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*Rising food prices is a global issue. Describe three government policies that, directly or indirectly, have contributed to rising food prices.*

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Government policies have substantially influenced rising global food prices in several ways. First, collectivization was an attempt to preserve the land by having groups instituted by the government. This removed the farmers from the farms and increased the control that the governments had on the crops around the world. Second, food trade at a global level has created opportunity for the implementation of increased taxes on imported food. This can lead to an increase in global prices and a surplus in countries producing products like grain. Finally, government tax breaks on the use of corn as ethanol has mixed food in with the energy crisis causing prices to increase. As the ethanol industry booms, so too does the demand of corn. This increases the price of corn for both the use of energy and nutrition.

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*Describe four factors that comprise the human security situation in Africa.*

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Africa is a vast continent occupied by many different peoples, many have an incredibly low level of human security. Continent-wide poverty is one of the most influential factors on human security. Not only is the resource trade in Africa extremely corrupt, but the entire continent lacks sufficient means of transporting wealth to the majority of the population living in rural settings. On a similar note, the people of Africa are constantly left susceptible to life threatening diseases. Without the resources to prevent the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS or Malaria, the area is faced with only extremely expensive treatment options for its people. In the initial colonization of what is now Africa, the tribes that lived their previously were compressed into close living quarters with one another. These enemies were previously separated by vast land and deserts and now they are forced to cooperate. The influence of colonization has caused significant ethnic conflict among the people of Africa and has caused much oppression against the minority groups across the continent. Finally, Africa is cursed with significant amount of famine. While many nations in Africa are making money from the sale of resources, the money does not translate directly to the development of substantial farming methods. As a result, crops are weak as land is over utilized and corruption in the governments is restricting the amount of resources dedicated to bringing Africa out of its famine.

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*In many countries, there are not enough jobs for the numbers of youth growing up there. List three factors that cause this shortage. Is youth unemployment a global issue? Explain why or why not.*

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On a global level, the people of the world are seeing a substantial number of unemployed youth. While many factors influence youth unemployment in the world, I feel the supranational youth bulge is the strongest influence. Our global population is weighted substantial towards young people and the businesses of the world were not ready to offer these new workers the jobs that were needed. Another influential factor is the disconnect between many education systems and the work force we expect to direct youth to after graduation. In America, for example, the work place continues to evolve while the curricula and style of our education system are still strongly based on a system created hundreds of years ago. In addition, the youth population is influenced by policy at the government level and the individual business level. At a government level, older workers are more highly protected than younger workers as their work is seen as more valuable. At an individual business level, many businesses require experience even for their entry level positions. Policies like this are much more favorable to adults than they are to youth. The culmination of these factors, as well as many others, are happening on a global scale. As the resource trade on this planet continues to be more and more globalized, each and every nation need a prepared work force and not an under appreciated "lost generation" to continue the growth of this globalized market.

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*Describe four socio-political dynamics of the Asia Pacific region.*

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In the Asia Pacific region, many of the struggles and growth opportunities have one foot in political spheres and one foot in social spheres. A significant reason for this is the ages of many of the nations. The countries in the Asia Pacific region are ancient societies with incredibly rich cultures. While many nations continue to see substantial and rapid economic growth, the globe sees this impact on climate change. Without both political intervention and social restriction on the use of fossil fuels to fuel their economic growth, the region will continue to fuel the progression of climate change at a rapid rate. In addition, many nations in the area see a political repression of the human rights (life liberty and self improvement) of the nation. In several nations, this repression extends to restrict the rights of an individual to participate in the political environment in their nation (voting, representation, etc.). The ethnic minorities of this region continue to face oppression and are underrepresented. While extremists exist in every circle of people, the formula in the Asia Pacific seems to be just the right formula for an influx of terrorist groups. Finally, the nations in the Asia Pacific are riddled with poverty and a lack of solutions. As with many areas of the world, the poverty exists primarily in rural areas where nations are taking few steps to provide support.

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*You are at a family backyard barbeque. Uncle Joe has had a few. He asks what classes you are taking. You tell him "Global Issues." "Oh right. College stuff. If you ask me, we give way too much aid to Pakistan. We should just leave them to their own miserable fate." You smile and take another sip of lemonade, but in your mind you think of reasons it is in the interest of the United States to work with Pakistan where possible. Write three of them here.*

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Pakistan is far from a traditional ally to the United States, however the two nations have an aligned counter-terrorism mission. On a larger scale, the United States continues to invest in Pakistan as a way to work towards military and cultural stability in the Middle East. In addition, Pakistan currently offers NATO forces substantial access to the war in Afghanistan. The continued investment in Pakistan is a way to ensure transportation of wartime support can still access NATO troops in Afghanistan. Finally, the Middle East is riddled with non-state actors. Pakistan is a nation armed with nuclear power. We see a stable Pakistan as a much more viable option for the control of these weapons than any groups of terrorists in the area. Should the United States remove support, the nation will become unstable and will likely collapse. This would drastically increase the likelihood that these nuclear weapons would fall into the hands of a terrorist group in the middle east.

