

World Geography Finals Study Guide

Main Units

- **Globalization (International Governance and Trade)**
- **Middle East**
- **Latin America**
- **Africa**

Vocabulary

Know these terms in detail and be able to explain them with specific examples from what you learned in the course.

- **Globalization**

Globalization is the main force driving the development of countries in this post-Cold War era. It is the Lexus, the modernizing force, in contrast to the Olive Tree, the force of old traditions — the difficulty is finding the balance. It is the process of spreading people, products, and ideas throughout the world and increasing global connectivity. Is referred to by Friedman's second perspective, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, and argued against in Hoffman's perspective, *The Clash of Globalizations*. It encourages free trade (but arguments against it claim that this will hurt all that do not have the resources to modernize, which will cause further conflict and a want for revenge).

 - Americanization: Walmart, McDonalds spreading worldwide
 - Westernization: European or American culture spreading and being favorable to traditional cultures
 - outsourcing jobs to improve competition and prices
- **Multilateral**

Involving multiple countries (usually means working with other countries on a decision). Relates to Nye's perspective 2, *The Paradox of American Power*: as Americans, to increase our soft power (influence), we have to give up some hard power (military) and work with others. We need to make multilateral decisions. These are the most difficult to make because countries often have opposing interests and priorities.
- **Unilateral**

Involving one country (usually means making a decision without outside influence). These have the highest probability of causing dislike, because they are done without cooperation.
- **United Nations**

The UN is an international assembly of world leaders and diplomats created in 1945 (immediately after WWII) to prevent another World War and promote international peace. There are 193 member states and territories (except Taiwan, Vatican City, and Kosovo). They are involved in many international problems, such as peace, security, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, terrorism,

humanitarian health emergencies, gender equality, governance, and food production. It is divided into five “organs.” It is based on the ideals of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* that they published in 1948. They draft resolutions and then vote on them.

- **veto power**

The power to unilaterally reject a proposed policy.

- the president can veto
- all UN Security Council permanent members have veto power

- **sovereignty**

The right of a state to govern itself. Most countries are sovereign, except those who are territories.

- **self-determination**

The right of a state to create its own government and govern itself.

- President Wilson advocated this regarding the Middle East, but European powers overthrew this idea.

- **non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**

(Self-explanatory) They protest the WTO and free trade policies, along with environmentalists, human rights activists, and organized labor. They say that free trade will not solve all of the world’s problems, namely poverty.

- **World Trade Organization (WTO)**

An international organization trying to liberalize trade (increase free trade). It was a successor to GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). It helps settle trade disputes (such as the fairness of subsidies and “dumping”) and oversees agreements. If a country violates trade agreements, it will be asked to change its policies.

- **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**

NAFTA is a regional trade agreement with the U.S., Canada, and Mexico that tries to lower trade barriers and encourage trade between the three countries. It is especially important because they are three huge neighbors, and this will also help improve relations as a whole.

- **protectionism**

Protectionism is a trade policy to reduce trade by creating trade barriers. This is to strengthen local industries to make them stronger and more competitive in the local market. Barriers may include subsidies, or government funding in a certain industry; tariffs, taxes on imports that makes trade more discouraging; or trade quotas. The general trend of globalization does not favor this, however.

- **free trade**

The opposite of protectionism: it is a trade policy to open up trade with no barriers. It increases trade, and trade is good. It amplifies a comparative advantage, which is beneficial for everybody: the user gets cheaper goods, and the producer can sell more of their product. It will also improve the competitiveness of industries. However, critics

have said that lesser-developed industries and companies will not be able to compete in this free-trade world, and it does not encourage fair trade.

- **fair trade**

Fair trade is trade in which poor countries are not exploited for cheap labor and poor working conditions, and environmental issues are addressed. This is to provide the same quality of products everywhere, and to protect the workers, so that everyone has a fair chance of competing in the global market. This is a little bit against free trade, however.

- **outsourcing**

Outsourcing is the process of moving a company to a different country where labor can be cheaper. This is a result of free trade and increased competitiveness. The U.S. has outsourced many companies to China, as well as many in Mexico (especially because of NAFTA) and the rest of Latin America, because they are poorer countries and their people can be paid less.

- **Ottoman Empire**

The empire centered around modern-day Turkey that sided with the Axis in WWII. When the war lost, and anti-empirical thoughts became popular, it started to lose unity. This loss in unity helped the British and French easily split them up.

