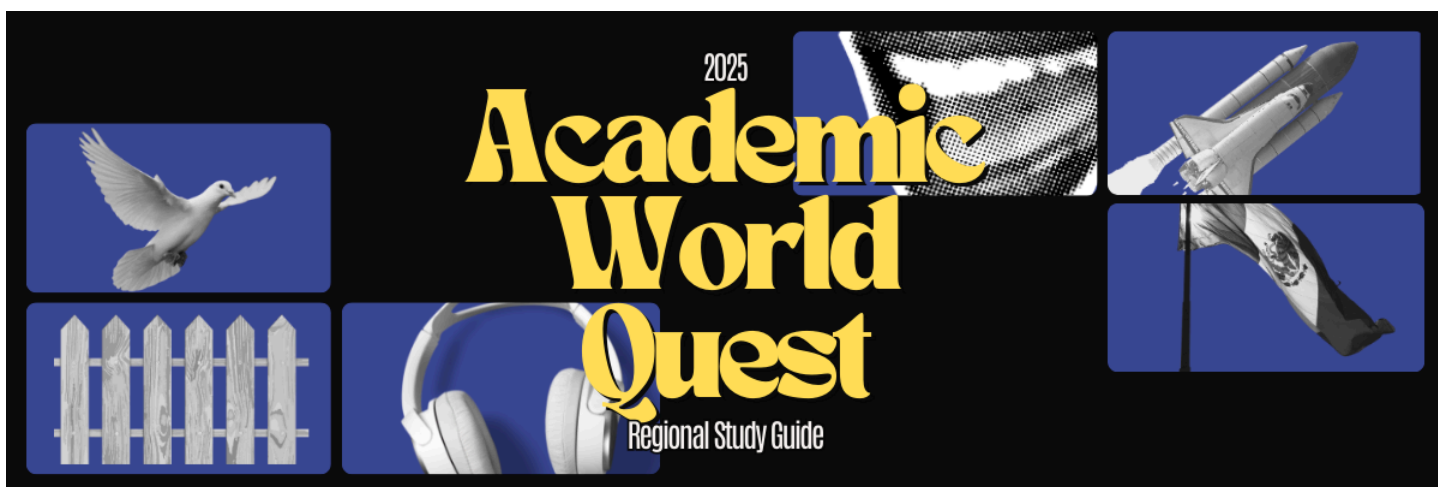




Overview of Regional Study Guide



Welcome to the 2025 Academic World Quest Regional Study Guide!

This year's competition brings together some of the most fascinating and complex topics in global affairs, giving you a unique opportunity to explore critical issues and prepare for the challenges of an interconnected world. Get ready to compete on **March 1, 2025**, as you expand your knowledge, sharpen your critical thinking, and test your teamwork on these six exciting topics:

1. **The United States and Foreign Languages** – Language education in the U.S. is evolving to meet global demands. Today's policies focus on building bilingual skills and cultural awareness, starting at a young age, so students are prepared for international collaboration. Technology and support for diverse languages are helping students connect with the world, whether they're learning Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, or Swahili. Discover how language can be a bridge to understanding, cultural exchange, and global problem-solving.
2. **Space and National Security** – With technology advancing rapidly, space is no longer just about exploration; it's about security. Since the establishment of the U.S. Space Force in 2019, the U.S. has prioritized the safety of its space infrastructure, from satellites to communication networks, against cyber threats, space debris, and possible attacks. Explore how space is now a key focus of national defense, where strategies protect not only Earth's orbit but also the nation's advantage in this new and essential domain.
3. **Music and Globalization** – From K-pop to reggaetón, music travels across continents, shaping culture and sparking dialogue. With the rise of streaming and social media, global music influences are reaching listeners everywhere, encouraging cultural exchange and even sparking social and political movements. Dive into how music reflects diversity, bridges cultural gaps, and unites people on issues ranging from identity to human rights, as artists and fans come together in a shared global soundscape.
4. **Indigenous Peacebuilding** – Indigenous communities often face complex challenges, from border conflicts to resource exploitation. Yet, despite these pressures, many Indigenous groups draw on their traditional knowledge, cultural practices, and spiritual values to foster peace in their communities. Learn about the resilience of Indigenous people who use unique, often under-recognized approaches to resolve conflicts, protect their lands, and support peace, standing as powerful examples within the global peacebuilding community.
5. **Borders and Boundaries** – When political borders don't align with cultural realities, it can create tensions around identity, governance, and social harmony. As globalization and migration reshape the world, addressing border issues requires sensitive solutions that honor both political and cultural concerns. Delve into how borders impact everyday life, from human rights to economic inequality, and the ways nations are addressing these challenges to foster cooperation and stability.

