

**Enduring question:**

***How did a fragmented world become a global, integrated system of states for which order is an ongoing problem?***

1. Do you think the modern state system, developed in the aftermath of the Peace of Westphalia, has been beneficial in increasing trade or decreasing conflict? Discuss where trade and conflict might be if the modern state system had never arisen.
2. Are you surprised that Japan was never conquered by an imperialist power? Do you think there are any lessons that weaker modern countries can learn from the Japanese experience with powerful foreign states? If so, what are they?
3. After the First World War, many thought that the war was so terrible that no major war would ever be fought again. Several steps were taken to make sure of it (Kellogg-Briand pact, League of Nations, etc.). However, twenty years later the world was preparing for an even worse war. When that war ended, the Cold War rose and gave rise to conflict in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. Will the international order ever be free of major war? If so, what will it take for this to happen? If not, why not?
4. Thinking in terms of the levels-of-analysis framework, try to explain why Germany became involved in each of the World Wars (First and Second).
5. Thinking in terms of the levels-of-analysis framework, try to explain why the United States became involved in each of the World Wars (First and Second).
6. Consider President Lyndon Johnson and President George W. Bush’s use of the Munich analogy to justify their decisions in Vietnam and Iraq, respectively. Do you think these analogies were valid arguments in favor of the decisions each president made, or is this not truly a case of a parallel to the past?
7. Through the process of decolonization, the world’s imperial powers have more or less relinquished all of their overseas holdings. What changes caused these countries to give up on their colonial desires? What made it more beneficial to forsake their imperialist tendencies than to hold onto them?
8. Regarding aspirations vs. reality, the United States sometimes preferred to support right-wing authoritarian (and non-democratic) regimes that took a pro-US and anti-communist position. Many members of the public criticize the US for this today. Thinking in the context of the Cold War, do you believe that the US could have fulfilled its aspirations as an anti-communist liberal democratic power without resorting to these efforts? What would the US have given up and what risks would it have involved if the US had allowed more democratic but communist governments to take hold in places like Central America?
9. Do you think that without nuclear weapons, the US and the Soviet Union would have fought a major war? If so (or if not), what do you think this says about the role of nuclear weapons in the international system?
10. COVID-19 brought many changes to the international system. Which of these changes do you think are permanent, and which are likely to revert to their pre-COVID-19 state with enough time?