- **Sykes-Picot Accord**

The secret agreement between France and Britain to split up the Ottoman Empire amongst themselves. Soon the League of Nations mandate system officially allowed this. They divided up the territories without paying too much attention to the preferences of the people, but rather their own interests: this was the starting ground for many of the hate for the West in the Middle East. The mandates claimed that the territories were unfit to rule, and needed more advanced powers to guide them in their early stages

- **Secular**

Non-religious; usually refers to a “secular government” (i.e., a state in which politics and religion are separate)

- Many countries nowadays are secular, including the U.S.

- **Theocracy**

A government that is ruled by priests or in the name of God.

- Iran, with its “supreme spiritual leader” Khamenei

- **Shia**

The minority branch of Islam (~10% of world Muslim population), with a majority only in Iraq and Iran. Very much in conflict with Sunni muslims.

- **Sunni**

The majority branch of Islam, with a majority in every Middle-Eastern country except Iraq, Iran, and Israel. Very much in conflict with Shia muslims. They also form ISIS.

- **Arab Spring**

A series of democratic revolutions throughout the Middle East. It started in Tunisia

(successful), and happened in many other countries. Egypt, Libya, and Yemen also had successful political overturns; Syria is in the middle of a civil war right now.

- **Refugees**

Refugees are the people who are forced from their homes during a conflict. There have been many millions of refugees from the conflicts in the Middle East, from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the civil wars.

- **Imperialism**

A policy of exerting any kind of influence upon another nation. This can be political (e.g., colonialism), economic, or cultural.

- political (and not colonialism): when the CIA took out the Iranian Prime Minister because of the U.S. support for the Westernized shah
- economic: when European countries exploited Mexico during the Porfiriato for its resources
- cultural: Americanization and Westernization (e.g., McDonalds in China)

- **Colonialism**

A type of specific imperialism in which control of another country is taken over — the act of having colonies

- Britain → American colonies
- Spain → Viceroyalty of New Spain (Americas)
- Britain and France → Middle Eastern colonies

- **Encomienda**

An encomienda was a plot of land and the people on it granted as a gift to wealthy Spanish conquistadors that helped with the conquering of Latin America from the Spanish government. After the conquest, these became haciendas. They are self-sufficient, feudal societies in which the rich owner has in their possession dozens to even hundreds of people that they often overworked, mistreated, and underpaid.

- **Maquiladora**

An American-owned factory on the Mexican side of the America-Mexico border in which Mexican workers get exploited by the large American companies: they are paid more than most others in Mexico, but much less than their American counterparts. But they are still appealing to Mexicans; therefore, these places often get really crowded, which leads to overpopulation and unsanitary conditions as people rush for the money as a first priority.

- **NAFTA**

NAFTA is the North American Free Trade Agreement, which helps lower trade barriers for Mexico, the USA, and Canada. For Mexico, it has increased trade and helped it a little bit, but it has mostly only allowed the USA to exploit Mexican workers when they outsource. In addition, many Mexican industries cannot compete with the might of the very-industrialized American industries.

- **Creoles**

Creoles were the second-highest social class in the caste system of South America. They were the ethnically-Spanish born-in-Latin America people, and they had slightly lower privileges than the peninsulares. The lower classes hated them and the peninsulares, and they thought the peninsulares were unfair — they were Spanish by blood too! The creoles led the revolution for Spanish independence in 1810 through to its independence in 1821.

- **Peninsulares**

Peninsulares were the highest social class in South America's caste system. They were Spanish-born from Spain, and they were usually the richest and held the most powerful positions. They were the ones to own the haciendas. All of the other classes hated them because of their unfair power.

- **Mestizos**

Mestizos had a mixed race: they had both Spanish and indigenous roots. They were lower than both the creoles and peninsulares but higher than the indigenous and African classes.

- **Scramble for Africa**

In the turn of the 20th century, European powers “scrambled for Africa” because they wanted resources, especially rubber and people (slaves). Many countries took many territories, mainly British and France, They also left devastating humanitarian disasters behind.

- **Berlin Conference**

A conference in 1884-1885 in which major European powers determined how Africa was to be split up amongst them.

- **Genocide (UN Definition)**

Genocide means “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, such as:

- killing members of the group;
- causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- forcibly transferring children of the group to another group”

But it is not specific enough; there are no thresholds to overcome, and therefore the meaning and interpretation can be distorted.

- **Single Story (from TED Talk)**

You cannot trust a single story about anything. Nothing is so simple that it can be described always with *only* one attribute. Essentially, you cannot believe one stereotype about an entire group — they are overgeneralized, oversimplified expressions that often are not true.

