

This country's southern portion includes the Bolovens Plateau, and like the region of Nong Khai across the Mekong, the area around this country's capital is sometimes home to Naga Fireballs. It contains a region full of huge ancient stone containers, the Plain of Jars. The Annamese Cordillera runs along the eastern border of this nation. Large areas in this country are still filled with unexploded mines from this country's Secret War. The Mekong flows past a city which was once the capital of Lan Xang, Louangphrabang. For 10 points, name this Southeast Asian country with a capital at Vientiane.

ANSWER: **Laos** [or **Lao People's Democratic Republic**]

Vince Gair, one of this modern-day country's Senators, was fed ample quantities of prawns by opponents of Gough Whitlam's government so that he would be distracted from resigning and opening up another seat for election. Because farmers in its Hawkesbury River region were having a hard time, one of this country's governors tried to heal the economy by outlawing the use of rum in bartering. This led to a revolt by Major George Johnston and Macarthur which overthrew Governor Bligh. Macarthur had previously boosted this country's wool industry. In its 2007 election, John Howard was replaced by Kevin Rudd as prime minister. For 10 points, name this country with capital at Canberra, home to the Aborigines.

ANSWER: Commonwealth of **Australia**

One figure in this country's history was compared to Yazid I by the leader of the Movement of 15 Khordad. One dictator of this nation maintained the SAVAK secret police and oversaw the White Revolution. That ruler was installed in a coup conducted by Kermit Roosevelt known as Operation Ajax which overthrew Mohammed Mossadegh. Operation Eagle Claw was a failed rescue mission in this country occurring after a 1979 Islamic Revolution. For ten points, name this country formerly ruled by Ayatollah Khomeini where 52 Americans were held hostage from 1979-1981.

ANSWER: Islamic Republic of **Iran**

In 2000, this nation recently lowered its voting age to 18 for the December elections. Sites within this country include Harappa, known as the "Bronze-Age" city, and Mohenjo-[*] Daro. Though its capital has a population of over 1.7 million people, its main cultural center is Lahore, where many Western-influenced shops and restaurants, as well as the University of the Punjab, are located. Headed by President Asif Zardari and still reeling from the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, for 10 points, name this country whose largest city is Karachi and has its capital at Islamabad.

ANSWER: Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**

This modern-day country fought against its eastern neighbor in the 1963 Sand War over mineral resources. It was the location of the Battle of Alcázarquivir, in which Sebastian I of Portugal was defeated by the Saadi Dynasty. In this country, Abd-el-Krim led the Berbers against the Spanish in the Rif Wars. At the Algeciras Conference, the Tangier Crisis between France and Germany over it was resolved. The capital of both the Almoravids and the Almohads was located in this country at Marrakesh, and despite the opposition of the Polisario Front it has de facto control of Western Sahara. For 10 points, name this North African country with capital at Rabat.

ANSWER: Kingdom of **Morocco**

This island's longest river, the Mahaweli, empties into the sea near the city of Trincomalee, and a series of shoals connecting this island to the mainland is called Adam's Bridge. This country's north contains the Jaffna Peninsula and bodies of water surrounding this island include the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait. Known in previous times as Serendib and Ceylon, for 10 points, identify this tea-producing island nation located in the Bay of Bengal, which was home to the Tamil Tigers guerrilla group and has its capital at Colombo.

ANSWER: **Sri Lanka**

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This city's oldest standing building was originally the Al Fahidi Fort though that structure is now incorporated into a namesake maritime history museum. Wooden boats called abras transport people across this city's namesake saltwater creek and allow access to the Deira sub-area. This city is home a set of (*) artificial islands shaped like palm trees and another like a map of the world. As of December 2009, this nation is home to the world's tallest building and is known as the Burj Khalifa. FTP, identify this extremely wealthy tourist city of the Middle East which is after Abu Dhabi the second-largest city in the United Arab Emirates. ANSWER: **Dubai**

One civilization once located in this present-day nation was ruled by the king Osei Tutu. That civilization later waged a series of wars against Britain under Garnet Wolseley and abandoned their capital city of Kumasi. One leader of this modern nation started the Positive Action campaign and built the Akosombo Dam. Currently led by John Mahama, this nation was the site of the Ashanti and was ruled by Kwame Nkrumah. Formerly a British colony known as Gold Coast, for 10 points, identify this West African nation with capital at Accra.

