



TIME (Mar 31 2014) - Globalisation

Read the articles and answer the questions that follow.

Old World Order: Robert D. Kaplan argues that geopolitics is fuelling conflicts worldwide. The dictates of geography continue to hold sway in the twenty-first century and will not be easily tamed.

‘The 19th century, as Kerry calls it, lives on and always will.’ What does the writer mean?

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‘Forget about technology as the great democratizer.’ According to the writer, what has technology done instead?

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Putin ‘will use every geographical and linguistic advantage to weaken Ukraine as a state.’ Explain what this means.

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According to the writer, why would the ‘zero-sum’ conflicts in today’s world be less intuitive to or even confound the typical ‘Washington policy wonk’?

‘Tripoli is no longer the capital of Libya but instead the central dispatch point for negotiation among tribes, militias and gangs for control of territory. Damascus is not the capital of Syria but only that of Syria’s most powerful warlord, Bashar Assad. Baghdad totters on as the capital of a tribalised Shi’ite Mesopotamia dominated by adjacent Iran’. What is the writer suggesting about these countries and their governments?

According to the writer, what factors fuel territorial disputes in Asia and the Pacific and sub-Saharan regions?



S4 EL – Culture (Discussion Worksheets for TIME Articles)

‘But the worldwide civil society that the elites thought they could engineer is a chimera. The geographical forces at work will not be easily tamed.’ Explain what the writer means.

The writer defines geopolitics as ‘the battle for space and power played out in a geographical setting’. In his opinion, ‘in geopolitics, the past never dies and there is no modern world’. Is your country feeling the effects of geopolitical tensions or is it a player in a geographical conflict? How would unrest in the regions discussed in the article affect you and your country?