- **Stereotype**

A generalizing statement about an entire group, that may be true, based on the truth, or totally engineered to harm that group. They almost never are always true, especially in the case of large, diverse groups, and often are not beneficial.

Concepts/Issues

- **What is the legacy of European and U.S. colonialism and imperialism in the nonwestern world? Give SPECIFIC examples problems in our world today that have their roots in Western imperialism and colonialism. Also, know the difference between imperialism and colonialism and be able to make it clear that you understand both of those terms in detail.**

We have left behind many former colonies that are now at unrest. Much of Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa were colonies, enslaved by tiny but developed European powers, now some of the most conflicting and poverty-rich territories in the world. Syria has engendered one of the most savage terrorist organizations ever and the Rwandan genocide of two decades ago (see imperialism and colonialism)

- **How does the United Nations work? What can the UN do and what are its limitations?**

The UN drafts resolutions and votes on them in a democratic way. The Security Council can authorize the use of force or sanctions to try to get a nation to comply in terms of international peace and security. However, the distant international community that the UN exists in is far from the local powers of any region, so its rule may not have much influence over the people, because they simply will not have any direct control over a region. They also cannot really use force too often, and often only send “peacekeepers” that only can defend themselves.

- **What is free trade? Give an example of a free trade deal and describe its benefits and drawbacks. How is free trade different from fair trade? How does the discussion of free and fair trade relate to the relationship between the developed and developing world?**

Free trade is trade without barriers (see above definition). One free trade deal is NAFTA (see above). Free trade often calls for unfair trade because it emphasizes completely open trade without restrictions or rules. Fair trade, however, emphasizes the protection of developing nations and environmental fragilities, which may inhibit free trade. Free trade is something that will benefit the developed world the most, with our competitive and developed industries, and that is why the West has openly embraced it and is trying to impose it on others. However, fair trade will benefit more the developing countries, because it will improve their working standards and wages, and make them more competitive against existing world powers.

- **Use the case study of colonialism in the Congo to discuss the impact of colonialism on Africa.**

In the Congo, people were treated terribly. Many people had their hands cut off and were overworked to get rubber for Europe. There was even cannibalism. This was represented throughout Africa: European countries exploited many countries ruthlessly.

- **What is the definition of genocide? What were the roots of the Rwandan genocide? How did the international community respond to the genocide and why? Why does genocide continue to occur? What happened after the genocide?**

(see definition of genocide) In Rwanda, the two main cultural groups, the Hutus (majority at 85%) and the Tutsis (minority at 15%) were forced together into a country by the Belgians. In addition, the Tutsis were given more power. This was the “divide and rule” policy of the colonial powers: they wanted to create divisions between the people of their colonies so that they wouldn’t be turned upon. The genocide occurs because the international community fails to respond to the genocide and doesn’t try to help the citizens of Rwanda.

- **Explain how WWI changed the map of the Middle East and how this still impacts events in the region today.**

With the Sykes-Picot Accord and then the Mandate System by the League of Nations, the once-united and very diverse Ottoman Empire was split by an indifferent Europe into many small countries with people that were mixed in strange ways. People were very angry at this because they didn’t like the other groups; this hate caused much conflict in the Middle East, as well as much for Europe for splitting them this way and for exploiting their resources.

- **What was the impact of European colonialism on Latin America? Compare and contrast that with how European colonialism and/or imperialism impacted the Middle East and Africa.**

When Europe colonized Latin America, they weakened them greatly economically. They overworked and killed many indigenous people. They stole their silver and took their natural resources, which left post-colonial Mexico very industrially-weak until the Porfiriato opened up trade again. In the Middle East, there was more of a mutual relationship, with the Middle East profiting from the *sale* of oil, not the thievery of oil; but in Africa, it was similar, with the Africans being slaves for rubber.

- **What has the U.S. done to impact events in the regions we studied? (Examples: U.S. involvement in Iran in the 1950s, U.S.-Mexico relationship going to back to U.S.-Mexico War up to today with drug trade and NAFTA, CIA-backed assassination of Lumumba in the Congo)**

The US has often tried to intervene, and in many of these interventions, we have failed. This is because many of the interventions have tried to push our values or benefit ourselves, similar to the European colonial powers. This has led to a general dislike of

American superpower-ness and Westernization in general. For example, in Iran, they disliked our supporting of the hated Reza Shah, and they replaced him with a popular leader. In Mexico, we stole much of their land and still exploit their cheap labor. We even are the main fuel in their drug trade. We assassinated Lumumba because of his idea of pan-Africanism that we disliked.

