

### **Midterm Study Guide**

The midterm exam will consist of two parts: SEVEN short essay questions and ONE long essay question.

In Part One, I will give you ten short essay questions – taken verbatim from the questions below; you will answer seven of your choice. In Part Two, I will give you three long essay questions, also taken verbatim from the questions below; you will answer one. There will be no questions on the exam that do not appear below.

In answering the midterm questions, be sure to include as much specific evidence as possible to explain and support what you assert. In short, show me what you are claiming is true.

1. According to Walter MacDougall (“Wilsonianism or Liberal Internationalism (so called),” how did Woodrow Wilson’s personal qualities and unique quirks and prejudices shape how he formulated foreign policy and reacted to international events?
2. According to John Coogan (“Wilsonian Diplomacy in War and Peace”), why do Wilson’s foreign policies often appear to be contradictory? Why have historians drawing on the same documentary evidence from the Wilson administration produced historical interpretations of Wilson’s policies that directly contradict one another?
3. According to Erez Manela (“A Man Ahead of his Time?”), why did Article X reflect a vision of the League of Nations that was, arguably, precisely the opposite of (and not as radical as) what Woodrow Wilson originally had in mind?
4. Why does Randolph Bourne (“The War Diary”) argue that progressives are being “utopian” if they believe American involvement in the Great War will advance their liberal reform agenda?
5. What were the basic principles of Wilson’s Fourteen Points? Why did the President believe that if the Great Powers accepted them, future wars could be avoided?
6. Why was it difficult for Wilson to transform his vision for the postwar world into reality? What obstacles did he face when he went to Versailles to negotiate peace?
7. What criticisms did various Senators and Congressmen level against the League of Nations? Why did some members who were not isolationists (Henry Cabot Lodge, for example) still oppose the League?
8. Why does Lloyd Ambrosius (“Woodrow Wilson and the Culture of Wilsonianism”) argue that if we understand how Wilson defined terms such as “nation” and “self-determination,” his policies appear less hypocritical or contradictory?
9. How did Wilson’s belief in a hierarchy of races affect his approach to foreign policy?
10. How does William Keylor (“The Peace of Paris and the New International Order”) assess the Treaty of Versailles? In his view, why were German complaints about the treaty unwarranted?
11. What were the basic guiding principles of Republican foreign policy during the 1920s? Why did the Harding-Coolidge-Hoover administrations feel obligated to pursue a policy of “independent internationalism”?

12. Why was the whole international economic system of the 1920s dependent on the outflow of loans from the United States? How were German reparations, French and British war debts, and American loans all related? Why was this an unstable system?
13. Why would U.S. cancellation of European debts after World War I have benefited American businesses and workers and also enabled the European nations to pursue genuine economic reconstruction? Why was it politically impossible to cancel such debts?
14. What were the main arguments that isolationists made for keeping the U.S. out of the Second World War in the years before the attack on Pearl Harbor? How did their arguments reflect how they were defining “national security”?
15. According to Thomas Guinsburg (“The Triumph of Isolationism”), what advantages did the isolationists have in the debate over neutrality preceding World War II? Why, in his view, did they succeed in blocking FDR’s more interventionist impulses?
16. How did Congress exercise influence over U.S. foreign policy during FDR’s first two terms (1933-1941)? Why did FDR avoid provoking major conflicts with Congress during this period?
17. How do “Empire, Ideology, and Economics” help explain the origins of World War II?
18. How did fascism, communism, and liberal democracy differ from each other?
19. What is the difference between liberal capitalism and autarky? Why did autarky seem to be winning the battle of economic systems during the 1930s?
20. After the fall of France in 1940, why did FDR decide that the Germans now posed a real threat to U.S. national security?
21. During the years leading up to Pearl Harbor, how did events in Europe shape both U.S. foreign policy in Asia and considerations about how U.S. military resources should be deployed?
22. Why was it a mistake for Hitler to invade the Soviet Union in 1941 and to declare war on the U.S. after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?
23. What was the difference between “cash and carry” and “lend lease”? What impediments did FDR face as he tried to provide lend lease aid the British? What was the argument for limiting US aid to Britain?
24. Why were Churchill and FDR concerned about the battle of the Atlantic? How did this concern lead to FDR’s formulating his concept of “national security”?
25. Why do some historians argue that U.S. policies toward Japan – intended to delay or postpone U.S. involvement in the Pacific War – actually provoked the attack on Pearl Harbor?
26. According to David Reynolds, what “key concepts” had been formed during the lead up to World War II that would continue to be influential once the Cold War began? (See Chapter 7 in From Munich to Pearl Harbor.)
27. Identify what moves on the part of Japan and Germany were “undesirable” to the U.S. and what policies were “intolerable.” Why did the U.S. consider certain policies “undesirable” but others “intolerable”?
28. How can FDR’s preference for ambiguity, postponement, and “keeping his options open” be seen in his statements regarding U.S. policy toward Indochina and Palestine? (See Justus Doenecke, “The Roosevelt Foreign Policy: An Ambiguous Legacy”)
29. As World War II neared its end, why did FDR begin to back away from some of his anti-colonial/anti-imperialist rhetoric?

