

## Quiz 7 (Chapters 15 and 16) Answers

### Multiple-Choice Answers

1. (A)  
In February 1950, shortly after the conviction of Alger Hiss for perjury, Republican Senator Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin claimed that he had a list of Communists and Communist sympathizers in the United States Department of State. He repeated his charge and leveled others about Communist influence in government but never produced any evidence to substantiate them.
2. (E)  
In May 1954, the United States Supreme Court delivered its decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. In a unanimous decision drafted by Chief Justice Earl Warren, the Supreme Court rejected the doctrine of "separate but equal" in public education. The court declared that separate facilities "are inherently unequal." This decision marked the beginning of the end of segregation; and in the spring of 1955, the court ordered the implementation of the *Brown* decision.
3. (A)  
Shortly after Pearl Harbor, the unions responded to an appeal from President Franklin Roosevelt by giving a no-strike pledge. In 1943, however, a major coal strike occurred involving 450,000 soft-coal miners and 80,000 hard-coal miners. Under heavy pressure from President Roosevelt, John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers, agreed to end the strike.
4. (E)  
The Security Council was to be the police authority of the world, responsible for preventing war. The General Assembly was to make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of disputes. The International Court of Justice was to decide legal questions referred to it by disputing nations. The Trusteeship Council was to look after colonial areas. The Economic and Social Council was to make recommendations regarding world economic, social, cultural, and health problems.
5. (D)  
The Cuban Missile Crisis was the ultimate test of John Kennedy's administration. It brought the two superpowers closer to nuclear war than they had ever been before, or have ever been since. Until the Cuban Missile Crisis, Kennedy's attempts to confront Soviet moves had been largely ineffectual. He had been badly humiliated in the Bay of Pigs debacle. This was followed by a failed summit in which Soviet Premier Khrushchev totally dominated the proceedings. Then there was the building of the Berlin Wall, which occurred while Kennedy and his family were vacationing in Massachusetts. By the time

Kennedy returned to Washington, the wall was already being installed and the White House found itself with no options but verbal protestations. Again, the president looked weak and unprepared.

With the discovery of construction of nuclear missile bases in Cuba, Kennedy knew he had to act decisively or face total loss of credibility in dealing with the Soviets. The Soviets and Cubans had been emboldened to attempt constructing these bases precisely because of Kennedy's previous, and ineffectual, efforts to oust Castro from Cuba, and Khrushchev's belief that Kennedy was a weak and inexperienced foe. Kennedy's challenge was to eliminate the bases without sparking a full-scale nuclear war.

The majority of Kennedy's advisors recommended military strikes against Cuba. Kennedy feared this would spark Soviet retaliation against American allies in Europe or against Turkey. Other advisors recommended direct talks with the Soviets. Kennedy feared that such talks would be used by the Soviets to stall for time until the missile bases were completed. Then it would be impossible to remove the missiles. Finally, Kennedy settled on a naval blockade to prevent Cuba from receiving the materials they needed to complete the missile sites. While technically, a naval blockade is an act of war, it is still a nonviolent act that in this case forced the Soviets to make the next move. New evidence indicates that the Soviets came much closer to going to war than was previously thought. They sent their ships right up to the blockade, and they had submarines in position to attack American ships enforcing the blockade. Kennedy held firm. The Soviet ships were turned back, without violence. Faced with the decision of starting a full-scale war or backing down, and faced with a five-to-one American superiority in nuclear warheads, Khrushchev backed down. Kennedy was hailed as a hero and many historians view this crisis as the high point of Kennedy's presidency. What was not publicized is that while the press was focusing on the success of the naval blockade, behind the scenes Kennedy made promises to stay out of Cuba and to remove U.S. nuclear missiles from Turkey. It was these pledges more than the highly publicized blockade that led to the Russian withdrawal of their missiles from Cuba.

6. (C)

When peace negotiations began in 1969 in Paris between the United States and the North Vietnamese, it was already clear in the minds of the Vietnamese that America wanted to get out of Vietnam. Thus, their strategy was to stall the talks as long as possible, giving as little as possible, and hoping that further American discouragement would result in the United States withdrawing on North Vietnamese terms.

On the other side, American negotiators were determined to ensure that the peace talks did not leave an image of North Vietnamese domination and American impotence. The result was that neither side was willing to compromise on even the most simple issues in the first years of the talks. The most blatant example of this was the dispute about the shape of the table at which all sides would sit to negotiate the peace. The North Vietnamese demanded a round table; the Americans demanded a rectangular table. Neither side would compromise and the peace talks could not seriously begin until a

compromise was reached. It took a year of haggling before both sides finally agreed to an oval shaped table. While this issue was certainly not the most important issue discussed at the peace talks, it is symbolic of the attitude both sides brought to the talks and helps explain why it took until 1973 to finally reach an agreement.

