

## The 4-Hour Historian

### CHAPTER 1 SELF-CHECK: ANSWER KEY

1. The three countries that contribute the most to the unfolding of human events today *as countries* are the United States, which has the most powerful military, the largest economy, and is the most culturally influential; China, which has the largest population and provides a huge number of goods “Made in China” to the world; and Russia, which has the second largest military and has an anti-American posture as a nation. On map 2, the US is in blue; China is in yellow; and Russia is in pink/red.
2. The two *groups of countries* that contribute the most to the trajectory of history today as “cultural blocks” are the European Union (EU) and the Islamic world. We can treat the EU *as a block* because its member nations don’t affect history separately anymore; they are committed to a partnership and act as members of a union. We can think of the Islamic world *as a block*, because a unique religion (Islam) and religious violence are common denominators across its separate nations that affect the course of history in a combined way. The EU is green on map 2, and the Islamic world is in brown.
3. The Latin word “cardo” is the root word of *cardinal*: that upon which something else hinges. A *cardinal culture* is a culture upon which history hinges (at a certain point in time).
4. The world we live in is an interconnected agglomeration of nearly two hundred countries predominated by five cardinal cultures, among which the United States has primacy.