Rise to Globalism: Study Questions
IB Government and International Affairs

Essential Question: How did wartime strategies and developments contribute to the coming Cold War?

Chapter 1: The Twisting Path to War (pages 1-14)
1. Why did the United States follow an isolationist foreign policy in the 1930s? What led to the eventual abandonment of that policy?
2. What was Japan’s goal in Asia and how did that affect their relations with the U.S.?
3. What options did Japan have in 1940?
4. What options did the US have in confronting Japanese aggression? What did FDR do?

Chapter 2: The War in Europe (pages 15-34)
1. Explain the competing strategies suggested by Churchill and General Marshall and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.
2. How did the Anglo-American handling of Italy’s surrender, set a precedent for Soviet actions in Eastern Europe?
3. How did U.S. insistence that Operation OVERLORD take precedence over a campaign into Greece and Central Europe affect long term developments in Eastern Europe? How was this compounded by Eisenhower’s strategy in Germany?
4. What accounts for FDR’s conciliatory attitude towards Stalin during the war?

Chapter 3: The War in Asia (pages 35-51)
1. The question of what form post-war government would take in Asia, as in Europe, lay with “the man on the spot with a gun in his hand.” How did this principal affect the ability of the US to influence post-war developments in Asia?
2. Explain the relationship between Chiang, Mao and Stalin. How did they view each other?
3. What Asian issues led to tension between the U.S. and our European allies?
4. According to Ambrose, what alternative were there to inviting the Soviets to join the war effort against Japan?
5. What evidence is offered that the bomb was dropped as the “first major operation of the cold diplomatic war with Russia.”? What evidence refutes this interpretation? How did the use of the bomb affect US-Japanese relations after the war?

Chapter 4: The Beginnings of the Cold War (pages 52-74)
1. Of what historic interest was East Europe to Russia and to the West? Explain the developments after WWI, in 1939-41, and military operations of WWII. How did the conflicting interests give rise to the Cold War?
2. Why was Poland of such importance to both sides? Why was FDR willing to give in to Stalin's views of Poland's borders?

3. What influences led Truman to make Poland a "test case" for future US-USSR relations?

4. While Truman would not back down on Poland, he could not, and would not go to war over it. What options for action did he have and what did he do?

5. Outline the differences in interests that emerged at Potsdam.

6. How did the Allies differ in their goals for Germany and how did that render the Allied Control Council impotent? What agreements were made at Potsdam about reparations?

7. How did the developments at Potsdam influence Truman's attitude towards Stalin and possibly towards use of the A-bomb?

8. Explain both the hopes and disappointments of "atomic policy" in foreign affairs.

9. Why did the US propose to turn over control of atomic development to the UN? What factors led the Soviets to reject the proposal?

Chapter 5: The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan (pages 75-94)

People to know: James Forrestal, James Byrnes, George Marshall, Dean Acheson, Robert Taft, Senator Arthur Vandenberg, and George Kennan

1. In Truman's view, what role should the U.S. play in world affairs? What political factors made this role difficult?

2. Explain the situation in Greece and Turkey in 1946-47. Explain the phrasing of the Truman Doctrine speech. Why was it phrased in such global terms? What was Kennan's role and reaction to the speech? Analyze the ideological and geopolitical factors at work. What impact did it have on U.S. global policy?

3. What events led to the Marshall Plan proposal? Explain the diplomatic, military and economic goals of the Marshall Plan. Of what special importance was Germany in the plan? What evidence contradicts Marshall's statement that it was open to all nations and directed against none?

4. What objections were raised to the Marshall Plan and by whom? How were these objections overcome? Discuss events in Czechoslovakia.

Chapter 6: Containment Tested (pages 95-113)

1. Explain the containment policy that grew out of George Kennan's "X article" and what that policy meant for U.S. military strategy.

2. What factors/events undermined prospects of a united Germany? How did this lead to the Berlin Blockade and airlift? What was the lesson of Berlin for both sides? How did the event impact U.S. foreign policy?

3. What role did the major powers play in the creation of Israel and its expansion in the Arab-Israeli War of 1948? Why were the Soviet Union and the U.S. able to cooperate in the Middle East?
4. Outline Senator Taft's opposition to NATO and the European Military Assistance Plan. Why did a viable NATO require the remilitarization of Germany? Why were the Europeans skeptical about NATO and/or German rearmament?

