Identifications: Answer ONLY 2 IDs: based on readings and class lectures, explain the significance of 2 of the following. Each answer worth 25%

Identifications
1. Yoshida Shigeru
Answer: The most influential Japanese prime minister from the early post-war era, Yoshida signed the San Francisco Peace Treaty in 1951 that ended the US occupation of Japan and restored the country’s sovereignty. On the same day he also signed a security treaty with the US that established Japan’s foreign policy orientation as an independent state. More generally, Yoshida established the basic parameters of Japan’s post-war foreign policy, or what became known as the Yoshida Doctrine or Yoshida Line. The fundamentals of the Yoshida Doctrine were that Japan should rely on the US for its defense, maintain low defense spending and a low defense posture, concentrate on economic reconstruction and growth, and generally avoid involvement in overseas military and political conflicts.

2. APT
Answer: ASEAN Plus Three: Also known as APT; established in the late 1990s, the regional multilateral forum consists of the members of ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), China, Japan, and South Korea. APT was the first East Asian regional multilateral forum (since the wartime Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere) that excludes the US. The APT membership resembles former Malaysian PM Mahathir’s 1990 proposal for an East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC). Because the APT has not been promoted with anti-western rhetoric, unlike the EAEC, it has not generated controversy or opposition from the US or Australia.

3. Guangzhou System
Answer: Named after the major southeastern Chinese city (also known as Canton under an older system of Romanizing Chinese words) up the Pearl River from modern day Hong Kong, this system regulated relations between the western traders and China until the outbreak of the Opium War in 1839. Guangzhou was the only Chinese port opened to western traders, who came to buy porcelains, silk, and increasingly tea. The
Chinese regarded this system as an extension of the Sino-Centric Tributary system and expected western diplomats to periodically pay tribute to the Chinese emperor in exchange for the right to trade. As the British, Americans, and others became addicted to tea, which at that time only grew in China, they increasingly ran trade deficits given that the Chinese were not interested in western goods. Thus, westerners had to pay with silver. Because the prevailing mercantilist theory of political economy at the time measured national wealth in terms of stockpiles of silver and gold, westerners, especially the British desperately searched for something to sell, and eventually found opium (mostly produced in India) as a product they could sell in China. The British East India Company maintained this trade at tolerable levels for decades, but the advent of liberal free trade ideology in Britain led to a proliferation of British opium entrepreneurs, provoking a Chinese crackdown, which in turn led to the Opium War and China’s ignominious defeat. This in turn led to free trade in opium and the opening of additional Chinese ports to western traders besides Guangzhou, and therefore, the end of the Guangzhou system and the beginning of the treaty port system and China’s so-called century of humiliation.

4. Deng Xiaoping
Answer: Mao Tse-tung’s successor as the supreme leader of the People’s Republic of China, Deng introduced market reforms, known as “market socialism,” that transformed China’s economy. China’s phenomenal economic growth of the past 30 plus years can be credited to the economic reforms that Deng launched at the end of the 1970s. Deng, a top lieutenant of Mao and follower of Zhou En-lai, was purged during the Cultural Revolution, but was rehabilitated in the mid-1970s just before Mao’s death. Deng also oversaw the full normalization of relations with the US, a process that had begun under Mao in the early 1970s. Deng also greatly strengthened relations with Japan, concluding a bilateral Peace and Friendship Treaty in 1978. Overall, Deng argued that China should maintain a low profile and non-confrontational approach in foreign policy in order to concentrate on domestic economic development. Deng passed away in 1997.

Essay: Based on readings and class lectures, answer ONLY 1 of the following questions. This answer is worth 50%