ANSWER: **Ghana**

El Badi Palace in this present-day nation was commissioned by Ahmad al-Mansur, a ruler of the Saadi Dynasty. That palace is in a city which the victor of the Battle of Zallaka, Yusuf ibn Tashfin, founded: Marrakech, the second capital of the Almoravids. The 1975 Green March by this nation forced Spain to cede territories, long after it was made a European protectorate through the Treaty of Fez. The appearance of Panther in Agadir caused a diplomatic crisis in this nation, while an earlier incident occurred in 1905, when Wilhelm II visited Tangier, necessitating the Algeciras Conference. For 10 points, what nation, currently ruled by Mohammed VI of the Alaouite Dynasty, has its capital at Rabat? ANSWER: **Morocco**

One of this country's pre-colonial leaders was Mutesa, who enjoyed the activities of Alexander Mackay of the Church Missionary Society. A rival kingdom in this modern-day country was Bunyoro, and German claims to this country were given up to the British in the 1890 Heligoland Treaty, who set about building its namesake Railway from Mombassa. After independence, Milton Obote became the first prime minister of this country, and the commander of national forces during the Battle of Mengo Hill seized power in a coup in January of 1971, and who later practiced the ethnic cleansing of the Lango and Acholi. For 10 points, name this African nation once ruled by Idi Amin.

ANSWER: Republic of **Uganda**

The Luba Empire was located in what is now this modern country. One conflict in this nation led to the death of Dag Hammarskjold. That conflict involved a region heralded by the CONAKAT party, a group founded by Moïse Tshombe. After gaining independence, this nation faced a secessionist movement from the southeast mineral rich region of Katanga; that movement led to the assassination of Patrice Lumumba and to the eventual 30 year rule of Mobutu Sese Soko. For 10 points, name this large central African nation which in 1960 gained independence from Belgium.

ANSWER: **DRC** [or **Democratic Republic of the Congo**; or **Congo-Kinshasa**; prompt on "Congo" or "Zaire", do not accept "Republic of the Congo" since that refers to another nation]

The capital of this nation was once moved to Debre Berhan by Zara Yaqob. The provinces of Borgos, Hamasien, and parts of Tigray were ceded from this country through the Treaty of Wuchale. Rulers of this nation include Lij Yasu and Tewodros II and it was once ruled by the Zagwe dynasty. A notable ruler was preceded by Empress Zewditu and deposed by Aman Andom, the Chairman of the Derg. That man who faced the Wolo famine gave a speech against chemical weapons at the League of Nations when his country was invaded by Italy in the 1930's. For 10 points, identify this African nation once ruled by Haile Selassie.

ANSWER: **Ethiopia**

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Colonialism in this nation was attacked in the novels *The Reign of Greed* and *Noli me Tangere*. One key leader exiled himself in Hong Kong having secured independence with the Pact of Biak-na-Bato, but it was actually the Tydings-McDuffie Act that led to its independence. The revolution began with an uprising led by Katipunan, although after the Tejeros Convention, its leader Andrés Bonifacio was killed. Apolinario Mabini served as Prime Minister under the first President, who later collaborated with Japanese. For 10 points, Noynoy Aquino is the current leader of what Asian nation, where Emiliano Aguinaldo struggled against the Spanish and the Americans?

ANSWER: the Philippines

One regime in this country collapsed after Prime Minister Bakhtiar and his Regency Council were unable to govern, and this country recaptured Khorramshahr in 1982 after failing to defend it from an attack across Khuzestan. Operation Ajax overthrew this country's Prime Minister Mossadegh, but more recent instability in this country was caused by Mir Hossein Mousavi's defeat in a 2009 presidential election, which sparked the "Green Revolution". For 10 points, name this Middle Eastern country currently fronted by President Ahmadinejad and whose Shah was overthrown in a 1979 revolution by Ayatollah Khomeini.

ANSWER: Iran

One civil conflict in this nation was known as the Gukuruhundi; this nation underwent large neighborhood clearances as part of Operation Drive Out Trash. Home to Joshua Nkomo, known as its "father", a republic here declared independence under Ian [*] Smith; its capital was formerly known as Salisbury. Its current ruling party, ZANU-PF, recently struck a frequently violated power-sharing deal with Prime Minister Robert Tsvangirai [TCHANG-gir-aye]. For 10 points, name this dysfunctional African country run by Robert Mugabe, whose many recent crises include record hyperinflation.