- **What does it mean to have a single story about a place or a group of people? Relate what you learned about in this class to the Danger of a Single Story TED talk.**

It means that whenever you have to deal with that place or group of people, there is a certain connotation of it in your mind that affects every decision you make about it or every thought you harbor. It means to use a single generalization and apply it wholeheartedly to its subject. The problem with this is that stereotypes are generally not true; even if they are based on truth or were not meant to be harmful, they cannot be true for a whole group — everyone is different.

Issues/Case Studies to understand:

- **Colonialism in the Congo**
(see above about the Congo)
- **Genocide in Rwanda**
(see above on the genocide)
- **NAFTA in Mexico**
(see above on NAFTA)
- **Civil War in Syria**

It started with another uprising as part of the Arab Spring, when the citizens of Syria tried to bring down the dictator Assad. However, it started to get more complicated as the Syrian government started to use chemical weapons against the civilians to stop the revolt. The US said we would do something to stop this (this is a violation of international law) but we decided against it, because the risk of involvement was too high. Eventually, though, the US started to train rebels against the Assad regime. Russia started backing Assad. Many middle eastern countries started backing the rebels, as well as some extremist groups such as ISIS. It eventually became a struggle of Shia (Assad) and Sunni (rebels) Muslims.

- **Iran's Nuclear Program**

The USA has had major concerns about the nuclear power in Iran, because of Iran's hostility towards the West and the devastating potential of a nuclear bomb in an "undeveloped" nation's reach. This is because early on, the British had usurped Mohammed Reza and put his European-thankful son into power. His son had done everything for the west: modernizing, building schools, denying the people a nationalization of a hated British oil company; but the people didn't like this. They

overthrew him and put in a popular leader that hates the West, and they went to a backwards theocracy.

- **Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

The British sent out conflicting messages to the people in the territory of Palestine during WWII. They promised both the Muslims and the Jews in the area that they would have an independent state (Palestine and Israel, respectively). After WWII, the territory of Palestine was split as expected, but the split was strange and the territories were separated. Immediately after the British left, five neighboring countries attacked Israel. But Israel, with the backing of the West (because of their support of the Zionist cause), fought them back, and even pushed farther. This happened multiple times.

- Arab-Israeli War of 1948 (War of Independence for Israel, the Disaster for the Arab states) — Israel ↔ Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq
- Six-Day War of 1967 — Israel ↔ Egypt
- October War of 1973 — Israel ↔ Egypt and Syria
- First Intifada of 1987 — Palestinian civilians ↔ Israeli military
- Second Intifada of 2000 — Palestinian mob violence and terrorist bombers in Jerusalem

Other Ideas

- **Rethinking International Relations: Six Perspectives**

- 1. Clash of Civilizations (cultural differences → conflict)
- 2. Lexus and the Olive Tree (globalization → future)
- 3. The paradox of American Power (hard power → soft power)
- 4. Clash of Globalizations (globalization → humiliation and hate → conflict)
- 5. A New War of the World (must look back on our mistakes from the 20th century)
- 6. Clash of Emotions (fear in West, humiliation in Middle East and Africa, Hope in east Asia)

- **Ethnocentrism**

Having or being based on the idea that your own group or culture is better or more important than others, most likely developed through propaganda

- North Korea
- America

- **Organs of the UN**

- **General Assembly**

The largest organ, including every UN member state. It is the main organization, addressing most issues. For issues of peace and security, a super majority ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote is required. For other issues, a simple majority ($\frac{1}{2} + 1$) vote is sufficient.

- **Security Council**

The most powerful organ. Its main function is maintaining international peace and security. It has 15 members, 5 (China, US, UK, Russia, France — the main Allies in WWII) that are permanent. They can impose sanctions, and can authorize force. Every permanent member has veto power.

 - Problematic during the Cold War because the US and Soviet Russia vetoed everything the other did.
- **Economic and Social Council**

Works on building economically developing countries. There are 54 countries. It focuses on economic, social, environmental issues, and developmental goals.
- **International Court of Justice**

It is the judicial branch of the UN. It settles legal disputes amongst nations. It is in the Netherlands. It also tries international war criminals.
- **Secretariat**

UN staff and bureaucratic council
- **Trusteeship Council**

discontinued — meant for the administration of “trust territories” — territories affected by the League of Nations mandates
- **Sanctions and Embargos**

Sanctions are restrictions on trade meant to punish a country. Embargoes are a more extreme form of sanction, completely blocking off a certain commercial activity.
- **Map of the Middle East**