6. **Mexico: 2025 Focus Country** – Mexico plays a vital role on the global stage, especially in its relationship with the U.S. Recent elections in both countries highlight a dynamic time for policies on trade, immigration, and security. Beyond politics, shared histories and cross-border communities enrich the relationship between the U.S. and Mexico. Discover Mexico's unique role in regional and international affairs, as you explore the cultural and policy intersections that influence both countries and resonate around the world.
-

This guide will prepare you to dive deep into each topic, connecting you with pressing issues and giving you the skills to approach them critically and collaboratively. The knowledge you build here doesn't just prepare you for the competition—it prepares you to be a thoughtful, engaged global citizen. Get ready to compete, learn, and make an impact!

Overview of Regional Study Guide



The United States and Foreign Languages

1. The United States and Foreign Languages

U.S. language education policy is focused on helping students improve their communication skills, understand different cultures, and be better prepared for a globalized world. In the past, schools mainly taught major languages like Spanish, German, and French. Now, there's more encouragement for learning a wider variety of languages to meet global needs. Recent policies highlight the importance of learning languages at a young age, using technology in language learning, and supporting bilingual education to help students succeed in a multilingual, connected world.

The United States and Foreign Languages Round Sources

1. Time | [How English's Global Dominance Fails Us](#)
2. Pew | [Most European students are learning a foreign language in school while Americans lag](#)
3. American Councils for International Education | [Language Research – FLE – State of Language in the US](#)
4. Office of English Language Acquisition | [The Economic Benefits of Multilingualism](#)
5. American Academy of Arts and Sciences | [The State of Languages in the U.S.: A Statistical Portrait](#)
6. ShareAmerica | [The United States is rich in languages](#)
7. America the Bilingual | [The Surprising Truth About American Bilingualism: What the Data Tells Us](#)
8. American University | [Multilingualism on Rise in US: Illusion or Reality?](#)



Space and National Security

2. Space and National Security

Space is now an important part of U.S. national security. As technology improves, there is more focus on protecting space-related assets from threats like cyber attacks, space debris, and hostile actions from other countries. The creation of the U.S. Space Force in 2019 showed America's commitment to keeping space safe as a key part of its national security. The goal is not only to protect space infrastructure but also to develop the ability to maintain the U.S.'s advantages in this growing area.

Space and National Security Round Sources

1. Council on Foreign Relations | [UFOs: Close Encounters of the National Security Kind](#)
2. Department of Defense & The Office of the Director of National Intelligence | [US National Security Space Strategy](#)
3. NATO | [NATO's overarching Space Policy](#)
4. Joint Chiefs of Staff | [DIA Report Details Threats to America's Space-Based World](#)
5. Politico | [Politicians must not ignore security threats in space](#)
6. U.S. Department of State | [The Space Force's Critical Role in National Security](#)
7. NPR | [NASA won't run its future replacement](#)
8. NASA | [NASA Selects International Space Station US Deorbit Vehicle](#)




Music and Globalization

3. Music and Globalization

Music has been a big part of globalization by going beyond cultural and national borders, allowing people from different backgrounds to connect and share ideas. Streaming platforms, social media, and digital downloads make it easier than ever for music to reach listeners all over the world. Music can also be a strong way to inspire social change and political expression, bringing up global issues, challenging cultural expectations, and starting important conversations. Globalization through music not only celebrates cultural diversity but also helps bring different cultures together, creating a more connected world.

Music and Globalization Round Sources

1. Council on Foreign Relations | [Hip-Hop Diplomacy](#)
2. RTÉ | [How much is a Taylor Swift live show worth to a country?](#)
3. Rolling Stone | [How K-Pop Conquered the West](#)
 - a.  [RollingStones - How K-Pop Conquered the West.pdf](#)
4. Billboard | [5 Ways 'Despacito' Changed Latin Music Forever](#)
5. Glimpse from the Globe | [How Bad Bunny Used His Popularity to Stand Up for Social Issues](#)
6. The ASEAN | [Globalisation of Music: The Road to Cultural Diversity and Understanding?](#)
7. NPR | [More breakthroughs, less crossover: Afrobeats is here to stay, on its own terms](#)
8. Lowy Institute | [Pump up the volume: Music diplomacy as soft power](#)
9. NPR | [Regional Mexican Music is Having a Moment on the World Stage](#)



