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HISTORY - GEOGRAPHY

MOCK EXAM 2

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PART 1, essay 1: To what extent are US territories equally integrated into globalization?

When speaking about the United States, people often refer to the American dream: this country is supposed to be the center of ^{technological} technology discoveries, offering jobs to anybody who needs one and maintaining a strong economy thanks to import-export flows and cooperation between states. However, this utopia is not accurate as the US is clearly separated into different zones that are unequally integrated into globalization. This is the consequence of the diverse geography of the country's land, which gives access to different resources depending on whether a state is located on a coast or in the mountains, near hydrocarbon resources or in the desert. While some states managed to adapt their economy to globalization through adjustments or because the landscape allows it, others such as Michigan have been completely ~~flowed~~ out. This essay will examine how the gap between the Rust Belt and the Sun Belt is accentuating with time, why ^{megacities} ~~metropolises~~ are mostly located on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts and how immigration is a real game changer for some USA states.

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firstly, industrialization in the United States might have known a moment of glory in the past especially in the car industry, but it is no longer the case now that globalization has become the main objective. Most factories are located in the Midwest and, now that they have been abandoned, are turning rusty and old: this is why this area has been dubbed the Rust Belt. While it used to be home for thousands of workers, people are now moving South to find jobs. This is due to the fact that American laws about workers are strict and require

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corporations to pay their employees a minimum salary and to allow them to work in bearable conditions. This slows down the production process as it costs too much for enterprises to employ a lot of workers. This is why manufacturing has been moved to Third World countries, where labour is much cheaper and child exploitation is not a problem. ^{Thus,} ~~This is why~~ blue-collar workers have been losing jobs in the US. But it is not the only reason: indeed, after the war, the United States granted immense loans to the EU in exchange of European countries buying American products. This allowed manufacturing industry to thrive for a while, but unfortunately not for long. ~~With~~ with the money received by the EU, countries like France or Great Britain have been able to build their own factories and therefore quickly became independent. This considerably decreased demand from Europe to the United States and led to the suppression of jobs in the Rust Belt. Finally, the last factor that caused the Midwest's decline is automation. As technology is developing at a rapid rate, workers are always less needed when it comes to manufacturing. Machines are doing most part of the producing process, and humans are only here to activate them. While automation allows a corporation to produce more with less people, it also unfortunately suppresses jobs. Because of that, people are leaving the Rust Belt to try their luck in the Sun Belt, and Michigan is now the only state that is losing inhabitants more than it gains, which leads to a declining population rate.

Opposed to the Rust Belt, the Sun Belt is the fastest-growing US zone and accounts for a large share of the country's economy. The name "Sun Belt" comes from the fact that it stretches in the South from California to North Carolina and benefits from a sunny and warm climate. All types of people move here for different reasons: retirees want to enjoy a nice weather, workers are attracted by

dynamism and employment rate, and immigrants are looking for a brand new life.

The Sun Belt is composed of three main megapolises: Los Angeles / San Francisco, Texas triangle and the last one ^{is located} on the East coast. They are extremely successful as they contain key technology hubs: this is where the programs for manufacturing machinery are created, and where technology is being used to explore science. One particular example of such ^{hub} is in North Carolina, where three universities ^{location} ^{forms} the shape of a triangle with, at the center, a R&D ^{department} ~~center~~. FDI and government investments have allowed these universities to strongly develop research and development and to build a space rockets center, which is working on advances to make launches safer.

In addition to this technological strength, the Sun Belt has also a population advantage. Indeed, the US population has more than tripled during the last decade and half of the total United States inhabitants is made of immigrants. The USA itself represents ~~the~~ one fifth of the world's immigrants. But most of them move ⁱⁿ ~~to~~ ~~only~~ only three states: California, Florida and Texas. These states are therefore densely populated, which makes them very active but also expensive: while they are known for being cheap, the cost of life is rising mostly because of housing and transportation.

But the Sun Belt is not the only place that has megapolises: indeed, the United States' most powerful area is the BOSNYWASH corridor. It is composed of Boston, New York City, Washington DC. and also Philadelphia, and has known an extremely successful development with the arrival of globalization despite its proximity with the Rust Belt. This is mostly due to the presence of the New York / New Jersey port that is growing fast in rankings thanks to ~~center~~ containerization. Its capacity is so ~~big~~ huge that it is becoming more efficient in terms of import-export than the Los Angeles / Long Beach port. But BOSNYWASH's

economy is not only due to shipping: indeed, the city of New York is also an important business center. In addition to ~~the~~ ^{its} impressive diversity due to migration, many foreign corporations are also moving there to benefit from the possibilities given by the city. To this day, 52 Fortune 500 companies have settled in New York which reinforces its reputation of being a prestigious global city. ~~In addition,~~ ^{furthermore,} technology is also present but is mostly used for finances, as NYC is known for its economic and political aspect.

Nevertheless, outside of the Sun Belt and of megacities, it is difficult for states to integrate into globalization. Diversity in the North and Midwest is rare and work is becoming less present, which has been partly blamed on NAFTA by many politics. While this treaty indeed caused the loss of some jobs, it certainly is not responsible for the collapsing industry.

NAFTA was an agreement between Mexico, the United States and Canada that imposed a 2.5% tax when ~~car parts~~ at least 62.5% of car parts did not come from these three countries. This prevented corporations to source all their parts from Third World countries. But once again, labor in the United States is expensive while workers in Mexico are paid less, which led companies to sourcing from Mexico instead. This rightly raised jobs rates in the country, while the USA only lost more jobs. But this might just be an unfortunate coincidence: indeed, automation started to spread in the US almost at the exact ^{same} moment when NAFTA was signed. This was sufficient for Trump to blame the Mexican and create a new deal named USMCA. This new agreement premised that the Americans would finally have access to manufacturing jobs, but it turned out to ~~be~~ be a failure. It demanded that 75% of parts ~~need~~ must be produced in Canada, the USA or Mexico, and that 40-45% of this share must be made by workers paid more than 16 dollars an hour.

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paper n°2

While the United States are matching these expectations, Mexico is not. This is supposed to be good news, since much more American workers are to be employed; but manufacturing is becoming more expensive with the USMCA and less cars will be produced, which means the car economy is eventually going to crash.

In conclusion, though the USA may appear well integrated into globalization, it is only true for some states. The Sun Belt is going through a successful period and is using technology to develop its economy; BOSNYWASH is a main trade center and contains an important port that masters containerization; and immigration in the South contributes to an enriching diversity. On the other hand, the Rust Belt is experiencing a decline due to deindustrialization and some states do not even benefit from a landscape that allows agriculture to thrive. These inequalities are causing populations to leave some areas, and this must be faced by using technology as a friend before it turns into an enemy. In a world where progress is the key to globalization, states can either adapt to machines or be dominated by those who do.

PART 2 - a) Using the documents and your knowledge explain how a new geopolitical order emerged in the period 1948 to 1970.

b) Discuss the values and limitations of the documents in your essay.

Between 1948 ~~and~~ ^{between} and 1970, countries ~~have~~ ^{el} clearly ~~been~~ demonstrating a lack of trust ^{between} for one another. As the map started to change with the beginning of decolonization and the creation of new alliances, the world seemed to be divided into three worlds: the first world, full of capitalist convictions, opposed to the second world which ^{was} ~~is~~ composed of communist USSR and its buffer states; finally, the Third World ~~is~~ ^{was}.