



## REVIEW

**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 10.10.1**

## *Challenges in Modern Nation Building (Case Studies)*

**Specific Objective:** Analyze nation-building (in at least two of: the Middle East, Africa, Mexico, Central and South America, and China). Understand the challenges faced. Include geopolitical, cultural, military, and economic issues and international relationships.

**Read the case histories to answer questions on the next page.**

### **Modern Nation Building Case Study: China**

**Key Challenge** Balance liberalized economic system with authoritarian political system

#### **Economic Issues**

- Beginning in the late 1970s, China began a series of **economic reforms** under the leadership of **Deng Xiaoping**. His **Four Modernizations** brought some private ownership and growth to agriculture, industry, the military, and science.
- The liberalized economy boomed in the 1990s. Life for many Chinese improved. But many people—especially the half living in rural areas—remained in poverty.

#### **Cultural / Geopolitical / Military Issues**

- As technology, foreign investment, tourism, and Western popular culture increased in China, so did demands for individual rights and democracy.
- Protests and strikes against the government in the 1980s peaked in 1989, when a student-led protest in Beijing's **Tiananmen Square** led to a military crackdown.
- Deng Xiaoping and subsequent leaders worked to improve international relations. But diplomatic tensions exist because China remains a one-party state that represses both individual rights and outspoken discussion of democracy.

### **Modern Nation Building Case Study: Mexico**

**Key Challenge** Improve economic problems and continue democratic advances.

#### **Economic Issues**

- Mexico experienced economic growth in the last half of the 20th century, but most of the benefits went to a wealthy minority.
- Over half of Mexicans live in poverty, with a low **standard of living** (economic success, as measured by the amount of goods available to the average citizen).
- In the 1990s, following a drop in world oil prices, Mexico, a leading oil producer, experienced a **recession**—an economic slowdown.
- In the early 2000s, a downturn in the U.S. economy eliminated hundreds of thousands of jobs in Mexico, which has close economic ties to the United States.

#### **Cultural / Geopolitical / Military Issues**

- Among those living in poverty in Mexico are many with ancestral native roots.
- In 1994, an uprising of revolutionaries called **Zapatistas** in the state of Chiapas called for reforms to aid indigenous (ancestral native) people, especially the **Maya**.
- Mexico is transitioning from single-party rule by the **PRI** (revolutionary party) to a more democratic system. Currently, different parties have a voice in government.

**PRACTICE****CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 10.10.1**

## *Challenges in Modern Nation Building (Case Studies)*

**Directions:** Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 A nation's standard of living would *most* likely be measured by**
  - A** the total sum of its exports.
  - B** its annual rate of inflation.
  - C** its annual rate of economic growth.
  - D** the average income per person.
- 2 A slowdown in a nation's economy is known as a**
  - A** deficit.
  - B** depreciation.
  - C** devaluation.
  - D** recession.
- 3 The 1989 protests for democracy in Tiananmen Square followed the**
  - A** death of Deng Xiaoping.
  - B** admission of China to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
  - C** first ten years of economic liberalization in China.
  - D** signing of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- 4 Deng Xiaoping's Four Modernizations were a set of goals toward improving China's**
  - A** agricultural productivity.
  - B** struggling economy.
  - C** foreign relations.
  - D** human-rights record.
- 5 How did 50 years of economic growth affect income distribution in Mexico?**
  - A** A middle class has emerged.
  - B** The gap between rich and poor has grown.
  - C** All economic classes have benefited
  - D** Industrial workers have benefited the most.
- 6 The Zapatistas who led a 1994 uprising in the Mexican state of Chiapas were a voice for**
  - A** civilian government.
  - B** free elections.
  - C** indigenous peoples.
  - D** land reform.