Indigenous Peacebuilding

4. Indigenous Peacebuilding

Around the world, Indigenous peoples often live in contested border areas on the front lines of violent conflict, insurgency and organized crime. And with limited employment opportunities, Indigenous peoples are disproportionately recruited into armed groups. Meanwhile, traffickers and criminals target their lands for natural resources, ranging from violence from extractive industries operating illegally to the poaching of protected species and land theft. Yet despite these many risks and obstacles, Indigenous communities have consistently drawn on their traditions, culture and religious practices to resolve violence and build local peace. While often highly successful, these efforts are underappreciated by the peacebuilding community or ignored entirely in formal peace processes.

Indigenous Peacebuilding Round Sources

1. United States Institute of Peace | [Indigenous Pathways to Peace](#)
2. Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists | [Peaceful societies are not utopian fantasy. They exist.](#)
3. United Nations | [Hadzabe Tribe: 40,000 year-old hunter-gatherer tribe gains land rights in Tanzania](#)
4. Scientific Research | [The Roles, Challenges and Opportunities of Gadaa System in Resolving Water Conflict: The Case of Borana Oromo](#)
5. United States Institute of Peace | [Guatemala: Indigenous Leaders Take Democracy Campaign Nationwide](#)
6. War Prevention Initiative | [Conversations on Indigenous and Decolonial Approaches to Environmental Peacebuilding: Interview with Dr. Elaine \(Lan Yin\) Hsiao](#)
7. United Nations | [Indigenous Peoples Must Be Equal Participants in Peace Plans, Conflict Resolution, Chairs Says as Permanent Forum Opens](#)
8. United Nations Economic and Social Council | [International expert group meeting on the theme "Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16"](#)



Borders and Boundaries

5. Borders and Boundaries

When international borders don't line up with cultural boundaries, it can cause problems with identity, government, economics, social unity, and human rights. Some of the effects include people feeling out of place, political and administrative difficulties, economic inequality, and social tensions or conflicts. Solving these problems requires careful approaches that take both the political and cultural sides of the affected areas into account.

Borders and Boundaries Round Sources

1. Council on Foreign Relations | [Statelessness Around the World](#)
2. Council on Foreign Relations | [Internally Displaced Persons: Migrants Who Do Not Cross a National Border](#)

3. Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft | [The Diplomatic Path to a Secure Ukraine](#)
4. BBC | [Who are the Kurds?](#)
5. Council on Foreign Relations | [The Kurds' Long Struggle With Statelessness](#)
6. BBC | [Partition: Why was British India divided 75 years ago?](#)
7. National Endowment for the Humanities | [The Story of the 1947 Partition as Told by the People Who Were There](#)
8. United States Institute of Peace | [North Korea Has Lost the 'Unification Competition'](#)
9. Sabinet African Journals | [African colonial boundaries and nation-building](#)
10. Council on Foreign Relations | [Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia](#)
11. Council on Foreign Relations | [Defending Ukraine](#)



Mexico: 2025 Focus Country

6. Mexico: 2025 Focus Country

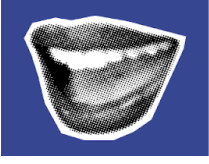
The relationship between the U.S. and Mexico is influenced by both political and cultural factors. Important political issues include trade, immigration, and security, while cultural aspects like shared history, cross-border communities, and cultural exchange also play a big role. As both countries held Presidential elections in 2024, their foreign and domestic policies continue to be closely connected, affecting not only regional stability but also global interests.

Additional resources from the Embassy of Mexico are forthcoming and will be accessible no later than December 2024.

