

GLOBAL HISTORY CHALLENGE

Directions: Identify the subject of the scenario through the clues given, and in the space below, explain how your chosen subject fits each part of the scenario. There may be more than one possible answer.

1. Two groups are fighting over a relatively small area of land in the Middle East that both view as being holy in their respective religions. However, the conflict is really about much more than religion. Many of those who arrived in this Holy Land from Europe came to escape violence and suffering at home and were in search of land they could call their own.
2. A king rules over an area rich in a valuable natural resource that has brought him and his kingdom great wealth through trade. Control over such large amounts of this resource has given the king the power to impact the economies of other countries. Also, the hajj pilgrimage played an important role in the kingdom's history.
3. This man observed the way that rulers had lost power during his time, and learned from their mistakes. He strongly believes that the power of a ruler must may be maintained, no matter what has to be done, even if that means using extreme violence against one's own people.
4. A ruler who holds absolute power is removed due to an uprising of the people. However, although the new government is supposed to be fairer and more representative of the people, many people feel that the new guy in charge is too influenced by his religious group and that he is acting like a dictator. The people call upon the group that previously held power to take over again, and they do, but again many people feel they are simply back where they started.

5. A group of barbarians sweeps across Iraq in a campaign of conquest and destruction. As conquerors, they are brutal and inhumane. Many old mosques, buildings of historical importance, and artifacts of ancient times are destroyed. Many people comment that their use of new technological innovations has aided them in their conquests.

6. It's an epic battle of East versus West — a clash of civilizations. As the Eastern Power continues to spread its influence and take over new lands, the Western Power grows ever more desperate. The leadership of the Western Power seeks support against the Eastern Power from a group of religious extremists from a less advanced region. The Western Power does not particularly like or trust this group, but they work with them anyway. The leader of this group teaches his followers that, if they die in battle against the disbelieving enemies, they will be forgiven of their sins and entered into heaven. However, as the group gains in strength and influence, a splinter group from among them ultimately turns on the Western Power, their former allies, and launches a devastating attack on their most culturally and economically important city.

7. One group of people exploits another group of people for their labor to produce things they use and consume on a regular basis. While most people recognize the nature of the arrangement and acknowledge the inherent unfairness, they nevertheless accept it, considering it the way things are. Some people even suggest that those who are being exploited for their labor are really better off in these conditions, and if this exploitative arrangement were to end, those who are exploited would be left helpless. Those who benefit from the exploitation are for the most part unwilling to sacrifice the ease with which they obtain everyday products, even if it meant it could end the exploitation.

8. As population growth and advances in many fields led to an irresponsible overuse of limited natural resources, this civilization began to deteriorate, with different states engaging in wars with each other over these precious resources. Ultimately, the civilization collapsed, unable to sustain anything close to its former grandeur, and survived only on a much less developed level.