And read the next page carefully to understand the United States’ dominant position in Latin America, economically, militarily, and politically.

245. Venezuela is a country that is in deep, deep crisis right now.
China is using “soft power” in the region because soft power is all they can really do.

245-249. Then there’s Brazil. Potential and challenge and geography and poverty...

247-249 What is Mercosur? UNASUR? Know that they may sound boring, but they are very important.

249 Know what the BRICS are. They are an important bloc of countries.

249-253 . Understand why Argentina is the best positioned nation in Latin America for growth, and know why they have underachieved.

What is the Vaca Muerta?

Who fought the 1982 war over the Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas? Why? Why do aircraft carriers matter in the modern age?

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### Chapter 10, The Arctic

256 Know which countries claim an interest in the Arctic, and which countries are best positioned to take advantage of the resources the Arctic possesses.

257. The “mythical” Northwest Passage is important to know.

257-259. Be aware that there were a number of expeditions to explore the Arctic.

259-263. Know what the ramifications of the melting of the ice cap are politically and economically—particularly when it comes to trade.

263 What are the “Arctic Five”?

264-269. What does it mean that the Russians want to rename the Arctic Ocean “the Russian Ocean”? What does it mean that the Russians are militarizing the Arctic?

269 The Arctic is the object of the “New Great Game.” Know what Tim Marshall means when he compares the New Great Game to the “Scramble for Africa.”

270. “Fishing rights” may not sound exciting, but they are very important to any nation bordering an ocean or sea.

270-271. Marshall uses the Arctic as another example of “how technology has helped us break out from the prison of geography.” Explain what he means in this case.