7. (C)

In the summer of 1964, the war between North and South Vietnam was not going well for the American-backed South. Corrupt government leaders, poorly trained and motivated soldiers, and a lack of support from the people left the South Vietnamese government in precarious straits. While the United States publicly admitted to having advisors in Vietnam, in reality these “advisors” had been actively engaged in combat missions for almost three years. American intelligence estimates indicated that South Vietnam would not survive without increased U.S. involvement in the war. The United States either had to pull out of Vietnam or expand the war. President Johnson reluctantly decided to expand American involvement in the war.

This expansion was dramatically increased following an incident in which an American warship, operating in international waters off the coast of North Vietnam, in the Gulf of Tonkin, was attacked by North Vietnamese patrol boats. A second, but never confirmed, attack was reported soon after. Based on these attacks, President Johnson went to Congress to request authority to take whatever measures necessary to repel attacks against American forces. The Tonkin Gulf Resolution passed unanimously in the House and nearly unanimously in the Senate. Johnson used this resolution as a *carte blanche* to do whatever he felt was necessary to defeat the North Vietnamese. This led to increased bombing of North Vietnam and increased numbers of U.S. soldiers fighting in South Vietnam. By 1968, the number of Americans stationed in South Vietnam approached 550,000. All of this expansion can be traced back to the Gulf of Tonkin Incident and the Tonkin Gulf Resolution that followed. While the war probably would have been expanded anyway, this incident provided the excuse and the congressional backing Johnson needed to expand the war in 1964.

8. (E)

The Taft-Hartley Labor Act of 1947 reflected the culmination of increasing public and government disaffection with labor unions. A series of strikes in the steel industries, coal mines, automobile factories, and the railroads had left Truman and many others feeling that unions were acting beyond the legitimate interests of workers and were engaging in actions which could endanger the nation. Truman led the attack with calls for laws giving the government greater authority to control striking unions and punish their members.

In the 1946 election, conservative Republicans gained control of Congress. They were even more anti-union than Truman. Led by Republican Robert Taft, conservatives passed the Taft-Hartley Act over the veto of President Truman, who felt that it went too far in controlling unions. The law prohibited unions from running “closed shops” in which workers had to join the union to keep their jobs. It also gave the president the power to

call for a “cooling off” period in strikes that threatened the national security. It forced union leaders to sign affidavits certifying they were not Communists. Finally, it reduced the ability of unions to actively participate in elections by restricting union contributions to election campaigns.

9. (D)

In early 1942, the Japanese high command, angered at air raids from American aircraft carriers, decided to force what was left of the American Pacific fleet into a decisive battle in which the American Navy and its carriers would be destroyed. They decided on an invasion of the American-held island of Midway. Midway was a logical choice. It was 1,100 miles northwest of Hawaii. More importantly, it had a seaplane base and an airstrip. In American hands it provided the United States with an observation post to monitor Japanese actions throughout the central Pacific. In Japanese hands, it would provide them with an airbase from which they could launch continuous air attacks on Pearl Harbor, making it unusable as an American base. If Japan invaded Midway, the Americans would have to send their fleet to defend it or face the loss of Pearl Harbor and Hawaii.

On paper, the plan seemed ideal. The Japanese could throw up to 10 aircraft carriers into the operation. They believed the Americans had only two available aircraft carriers (actually, the Americans had three usable carriers because the U.S.S. *Yorktown*, which the Japanese thought they had sunk at the Battle of Coral Sea, had survived and was repaired in time to fight at Midway). The Japanese had dozens of battleships and heavy cruisers. The Americans had only two battleships available, which they chose not to use, and only eight heavy cruisers. On paper, there seemed to be no way the Americans could win.

Unfortunately for the Japanese, the battle was not fought on paper. American cryptographers deciphered enough Japanese messages to uncover the plan. In addition, the overconfident Japanese, expecting to surprise a scattered American fleet, didn't concentrate their forces into an overwhelming single attack force. Instead they divided their fleet into four separate attack forces, each of which was vulnerable to American attack if caught off guard. When the Japanese arrived at Midway, a well-prepared, tightly concentrated American fleet was waiting. Despite a series of nearly catastrophic errors, the Americans caught the Japanese by surprise, sinking four of their largest aircraft carriers and killing 600 of Japan's best pilots. Without adequate air protection, the invasion was cancelled and the Japanese fleet returned to base. Midway was saved. At the time, American analysts thought they had just bought the United States some additional time until the Japanese regrouped and attacked again. In reality, the Japanese were so stunned by the defeat that they readjusted their war plans, switching to defensive operations. They never returned to Midway. With the Japanese now on the defensive, the United States was able to seize the initiative at Guadalcanal, beginning an island-hopping campaign that took America to Japan's outer islands. Midway was undoubtedly the turning point as it marked the first significant American victory over the Japanese and the end of major Japanese offensive operations in the central Pacific.