Mexico: 2025 Focus Country Round Sources

1. Council on Foreign Relations | [How Globalization Affects What's for Brunch](#)
2. Council on Foreign Relations | [The U.S. Immigration Debate](#)
3. Office of the United States Trade Representative | [United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement](#)
4. Council on Foreign Relations | [NAFTA and the USMCA: Weighing the Impact of North American Trade](#)
5. Council on Foreign Relations | [Why U.S. Imports From Mexico Surpassed Those From China](#)
6. Queen's University | [The Man Who Made Mexican Water a Hit](#)
7. Economic Bilateral Affairs | [Mexico's Trade Outlook](#)
8. North Capital Forum | [What's Going On: Ambassadors Reflect on the Status of the Trilateral Relationship](#)
9. Latinometrics | [Mexico and the US: The World's Largest Trade Relationship](#)
10. Mexico Today | [The North American Way](#)
11. National Endowment for the Arts | [The Power of Youth Cultural Exchange](#)

1. The United States and Foreign Languages



The United States and Foreign Languages

1. The United States and Foreign Languages

U.S. language education policy is focused on helping students improve their communication skills, understand different cultures, and be better prepared for a globalized world. In the past, schools mainly taught major languages like Spanish, German, and French. Now, there's more encouragement for learning a wider variety of languages to meet global needs. Recent policies highlight the importance of learning languages at a young age, using technology in language learning, and supporting bilingual education to help students succeed in a multilingual, connected world.

The United States and Foreign Languages Round Sources

1. Time | [How English's Global Dominance Fails Us](#)
2. Pew | [Most European students are learning a foreign language in school while Americans lag](#)
3. American Councils for International Education | [Language Research – FLE – State of Language in the US](#)
4. Office of English Language Acquisition | [The Economic Benefits of Multilingualism](#)
5. American Academy of Arts and Sciences | [The State of Languages in the U.S.: A Statistical Portrait](#)
6. ShareAmerica | [The United States is rich in languages](#)
7. America the Bilingual | [The Surprising Truth About American Bilingualism: What the Data Tells Us](#)
8. American University | [Multilingualism on Rise in US: Illusion or Reality?](#)



2. Space and National Security



Space and National Security

2. Space and National Security

Space is now an important part of U.S. national security. As technology improves, there is more focus on protecting space-related assets from threats like cyber attacks, space debris, and hostile actions from other countries. The creation of the U.S. Space Force in 2019 showed America's commitment to keeping space safe as a key part of its national security. The goal is not only to protect space infrastructure but also to develop the ability to maintain the U.S.'s advantages in this growing area.

Space and National Security Round Sources

1. Council on Foreign Relations | [UFOs: Close Encounters of the National Security Kind](#)
2. Department of Defense & The Office of the Director of National Intelligence | [US National Security Space Strategy](#)
3. NATO | [NATO's overarching Space Policy](#)
4. Joint Chiefs of Staff | [DIA Report Details Threats to America's Space-Based World](#)
5. Politico | [Politicians must not ignore security threats in space](#)
6. U.S. Department of State | [The Space Force's Critical Role in National Security](#)
7. NPR | [NASA won't run its future replacement](#)
8. NASA | [NASA Selects International Space Station US Deorbit Vehicle](#)



3. Music and Globalization




Music and Globalization

3. Music and Globalization

Music has been a big part of globalization by going beyond cultural and national borders, allowing people from different backgrounds to connect and share ideas. Streaming platforms, social media, and digital downloads make it easier than ever for music to reach listeners all over the world. Music can also be a strong way to inspire social change and political expression, bringing up global issues, challenging cultural expectations, and starting important conversations. Globalization through music not only celebrates cultural diversity but also helps bring different cultures together, creating a more connected world.

Music and Globalization Round Sources

1. Council on Foreign Relations | [Hip-Hop Diplomacy](#)
2. RTÉ | [How much is a Taylor Swift live show worth to a country?](#)
3. Rolling Stone | [How K-Pop Conquered the West](#)
 - a.  [RollingStones - How K-Pop Conquered the West.pdf](#)
4. Billboard | [5 Ways 'Despacito' Changed Latin Music Forever](#)
5. Glimpse from the Globe | [How Bad Bunny Used His Popularity to Stand Up for Social Issues](#)
6. The ASEAN | [Globalisation of Music: The Road to Cultural Diversity and Understanding?](#)
7. NPR | [More breakthroughs, less crossover: Afrobeats is here to stay, on its own terms](#)
8. Lowy Institute | [Pump up the volume: Music diplomacy as soft power](#)
9. NPR | [Regional Mexican Music is Having a Moment on the World Stage](#)



4. Indigenous Peacebuilding



Indigenous Peacebuilding

4. Indigenous Peacebuilding

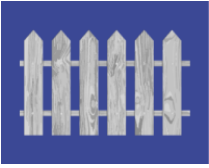
Around the world, Indigenous peoples often live in contested border areas on the front lines of violent conflict, insurgency and organized crime. And with limited employment opportunities, Indigenous peoples are disproportionately recruited into armed groups. Meanwhile, traffickers and criminals target their lands for natural resources, ranging from violence from extractive industries operating illegally to the poaching of protected species and land theft. Yet despite these many risks and obstacles, Indigenous communities have consistently drawn on their traditions, culture and religious practices to resolve violence and build local peace. While often highly successful, these efforts are underappreciated by the peacebuilding community or ignored entirely in formal peace processes.

