

Edexcel Geography A-level Superpowers

Definition Flashcards

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Bipolar World



Bipolar World

Two superpowers exist, each with opposing ideologies.



Capitalism



Capitalism

The belief that individuals may gain wealth and status through business ventures, the hours they work and their skills.



The Cold War



The Cold War

Tensions between the USA and USSR from 1950 to the 1990s due to their conflicting ideologies and competition to become a unipolar superpower.



Colonialism



Colonialism

The act of gaining control, building an empire and exerting influence over other countries.



Communism



Communism

The belief that everyone in a population should be equal financially, the property they own and politically.



Democracy



Democracy

A political system where every member of the population has an equal vote.



Dictatorship



Dictatorship

One individual controls a country, rather than an elected government.



Economic Alliances



Economic Alliances

Trade blocs that promote trade between members, offer each other financial assistance and loans and allow the migration of workers between states.



Emerging States



Emerging States

Countries that have quickly gained influence, developed and have notable culture. Emerging States may become superpowers in the future.



Empire



Empire

A collection of countries, ruled over or influenced by a single government.



Environmental Alliances



Environmental Alliances

Groups of countries that discuss and pledge to reduce greenhouse emissions and protect the natural environment.



Frank's Dependency Model



Frank's Dependency Model

Describes neo-colonialism and how a country can gain control over a neo-colony through exploitation and economic dependency.



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

The investment of money, infrastructure or assets by a foreign government or business.



Hard Power



Hard Power

Exerting a country's influence over another through the use of economic or military intervention



Human Resources



Human Resources

The available workforce and skills of the population, which can contribute to a country's status.



Ideology



Ideology

Beliefs and values that are shared within a population.



Imperial Era



Imperial Era

The period of 18th and 19th Century, when European states created empires, using hard power to rule over America, Africa and Asia.



Intellectual Property



Intellectual Property

The ownership of ideas and designs, such as patents and copyrights.



Mackinder's Heartland Theory



Mackinder's Heartland Theory

Whoever controls the heartland (Russia, Eastern Europe and parts of South Asia) controls the majority of physical and human resources, and so will be a leading superpower.



Military Alliance



Military Alliance

A group of states that share weapons & intelligence, offer military assistance and discuss international affairs such as terror attacks, national security, etc.



Multi-Polar World



Multi-Polar World

There are several superpowers, each with a characteristic strength, competing for global influence and status.



Physical Resources



Physical Resources

The natural assets such as fossil fuels, minerals or crops, that can be sold for profit or political gain.



Rostow's Modernisation Theory



Rostow's Modernisation Theory

The development of a country takes five stages of growth: Traditional Society, Pre-Conditions for Take Off, Take Off, Drive to Maturity, High Mass Consumption.



Sanctions



Sanctions

Restrictions put into place against a country who breaks international law or agreements.



Soft Power



Soft Power

Exerting a country's influence over another through cultural diffusion, political reform and FDI.



Spheres of Contest



Spheres of Contest

Areas of competition for superpowers and emerging states, e.g. land ownership, intellectual property, state borders.



Unipolar World



Unipolar World

There is one superpower who dominates economically and politically.



Wallerstein's World Systems Theory



Wallerstein's World Systems Theory

Describes the movement of raw materials and manufactured goods between the core and periphery.