5. Describe and analyze Taiwan’s independence movement. Does the balance of domestic and regional political power point towards Taiwan declaring independence or remaining as the Republic of China? What would be the consequences of
declaring independence?
Ans.: Taiwan’s population consists of only about 1% of non-Chinese related indigenous peoples and others. The rest of the population are the descendants of immigrants from mainland China, with a major distinction being whether the immigrants arrived before 1895 or after 1945. Those arriving after, with the Republic of China government have identified more closely with mainland China, while those who arrived before Japan colonized the island in 1895 tend to define themselves as separate from China, even though they speak dialects of Chinese and share a lot of culture with the mainland. After decades of dictatorial rule by Chiang Kai-shek and his son (beginning at the end of the Japanese colonial period in 1945), democratization began in the late 1980s and the rule of mainlanders and their Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT or Kuomintang) over Taiwan weakened. In this atmosphere a Taiwan independence movement arose. In 2000 Chen Shui-bian, the candidate of a pro-independence party Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won the presidency, ending decades of Chinese nationalist rule of the island. He tried to move Taiwan toward independence, but faced opposition from China, which threatened war if the island declared independence. China backed up this threat by amassing short-range missiles on its side of the Taiwan Straits and by holding military exercises simulating an attack. China has been seeking Taiwanese reaffirmation that Taiwan is a part of China, and gradual progress toward reunification under the formula of one country two systems. Chen also faced opposition from the US, which although it had abrogated its defense treaty with the Republic of China Taiwan at the end of the 1970s was nonetheless obligated by domestic law, The Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), enacted by Congress to help defend Taiwan. The US saw Chen’s moves as destabilizing, and did not want to risk a war with China for the sake of promoting Taiwanese independence. Overall the US pursued a strategy of strategic ambiguity, opposing an use of force to change the status quo across the Taiwan Strait, but did not clearly specify what conditions it would intervene to defend Taiwan. It used this and other pressure to dissuade Taiwan’s pro-independence movement from declaring independence. The quest for independence was also increasingly opposed by Taiwan’s business community, which by the early 2000s had become increasingly dependent on its trade with, and investments in, China. Taiwanese public opinion also did not support the independence, preferring the status quo of de facto independence and an ambiguous international status. East Asian states also largely opposed attempts by Chen and the pro-independence movement to declare Taiwan to be a separate and independent state from China, seeing such moves as provocative and destabilizing. Thus, despite the growth in pro-independence sentiment on Taiwan the balance of forces in the region,
beginning with China’s growing economic and military power, have made the prospect of Taiwan’s formal independence increasingly destabilizing and unlikely. Chen’s unpopularity by the end of his two terms in office and the election of a Ma Ying-jeou, mainlander and KMT party leader to succeed him as president of Taiwan in 2008, signaled most Taiwanese preference for the status quo over the risks of declaring independence. The more recent moderation in the political platform of the DPP regarding possible independence suggests a recognition that the costs of pushing for formal independence have become too high even for pro-independence politicians to risk.

6. In the mid-1990s Suisheng Zhao claimed “the rise of [East Asian] regional (local) powers coincided with the retraction of global (outside) powers from the region...[the] worldwide power distribution did not necessarily govern the regional distribution of power.” Reviewing regional political developments in East Asia since the early 1990s assess the accuracy of this claim and alternative ways of analyzing the regional balance of power and its interaction with the global balance of power.

Answer: Soon after Zhao wrote this passage the Taiwan Straits Crisis demonstrated that the US would not withdraw its military presence from East Asia and remained determined to continue deciding political outcomes, acting the de facto ultimate arbiter of regional disputes. Thus, the global distribution of power did in fact come to govern the regional balance of power as the US used its global dominance to assert regional dominance in East Asia. The US subsequently acted to strengthen its regional military dominance by strengthening and extending the US-Japan alliance via the 1997 revised defense guidelines, and by reestablishing military-to-military cooperation with the Philippines. On the other hand, since the late 1990s Chinese power has increased greatly, and since 2005 has begun to challenge American dominance in East Asia. Thus, over the past decade Zhao’s claim, although inaccurate during the 1990s, might have become more accurate over the past decade, although there is real debate about how much of a decline in US military dominance there actually has been in recent years. The recent tendency of South Korea to move closer to China and away from the US and Japan on some issues, such as the six party talks on North Korea’s nuclear weapons development and on historical memory issues (in the case of Japan), are examples of this. There is also growing evidence of a bilateral security competition between China and Japan that reflects declining US military dominance. Japan’s attempt to strengthen its alliance with the US by giving greater support to US military forces is another sign of declining US military dominance, showing that Tokyo thinks US forces can no longer
necessarily prevail on their own. One might also point to the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Forum, ARF, ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asian Summit and various regional track-two multilateral forums as evidence that East Asians are slowly creating a regional security community in which the possibility of armed conflict among them will become remote, as is the case in most of Europe. However, regional institutions, especially political and security forums, remain very under-developed, suggesting that this prospect is very distant indeed.