Indigenous Peacebuilding Round Sources

1. United States Institute of Peace | [Indigenous Pathways to Peace](#)
2. Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists | [Peaceful societies are not utopian fantasy. They exist.](#)
3. United Nations | [Hadzabe Tribe: 40,000 year-old hunter-gatherer tribe gains land rights in Tanzania](#)
4. Scientific Research | [The Roles, Challenges and Opportunities of Gadaa System in Resolving Water Conflict: The Case of Borana Oromo](#)
5. United States Institute of Peace | [Guatemala: Indigenous Leaders Take Democracy Campaign Nationwide](#)
6. War Prevention Initiative | [Conversations on Indigenous and Decolonial Approaches to Environmental Peacebuilding: Interview with Dr. Elaine \(Lan Yin\) Hsiao](#)
7. United Nations | [Indigenous Peoples Must Be Equal Participants in Peace Plans, Conflict Resolution, Chairs Says as Permanent Forum Opens](#)
8. United Nations Economic and Social Council | [International expert group meeting on the theme "Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16"](#)



5. Borders and Boundaries



Borders and Boundaries

5. Borders and Boundaries

When international borders don't line up with cultural boundaries, it can cause problems with identity, government, economics, social unity, and human rights. Some of the effects include people feeling out of place, political and administrative difficulties, economic inequality, and social tensions or conflicts. Solving these problems requires careful approaches that take both the political and cultural sides of the affected areas into account.

Borders and Boundaries Round Sources

1. Council on Foreign Relations | [Statelessness Around the World](#)
2. Council on Foreign Relations | [Internally Displaced Persons: Migrants Who Do Not Cross a National Border](#)
3. Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft | [The Diplomatic Path to a Secure Ukraine](#)
4. BBC | [Who are the Kurds?](#)
5. Council on Foreign Relations | [The Kurds' Long Struggle With Statelessness](#)
6. BBC | [Partition: Why was British India divided 75 years ago?](#)
7. National Endowment for the Humanities | [The Story of the 1947 Partition as Told by the People Who Were There](#)
8. United States Institute of Peace | [North Korea Has Lost the 'Unification Competition'](#)
9. Sabinet African Journals | [African colonial boundaries and nation-building](#)
10. Council on Foreign Relations | [Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia](#)
11. Council on Foreign Relations | [Defending Ukraine](#)

6. Mexico: 2025 Focus Country



Mexico: 2025 Focus Country

6. Mexico: 2025 Focus Country

The relationship between the U.S. and Mexico is influenced by both political and cultural factors. Important political issues include trade, immigration, and security, while cultural aspects like shared history, cross-border communities, and cultural exchange also play a big role. As both countries held Presidential elections in 2024, their foreign and domestic policies continue to be closely connected, affecting not only regional stability but also global interests.

Additional resources from the Embassy of Mexico are forthcoming and will be accessible no later than December 2024.

Mexico: 2025 Focus Country Round Sources

1. Council on Foreign Relations | [How Globalization Affects What's for Brunch](#)
2. Council on Foreign Relations | [The U.S. Immigration Debate](#)
3. Office of the United States Trade Representative | [United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement](#)
4. Council on Foreign Relations | [NAFTA and the USMCA: Weighing the Impact of North American Trade](#)
5. Council on Foreign Relations | [Why U.S. Imports From Mexico Surpassed Those From China](#)
6. Queen's University | [The Man Who Made Mexican Water a Hit](#)
7. Economic Bilateral Affairs | [Mexico's Trade Outlook](#)
8. North Capital Forum | [What's Going On: Ambassadors Reflect on the Status of the Trilateral Relationship](#)
9. Latinometrics | [Mexico and the US: The World's Largest Trade Relationship](#)
10. Mexico Today | [The North American Way](#)
11. National Endowment for the Arts | [The Power of Youth Cultural Exchange](#)