30. How did FDR's "four policemen" vision for the UN differ from Wilson's vision for the League of Nations? What realities interfered with FDR's "four policemen" vision?
31. According to Robert L. Messer ("World War II and the Coming of the Cold War"), how did Stalin's understanding of World War II's purpose differ from Churchill's understanding? Despite seeing the war in different terms, why did they both see benefits in a Soviet-British alliance?
32. According to Messer, how did Harry Truman's understanding of World War II differ from FDR's? How did FDR's keeping Truman in the dark about wartime diplomacy contribute to Truman's rocky relations with the USSR?
33. Why was the stage already set for a US-Soviet cold war long *before* the defeat of the Germans in 1945? (See Ralph Levering, "The American Perspective.")
34. What were the major agreements that the Big Three (US, Great Britain, USSR) reached at the Yalta Conference? Beyond ending the war successfully, what goals were each of the three powers trying to achieve?
35. By 1946, why had the Truman administration shifted from trying to offer the Soviets concessions to trying to contain Soviet expansion?
36. Why did the U.S. have more success in gaining the confidence of Western Europeans than the Soviets did in winning support in Eastern Europe?
37. Why is it misleading to argue that U.S. policies during the early years of the Cold War were undertaken *exclusively* for economic reasons?
38. Why did many U.S. officials believe it was important to offer Marshall Plan aid to the nations of Europe?
39. How did public opinion, particularly ardent anticommunism, affect U.S. foreign policy during the early years of the Cold War?
40. Why does Levering believe U.S. Cold War policy became more rigid and self-righteous after 1949?
41. Why did the Soviets not actively back the Chinese Communists during the Chinese Civil War?
42. Why did Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalists fail to defeat the Chinese Communists despite significant military and financial aid from the U.S.?
43. Why did Stalin decide to reverse himself and back Kim il Sung's invasion of South Korea? Why did he believe that the invasion would not spark a military response on the part of the U.S.?
44. What role did China play in the Korean war? What influence did Stalin have in determining what the Chinese role would be?
45. Why did Stalin welcome an alliance with Mao yet at the same time remain wary of the Chinese leader?
46. Why did the U.S. see Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba as a threat?
47. Why is it hard to explain the origins of the Cuban Missile Crisis without first knowing about the Bay of Pigs invasion?
48. How did Kennedy's campaign rhetoric and other comments he made shortly after taking office contribute to provoking Khrushchev to place nuclear missiles in Cuba?
49. According to Mark White, what were the likely motivations Nikita Khrushchev had for placing nuclear missiles in Cuba?
50. What was "Operation Mongoose" and why was it significant in shaping Cuban-American-Soviet relations?
51. What were the terms of the final settlement of the Cuban Missile Crisis? Why did the Jupiter Missiles in Turkey prove crucial in "closing the deal"?

52. What strengths and weaknesses did John F. Kennedy show in his handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis? Why does Mark White believe his crisis diplomacy was better than his pre-crisis diplomacy?
53. Mark White argues in his conclusion to *Missiles in Cuba* that both positive and negative consequences resulted from the missile crisis. What were the most notable of these consequences?
54. With regard to the Middle East during period 1948 to 1960, what did the following nations/groups want: United States, Soviet Union, Israel, Arab Nationalists, Conservative Arabs?
55. Why did nationalists in the Middle East like Nasser and Mossadegh resent the United States?
56. Why were U.S. attempts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict unsuccessful between 1948 and 1960? Why weren't the Arabs and Israelis interested in negotiating?
57. How did the Cold War affect both U.S. and Soviet policies in the Middle East from 1948-1960? How did Cold War considerations convince President Eisenhower that he was better off not pushing too hard for peace in the Middle East?
58. Why did the CIA engineer a coup to overthrow Iranian leader Mohammed Mossadegh in 1953? Why did the coup succeed?
59. How did Kennedy's policy toward African "neutralism" differ (at first) from Eisenhower's? What constraints did JFK face when trying to implement a new African policy?
60. According to Thomas Noer ("New Frontiers and Old Priorities in Africa"), why did Kennedy's policies toward Africa satisfy neither Europeans nor Africans? Likewise, why did his policies satisfy neither "Africanists" nor "Europeanists" within his own administration?