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*Describe two important stakeholder rivalries in the Middle East. Explain how each rivalry complicates the capacity of the United States to intervene in the region effectively.*

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The Middle East is an area divided among several contradicting stake holders. This makes intervention in the Middle East difficult. The first rivalry to look at is the three-way rivalry among Al Qaeda, ISIS, and Shi'a Insurgents. It is the goal of America in the middle east to intervene only to promote peace and to work with the nations towards stability. These three non-state powers in the Middle East are each working against each other and as a blockade to the way America sees stability in the Middle East. ISIS is a Non-state actor working specifically to acquire a state from a nation. Another incredibly substantial rivalry in the Middle East is that between Sunnis and the Shi'a. Though this conflict is strictly rooted in who each group of people believe was Allah's successor. This division creates a conflict between a majority (Sunnis) and a minority (Shi'a). Because Iran and Iraq are both Shi'a majority while the remaining Middle East nations are Majority Sunni, this makes the conflict expand beyond religious beliefs and into a political, often militaristic conflict. Because of the religious implications that often lead to military conflict, the United States must carefully consider the cultural impact of each intervention in the Middle East.

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*In the United States we often hear about the evils of big government. Many developing nations have weak governments. Describe several consequences of weak governments for their states and the international system.*

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It is fundamental that each nation have more power than the most powerful industry that exists within its borders. If this is not the case, the nation will easily slip into several forms of corruption. In many cases, the most powerful industry in a nation is a violent non-state actor or terrorist group. If the government does not have the power to restrict the political and violent advances of these groups, they will advance to take power of all or part of the nation in which they reside. A weak government also often is not capable of effectively handling the crime within its borders. In addition, as the world becomes more and more interconnected, it is crucial for a nation's success to be able to trade and cooperate with the global community. A nation with a weak government will face both formal and informal struggles as they try to engage the global community. Informally, nations will remove trade routes as the nation cannot sustain them and formally, agencies such as NATO have specific expectations of the governments represented at their table. If a weak government cannot meet these expectations, they are unable to formally interact with the interconnected world.

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*Explain how global economic interdependence affects foreign policies of governments. Include in your answer how international financial institutions diminish the sovereignty of states, especially the poor ones.*

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The primary influence of global economic interdependence on the foreign policies of governments is stability. The more economically reliant your nation is on another nation the less likely you are to go to war with that nation or any of its allies. In addition, it increased the amount of goods and services that were traveling across borders. International financial institutions are the primary influences in the increase of global economic interdependence. In this new style of interdependence, international financial institutions are present to help nations in significant hard spots. When nations request support from these institutions, they are forfeiting a piece of their sovereignty as the institution places restrictions on funds and will often times ask for something in return for the money. As these institutions are primarily in place to provide support to nations in need, the minimization of sovereignty disproportionately affects poor countries. In addition to removing a piece of sovereignty, this interdependent system provides power to non-state actors. The restrictions that come with a global economy are state specific which encourages nations to utilize non-state actors more so than their state in some situations.

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*Disputes over land are a major source of conflict in the world. Describe three situations that lead to land disputes. Name two factors that aggravate land disputes even more.*

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Land disputes are a supranational struggle. As the search continues to find the best solution many factors are only aggravating the situation more. One of these aggravating factors is the growth of the transnational resource industry. As resources are discovered in specific areas, that land becomes more and more valuable. This is especially problematic for poor and underdeveloped countries, such as those in Africa, as their methods for understanding who owns what are weak and outdated. This opens the door for a corporation to step and request ownership of the land and the resources that come with it. In addition, in the recent years "land grabs" have become more and more prevalent in Africa as a way to preserve the land for the growth of crops and bio-fuels in the future. This action is sparked by the increased demand for arable land as well as the fear of destruction of the arable land in Africa as the result of poor farming techniques and destruction of land for other resources.

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*Explain what issues make up the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Include United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 242 and "land for peace" in your answer.*

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At its root, the Israel-Palestinian conflict is a land ownership dispute. Prior to the early 20th century and the nationalist movement among Jews and Arabs, this conflict was non-existent. As each party grew more and more in favor of sovereignty in the Levant, the conflict over land ownership became more and more prevalent. In the most successful attempt at peace, the peoples have worked towards a two-state Palestine in an attempt to alleviate the conflict. It is a constant battle over mutual recognition, land access, and security that is hinged on the ownership of Jerusalem and the access of groups of people to what is culturally and religiously rich land. The fundamental importance of UNSCR 242 is that it specifies that a resolution must be reached peacefully as opposed to by force. UNSCR 242 also addressed the Israeli forces occupying territories. The resolution called for the removal of troops as a way of professing their support in peaceful living for the people in the agreed upon boundaries of each state.