10. (E)

When John Kennedy became president in January 1961, he inherited a program from President Eisenhower guaranteed to cause him headaches. Eisenhower had begun a CIA-backed program to train Cuban exiles to return to Cuba and militarily overthrow Fidel Castro and his Communist regime. The program was ready to begin operations when Kennedy assumed office. When Kennedy asked the CIA about the feasibility of an invasion by Cuban exiles and their chances of success, he was told that Castro was hated by the Cuban people; that most Cubans were waiting for the chance to rise up and overthrow Castro; and that the CIA-trained Cuban exiles would have an easy time swarming to victory if the United States just provided them with the transportation to Cuba to launch the invasion.

Kennedy, just two months into his first term of office (April 1961), put too much trust in the glowing CIA reports and decided to go ahead with the project. The Cuban exiles were ferried ashore at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba with American support and equipment, but once they got there the entire plan broke down. The Cuban people, most of whom in reality supported Castro, did not rise up in revolt. The Cuban military responded quickly and pinned the invaders to the beaches. For two days they remained trapped there. The CIA and some members of the military pushed Kennedy to launch air strikes to support the operation, but Kennedy refused, fearing active American involvement could lead to a full-scale and costly war, and could also lead to Soviet retaliation in Turkey or Europe. Besides, without the support of the Cuban people, no amount of American military intervention could change the long-term result. After the second day, the survivors, comprising only 20 percent of the original invasion force, were rescued from the beaches and returned to the United States.

The Bay of Pigs affair was a humiliating embarrassment to the new president. It also set the stage for further problems with Cuba. Partly because of the Bay of Pigs affair and other American attempts to overthrow or destabilize the Cuban government, the Cubans and the Soviets secretly conspired to install intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Cuba. Such missiles, if successfully installed, would provide a powerful deterrent to further American intervention in Cuban affairs. American discovery of the construction of missile launching sites in Cuba led to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, perhaps the most difficult crisis in Kennedy's presidency.

11. (E)

The Tet Offensive marked a turning point in the Vietnamese War. Up until Tet, press coverage of the war, while raising some questions and more graphic than anything Americans had ever seen before, was mostly positive. American military leaders were talking about seeing "light at the end of the tunnel." Many Americans still believed a military victory was possible. With the Tet Offensive, all illusions of a military victory ended.

What is ironic is that Tet was a military disaster for the North Vietnamese. Up until Tet, the Viet Cong had stalled the American war effort by engaging in partisan warfare

which accentuated their advantages in the villages and jungle terrain and neutralized American superiority in conventional arms and equipment. They avoided the kind of massive pitched battles in which American technical superiority could be focused to destroy them. The repeated midnight raids and “hit and run” raids on villages, convoys, and military bases kept the South Vietnamese and the Americans constantly off-balance and unable to use their forces effectively.

With Tet, the North Vietnamese scrapped this policy in favor of an all-out military assault on key bases and provincial capitals in South Vietnam. At first, caught by surprise, American and South Vietnamese forces reeled back at the ferocity of the North Vietnamese assaults. But soon, the Americans recovered and the North Vietnamese found themselves tied down in the very pitched battles that they could not hope to win. When it was over, the North Vietnamese had suffered over 400,000 casualties which would take them more than four years to replace. It was the biggest American/South Vietnamese military victory of the war. But it was also the biggest American political disaster of the war.

Tet came just as Lyndon Johnson was preparing to run for reelection in the 1968 political campaign. It called into question all the assurances by the government that the North Vietnamese were beaten and would collapse in the near future. People asked, “If they’re beaten, how could they mount an offensive as large as this?” The fact that the offensive had failed was irrelevant. What Americans focused on was that it had taken place at all. Now many Americans began to see Vietnam as a tunnel with no way out, and press coverage became increasingly negative. Talk shifted from winning to just getting out. Johnson withdrew from the presidential campaign. The North Vietnamese, seeing the political effect, dug in their heels and were determined to outlast faltering American support for the war. After Tet, it was just a matter of how long it would be until America pulled out of Vietnam, and under what circumstances that pullout would take place.

