

P.P.S. Here are the answers to our quiz—grade yourself, and subscribe today to get even more insight into world news and events:

**Answer to Question #1:** On July 1, Russia held a national referendum on a proposed package of changes to its constitution. With three-quarters of voters endorsing the changes, the vote paves the way for Vladimir Putin to run for office again after his current six-year presidential term expires in 2024. In theory, the changes mean Putin could win two more elections and remain in power until 2036. If he does, he would be 84 years old by the time he stepped down and would have outstripped the tenure of the Kremlin's last iron-fisted leader for life, Joseph Stalin, by about seven years.

**Answer to Question #2:** The Gulf of Guinea is strategically important for shipping, giving criminals ample vessels to attack. The potential for high profits—along with high unemployment along the coast, weak security and a lack of judicial enforcement of maritime laws in many West African countries—makes the Gulf of Guinea especially attractive for pirates and other criminals.

**Answer to Question #3:** Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi first swept into power six years ago, India has seen a steady rise in the persecution of minorities and intimidation of critics, as well as shrinking press freedom. After winning a landslide reelection in May 2019, Modi and the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP, shifted to a sharper majoritarian agenda. In the months after the election, the government approved the construction of a Hindu temple on the site of a historic mosque in the northeastern town of Ayodhya; abrogated the special autonomy of the Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir; and instituted a crippling security clampdown there to quell any opposition.

**Answer to Question #4:** The global, rules-based trading system that the United States helped to create after World War II is in deep trouble. So it's no surprise that the World Trade Organization, which is tasked with administering those rules, is facing turmoil. Azevedo's resignation offers an opportunity for the WTO to reinvent itself, if it can find the right leader. But that won't be easy, as there are differences across various regions and between developed and developing countries over whose turn it is to lead the WTO.

**Answer to Question #5:** The Leipzig summit was slated to be the first-ever meeting between China's leader, Xi Jinping, and all 27 of his counterparts from EU member states. Officials had hoped to make progress at the meeting on a key investment treaty, but have now decided to delay it, ostensibly due to travel difficulties caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Many analysts aren't buying that excuse, though. Relations between Europe and China have deteriorated of late in part because of a disinformation campaign waged by Beijing scolding European countries for their allegedly weak handling of the pandemic and obscuring China's own lack of transparency about the virus. There are also fresh concerns about Beijing's efforts to tighten its grip over Hong Kong.

**Answer to Question #6:** Bahrain, where prospectors first discovered oil in 1932, six years before oil was found in neighboring Saudi Arabia. Bahrain never struck oil again—until announcing earlier last year that it had made a huge discovery of offshore oil and gas, with major economic and political implications.

**Grading Key—**

6 correct = Expert level

5 correct = Not bad, but there's always room for improvement

4 correct = Average

3 correct = Needs improvement

Less than 3 correct = If you want to be more informed about world events and trends, sign up for a [World Politics Review All-Access Subscription](#) right away!