5. What did Senator Fulbright mean when he used the phrase “the arrogance of power?” Explain the origins of this arrogance and the impact on both foreign and domestic policy.


Chapter 7: Korea (pages 114-126)

1. In 1947, the Truman administration concluded that Korea was not of vital interest to the U.S. Why did U.S. attitude change, leading to military defense of the South?

2. What wider ramifications / affects resulted from the U.S. military commitment in Korea? Include both Asia and Europe.

3. What assumptions by Truman’s administration proved to be in error?

4. Discuss the decision to move north of the 38th parallel including the results - military, diplomatic, and political.

5. Evaluate the results of NSC 68 and Truman’s policies including the impact on:
   a. The military - industrial complex
   b. U.S. strategic positioning
   c. Achievement of diplomatic goals (containment v. destruction of Communism)
   d. Domestic politics
   e. Institutionalizing the Cold War

Chapter 8: Eisenhower, Dulles, and the Irreconcilable Conflict (pages 127-150)

1. What role did the Cold War play in the 1952 election? How did Republican fiscal (economic) priorities undermine the diplomatic goals as stated in their 1952 platform? What other factors contributed to acceptance of containment? Cite examples of actions during the Eisenhower administration that differed from Republican “rhetoric.”

2. What was the Eisenhower/Dulles “New Look” policy? How did it reflect traditional Republican values? What criticisms were offered by the military? Explain the connection to “Massive Retaliation” and “Brinkmanship.” and the successes and failures of brinkmanship in Asia.

3. How did Eisenhower’s “bi-polar” view of the Cold War contribute to misconceptions about Southeast Asia and other developing nations? Explain the complications for American policy. How did the U.S. view of the situation in Vietnam differ from those of our allies?

4. How did SEATO differ from NATO in purpose and form?

5. Why was the US at a disadvantage in its competition with the Soviet Union for influence in the Third world? How did this impact U.S. policies towards revolutionary movements and regimes?

6. Discuss the successes and failures of Brinksmanship as a policy in Asia including Korea, Vietnam, and Quemoy & Matsu.

7. What factors led to the U.S.-Soviet Summit in Geneva in 1955? What was meant by the “Spirit of
Geneva?” How did it change the focus of U.S. policies from Europe to the Third World? Discuss Iran and Guatemala.

Chapter 9: From Hungary to Suez and Cuba (pages 151-170)

1. Why could American foreign policy from 1956 to 1961 be characterized as “unrelieved failure?” What examples would substantiate that view? What examples would reflect a different view?

2. What made projected aid for Egypt’s Aswan High Dam so controversial? What caused Secretary of State Dulles to promote, then withdraw support? How did U.S. ambivalence in the Middle East lead to being unaware of what Britain, France, and Israel were planning in the Suez? How did things get to that point with our wartime allies?

3. How did the policy of “liberation” play out—in Poland? In Hungary? On what basis does Ambrose and Brinkley consider liberation a “sham?”

4. Why did the Soviet launch of Sputnik in 1957 prompt such widespread examination of other “gaps” between the U.S. and the USSR?

5. What made Berlin strategically important for the U.S.? For the USSR? Though “resolution” to the Berlin problem would come later, how did Khrushchev hope to gain the upper hand against Eisenhower and the West?

6. In his January, 1961, farewell address, Eisenhower stated that in “the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex.” What message did he try to deliver to the Democrats? To the Republicans?

Chapter 10: Kennedy and the New Frontiers (pages 171-189)

1. John F. Kennedy’s election in 1960 presented a stark contrast between his vision and Eisenhower’s accomplishments. Identify the ways in which he risked exposing the U.S. to security risks not previously seen.

2. How did Khrushchev’s building of the Berlin Wall actually make the “crisis” more palatable to both sides?

3. What pushed Khrushchev into using Cuba in the Cold War “game?” What did he hope to accomplish?

4. In what ways would the Cuban Missile Crisis be Khrushchev’s (and the Soviets’) undoing? What did they “lose?” What did the U.S. “win?”

5. Explain DeGaulle’s motives in moving away, policy-wise, from the U.S. and Great Britain. Did he fulfill his purpose?

Chapter 11: Vietnam: Paying the Cost of Containment (pages 190-223)

1. Describe how Kennedy and his advisors saw counterinsurgency as being the “liberal middle ground between colonialism and Communism.” Why was this new military doctrine a perfect fit for Vietnam?