ANSWER: Republic of Zimbabwe

The area surrounding this nation's Etosha Salt Pan was the site of the Battle of Waterburg, after which Lothar van Trotha effectively exterminated the Herero people. This nation was transferred from German to British control after World War I, and only gained independence in 1990. Walvis Bay is an exclave within this nation, and the Caprivi Strip forms part of its borders with Zambia, Angola, and Botswana. Governed by South Africa before independence and formerly known as German Southwest Africa, name this nation with capital Windhoek. ANSWER: Namibia

The first empire to flourish in what is now this modern nation reached its height under the ruler Ezana, who helped hasten decline of a rival to the west of this modern nation, Meroe. Ezana also adopted Christianity as his state religion, making Axum in this modern nation the first to officially declare that faith. This nation was the site of the 1896 Battle of Adowa, where a force led by Oreste Baratieri was defeated by this nation's Menelik II. Also the realm of the emperor born as Ras Tafari, FTP name this nation on the Horn of Africa, once ruled by Haile Selassie.

ANSWER: Ethiopia

Baidoa has been proposed as a temporary capital of this country, whose current capital is home to the Fakr ad-Din Mosque. Its port city of Kismayo is located in a region named for the Jubba River. The northeast section of this country, Puntland, has declared independence. Another port city in this country, Berbera, is located along the Gulf of Aden. A battle that failed to capture Mohammed Farah Aidid, and saw the downing of two Black Hawk helicopters occurred in its capital, Mogadishu. For 10 points, name this country whose coast is home to many pirates.

ANSWER: Somalia [or Somali Democratic Republic]

In this nation, the Sacred Footprint appears at the base of Adam's Peak. It also includes the southeastern Uva basin, and the coastal town of Mullaitivu, where Prabhakaran was recently killed, and its longest river is the Mahaweli. Separated from the [*] mainland by Palk Strait next to its Jaffna peninsula, and formerly known as Serendib, this island saw the 2009 end of a long civil war fought by the extremist Tamil Tigers. For 10 points, name this island just off the coast of India with capital at Colombo, formerly known as Ceylon. ANSWER: **Sri Lanka** [prompt on "Ceylon" before read"]

This country's government-run energy company is Sonatrach, which runs the oil port of Bejaya, and two major cities in the eastern part of this country are Sétif and Constantine. The so-called "Triangle of Death" was located south of this country's capital during its 1991-2002 civil war, which pitted the Islamic Salvation Front against a government now led by Abdelaziz Bouteflika. This country's second most populous city is Oran, another major port for oil exports from this OPEC member, and the southern part of this country contains the Ahaggar Mountains. For 10 points, identify this second-largest African country, which in 1962 gained independence from France.

ANSWER: **Algeria**

This nation was the subject of the Wind of Change speech, and one leader of this nation had the nickname "The Big Crocodile." The Rivonia Trial took place in this nation, and leaders of this nation included Hendrik Verwoerd and P. W. Botha. The site of the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960, this nation established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995 to investigate a policy advocated by the party of D. F. Malan. For 10 points, identify this African nation led by F. W. de Klerk, which for a long time had the policy of Apartheid.

ANSWER: **South Africa**

This country's oil reserves, which provide a vast majority of its revenue, are expected to be depleted by 2017, and in 2009, a group of nine tourists was kidnapped in this country, which was also where former German Secretary of State Jürgen Chrobog was kidnapped in 2005. This country's president has held office since 1999, but, following the initial stages of the Tunisian Revolution in 2011, protests in (*) Aden called for him to resign. Ali Abdullah Saleh announced he would not run for reelection as, for ten points, the president of which Middle Eastern country with capital at Sana'a, bordered by Saudi Arabia to the north and Oman to the east?

ANSWER: **Yemen**

The Stuxnet worm is theorized to have been built to hamper this country, and King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia claims that this country, along with Israel, does not "deserve to exist". One leader of this country had his right arm paralyzed in a 1981 assassination attempt, and this country was the site of the recent (*) Green Revolution. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei led, for ten points, what country, where a disputed 2009 election between Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad led to tumult in Tehran?

ANSWER: Islamic Republic of **Iran**

The ancient Kingdom of Punt is thought to have been in this country, and before the Soviet Union ended its alliance with this country during its conflict with Ethiopia, the Ogaden War, it had the largest military in Africa. Operation Restore Hope was a humanitarian mission in this country during the rule of General Mohamed Farrah, and the Transitional Federal Government was given control of this country in 2003. This country has been in a civil war since 1991, and a battle fought in its capital is the subject of the book Black Hawk Down. For 10 points, name this African nation where Richard Phillips was taken hostage, infamous for piracy on its coast, with capital at Mogadishu.

ANSWER: **Somalia**

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