12. (C)

In 1947, the British government told the American government that it could no longer afford the expense of economic and military aid to Greece and Turkey. At the time, both countries were locked in struggles against Communist insurgents. Greece was in virtual civil war and could not have won against Communist rebels without Western help. President Truman was determined that Greece should not be allowed to fall under Communist control. In response, he delivered a speech to Congress committing the United States to aid free people anywhere in the world in their struggle to preserve their freedom from foreign intervention or armed insurgents. This policy quickly became known as the Truman Doctrine. Congress approved aid to both Greece and Turkey, which both survived their respective Communist insurrections.

The aid to Greece and Turkey was just a first step in what became a massive aid program to non-communist governments all over the world. Regrettably, many of the non-communist governments receiving U.S. aid were led by brutal dictators every bit as evil as the Communist insurgents Truman wanted to suppress. American policy was so

focused around Truman's effort to contain Communist expansion; however, even brutal dictators were seen as preferable to Communists.

13. (A)

The "Marshall Plan" was conceived by Truman's secretary of state, General George Marshall. After World War II, Europe was socially and economically devastated. Industries were destroyed. Farmers' fields were often too torn up from the war to cultivate. People were homeless and starving. The governments of Western Europe no longer had the resources to rebuild the cities and restore the economies to reasonable working order. There was a very real possibility that unless the economic situation in Western Europe was turned around, Communists would win control of several governments in free elections.

In addition, there was growing anti-American sentiment in Western Europe. The United States was viewed as big, fat, selfish, and lazy by many Europeans. They believed that Americans had the power to ease the poverty and pain being suffered by Europeans, but were too preoccupied with the nation's own issues to do the job.

In response, in 1947 George Marshall conceived a massive economic aid plan to help Europe rebuild. The plan eventually resulted in more than \$12.5 billion being given to Europe to finance reconstruction of the battered European infrastructure. With that money, the starvation problem eased, people were put back to work as new industries were built, and Communist opposition to the plan led to the collapse of Communist party support in many Western European countries. While the plan was not universally successful, it was one of the most innovative and well-received policies ever conceived by the United States.

14. (C)

Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" was the collective name for several separate programs aimed at ending civil rights abuses and combating poverty. In the area of civil rights, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a piece of landmark legislation. It forbade discrimination based on racial, ethnic, or sexual origin or religious beliefs in job hiring, promotion, and firing. It also forbade such discrimination in access to public accommodations and gave the federal government powers to cut funding to federally aided industries or agencies found guilty of discrimination. It also actively involved the United States government in attacking segregated school systems and forcing them to desegregate.

Related to this, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 gave the government the power to intervene and supervise voter registration in areas where minorities had been illegally restricted or discouraged from registering to vote in significant numbers.

Economically, Johnson declared a war on poverty, backing several bills to combat poverty and its causes in the United States. Medicare, followed by Medicaid, was aimed at providing quality medical care to the elderly. Several programs were initiated to increase the quality of teachers and education in poverty-stricken areas. Most notably, Project Headstart, which attempted to provide quality preschool training for impoverished

preschoolers, involved the government in attacking the failure to succeed in school which marked the lives of so many of the nation's poor.

Johnson also initiated the Neighborhood Youth Corps, and the Job Corps to provide job training and experience for inner-city youths. There were also tax cuts and economic aid programs to provide increased welfare benefits, especially to mothers with young children.

While the programs showed some initial success, and some programs such as Project Headstart were undeniably successful, many of the programs were tied to qualifications which helped lead to the destruction of the family unit among those seeking aid. Some economists argue that there is more poverty now than there was before the "Great Society" programs began. Many programs led to long-term dependence on government aid rather than fostering the independence needed to get off government support. While the civil rights aspects of the "Great Society" were quite successful in ending legal abuses to civil rights, many abuses continue today, albeit at a more subtle, insidious level. So, the intentions of Johnson's "Great Society" programs were inarguably good, but the results have been a mixed success at best.

15. (B)

The main goal of the Truman Doctrine was the containment of Communist expansion beyond those areas already under Communist control. The Truman Doctrine was the result of requests for American aid to the Turkish and Greek governments, both of which were fighting Communist insurgencies. Truman, instead of just requesting aid for Turkey and Greece, responded with a general policy statement declaring American intent to aid free people everywhere in their efforts to protect themselves from internal Communist uprisings or external pressure from Communist countries. Truman's "doctrine" did not extend to attempting to eliminate Communist governments where they already held power. It just promised to help countries resist Communist expansion to non-Communist countries. It committed the United States to an expensive long-term policy of propping up non-Communist governments even when those governments were more brutal than the Communists attempting to oust them. It placed the United States in the position of leader of the "free world" but guaranteed greater future tensions with the Soviet Union.