3. How did the war in Vietnam affect the American presidential election of 1964?
4. What would the Johnson-initiated bombing of North Vietnam hope to accomplish? What actually happened?

5. How did Johnson’s “successful” intervention in the Dominican Republic encourage a similar involvement in Vietnam?

6. How did American effort to deter war in the Middle East in 1967 reveal the limits of our power? Of the Soviet’s power?

7. DeGaulle proved prophetic. What were the results of Israel’s “victory” in the Six-Day War of 1967?

8. In ‘waging war” on multiple fronts in the 1960s, the US significantly redefined its vital interests. How did these vital interests come to be defined in 1965? How did the questioning of American society change the answers to America’s new vital interests?

9. Was Johnson correct in claiming his containment policies were a logical outgrowth of those of his predecessors? Why or why not?

Chapter 12—begins on the next page


1. Discuss each of the options regarding the Vietnam conflict available to Nixon when he took office in 1969 including the problems each entailed.

2. Why does Ambrose conclude that Nixon’s policy of Vietnamization was a “disastrous choice?”

3. Explain Kissinger’s policy of “linkage” and why it was a failure.

4. Kissinger sought, through détente and linkage, to accomplish an “all-encompassing agreement (with Russia) that would bring worldwide, permanent peace.” Discuss each of the following policies and their results:
   a. Arms Control:
   b. Diplomacy on Russia’s borders:
   c. China policy:
   d. Berlin Accord 1971:
   e. Helsinki Accords 1972:
   f. Okinawa:

5. Discuss the successes and failures of Nixon’s tactics to create an opportunity to withdraw from Vietnam.

6. Explain the issues that prolonged the negotiations and delayed the US exit from Vietnam. How was the deadlock broken?

7. Explain the "legacies" of Vietnam for both the US and the world. How was the Domino Theory proven wrong by events in Southeast Asia?

Chapter 13: America in the Middle East and Africa (pages 254-280)

1. Based upon your reading in Ambrose, what makes Henry Kissinger’s quote a clear definition of how America’s interests are balanced between support of Israel and the strategic location of Arab nations at Gibraltar, the Suez Canal, and the Bosphorus/Dardanelles?
2. How does the situation in the Middle East set ally against ally and true believer against true believer?

3. As Nasser’s successor, Anwar Sadat set Egypt in a new direction, not immediately recognized by those on the outside.
   a. What did he do to send Russia a mixed message about its influence?
   b. What did he do to neutralize American involvement?
   c. What did he do to get his land back?

4. While negotiating cease-fires with Syria, Egypt, and Israel, Kissinger also tried to “link” the Most Favored Nation status with the Russians in exchange for increased Jewish emigration from Russia. How did Congress, specifically Senator Henry “Scoop” Jackson change this?

5. To what degree was the US successful in countering any Communist influences in Africa? To what degree was it unsuccessful? How did Congress use this as another way to increase its role in foreign policy?

6. How did the more-developed South Africa present its own set of problems for US policy makers? How did Namibia figure into these problems? Was there any hope of a solution for Namibia? Why or why not?

Chapter 14: Carter and Human Rights (pages 281-302)

1. Why did it make little sense to weaken America’s allies by offering the Soviets loan credits, selling them grain, and sharing advanced technology?

2. The principle cause of gaps (between aim and achievement) in the Carter foreign policy was “an excess of idealism, a lack of experience, and an over-reaction to Russian actions.” Question 2 continued on back...

   Which one of these three accusations caused “gaps” in relation to—
   - Soviet involvement in Africa
   - SALT II
   - Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
   - Nicaragua
   - El Salvador
   Explain why each became a “gap.”

3. Explain the reasons for Carter’s foreign policy successes with the Panama Canal Treaty and the Camp David Accords.

4. Carter misjudged the growing problems in Iran. What showed his personal miscalculation of affairs in 1979?

5. What made the attempted rescue effort of the hostages such a “disaster?” How did Reagan’s electoral victory pave the way for the hostage’s release? What was the “price” of their release—in the short and long run?

Chapter 15: Reagan and the Evil Empire (pages 303-351)

1. The handling of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) proved to be the key to a Mid East “peace.” How did the following situations further promote or hinder these attempts at peace?