## Part III

## (Question 35)

## ENDURING ISSUES ESSAY

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document. Keep in mind that the language and images used in a document may reflect the historical context of the time in which it was created.

***Directions*:** Read and analyze each of the five documents and write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details based on your knowledge of social studies and evidence from the documents.

**An enduring issue is a challenge or problem that has been debated or discussed across time. An enduring issue is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.**

**Task:**

- Identify ***and*** explain an enduring issue raised by this set of documents
- Argue why the issue you selected is significant ***and*** how it has endured across time using your knowledge of social studies and evidence from the documents

**In your essay, be sure to**

- Identify the enduring issue based on a historically accurate interpretation of *at least* ***three*** documents
- Explain the issue using relevant evidence from *at least* ***three*** documents
- Argue that this is a significant issue that has endured by showing:
  - How the issue has affected people or has been affected by people
  - How the issue has continued to be an issue or has changed over time
- Include relevant outside information from your knowledge of social studies

In developing your answer to Part III, be sure to keep these explanations in mind:

**Identify**—means to put a name to or to name.

**Explain**—means to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show logical development or relationship of something.

**Argue**—means to provide a series of statements that provide evidence and reasons to support a conclusion.

## Document 1

### Bread and the French Revolution

…As they became more common, grain riots could have powerful repercussions. During the winter and spring of 1789, bread riots were especially common. In fact, the riots that resulted in the fall of the Bastille on 14 July 1789 and helped move forward the early stages of the French Revolution began as a search for arms and grain. Parisians had rightly suspected that some people had hoarded grain in anticipation of higher prices and they had taken to the streets to protest this hoarding.

In the early stages of the French Revolution, rising bread prices were a major concern; the new government, worried about what the people might do if they could not get access to bread, quickly responded to complaints about prices, accusations of hoarding, and other, similar concerns.

These riots and, even more simply, the threat of rioting helped propel the revolution forward and make it increasingly radical.

The rioters even tried to set price controls for bread and other essentials. But inflation continued to be a problem alongside grain shortages.…

Source: Michael R. Lynn, "Riots and Rye: Bread and the French Revolution," The Ultimate History Project online

## Document 2

…The Luddite disturbances started in circumstances at least superficially similar to our own. British working families at the start of the 19th century were enduring economic upheaval and widespread unemployment. A seemingly endless war against Napoleon's France had brought "the hard pinch of poverty," wrote Yorkshire historian Frank Peel, to homes "where it had hitherto [before] been a stranger." Food was scarce and rapidly becoming more costly. Then, on March 11, 1811, in Nottingham, a textile manufacturing center, British troops broke up a crowd of protesters demanding more work and better wages.

That night, angry workers smashed textile machinery in a nearby village. Similar attacks occurred nightly at first, then sporadically [irregularly], and then in waves, eventually spreading across a 70-mile swath [broad area] of northern England from Loughborough in the south to Wakefield in the north. Fearing a national movement, the government soon positioned thousands of soldiers to defend factories. Parliament passed a measure to make machine-breaking a capital offense.

But the Luddites were neither as organized nor as dangerous as authorities believed. They set some factories on fire, but mainly they confined themselves to breaking machines. In truth, they inflicted less violence than they encountered. In one of the bloodiest incidents, in April 1812, some 2,000 protesters mobbed a mill near Manchester. The owner ordered his men to fire into the crowd, killing at least 3 and wounding 18. Soldiers killed at least 5 more the next day.…

Source: Richard Conniff, "What the Luddites Really Fought Against," *Smithsonian Magazine*, March 2011

**Document 3**

The Galway Starvation Riots occurred a few years before the potato crop failure. The Irish Potato Famine began in 1845.



**ATTACK ON A POTATO STORE**.

Source: "Ireland, Attack on a Potato Store – The Galway Starvation Riots,"
*The Illustrated London News*, June 25, 1842,
text and scan by Philip V. Allingham, The Victorian Web

Under the heading "The Galway Starvation Riots," *The Illustrated London News* for the week ending Saturday, 25 June, 1842, described how the desperation of the Irish poor had driven them on the 13th to attack a potato store in the town of Galway, another month remaining before the next harvest and possible alleviation [reduction] of their misery, occasioned by hunger. Although the attackers were led by starving women and children, at the rear of the mob were a party of formidable Claddaugh fishermen. The mob dared to attack the local sheriff accompanied by a strong force of police and members of the 30th regiment as they moved to plunder a storehouse for ground oatmeal. After their victory (owing to the fact that the troops refused to fire on women and children) the fishermen insisted that the church bells be rung and windows be illuminated in the town before they put out to sea. Similar disturbances are reported as having occurred at Loughrea.

**Document 4**

One person was killed and six others were injured during a food riot inside a camp that houses Chadian refugees in the Sudanese region of Darfur, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports.

The agency said the incident occurred on Tuesday morning at the camp in Um Shalaya, about 70 kilometres southeast of El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur state.

Hundreds of stick-bearing women demonstrated noisily against a temporary reduction in the availability of sorghum,* which is widely consumed in both Chad and Sudan, because of logistical problems. Continued insecurity has made it difficult to safely transport food from El Geneina to the camp at Um Shalaya.

UNHCR reports that some members of the crowd took on local police and assaulted one of them, despite efforts by aid workers at the scene to calm the refugees. The police fired warning shots in the air and, in the confusion, a 26-year-old male refugee was hit in the chest and later died.…

"The incident is very regrettable and first and foremost we express our sympathies to the persons and families of both the refugee community and the police who were injured," said Chrysantus Ache, UNHCR's representative in Sudan.

"We urge calm and restraint by all parties," Mr. Ache said. "We are currently conducting a proper investigation into the incident with the Government and we hope that, together with the refugees, we can quickly reach an understanding on how to avoid such incidents in the camp in the future."

About 6,600 refugees live in Um Shalaya, with new asylum-seekers arriving each month as they flee violence in their home areas of eastern Chad, where rebels have been fighting Government forces for months.…

This week's food riot has occurred amid mounting UN concern about repeated attacks against humanitarian convoys throughout Darfur, a vast and impoverished region on Sudan's western flank.…

Source: "Food riot at refugee camp in Darfur kills one, injures six others – UN," UN News online, September 4, 2008

* sorghum is a cereal grain eaten by humans and livestock in sub-Saharan Africa

**Document 5**

BEIJING – The factory riot that hit one of the world's largest electronics manufacturers this week in northern China was rooted in growing economic pressure and impatience with poor work conditions among the country's vast pool of migrant workers, analysts say, adding that if grievances remain unaddressed, such incidents are likely to increase.

The riot, which began late Sunday, involved nearly 2,000 workers at a facility of Foxconn, a Taiwan-based manufacturing giant, which temporarily shut down the factory in response. The latest unrest coincides with signs of a slowdown in the Chinese economy, as well as the launch of a new iPhone by Apple, which depends on Foxconn as its main Chinese supplier.

"Such riots have become in some ways inevitable," said Liu Kaiming, a labor expert in Shenzhen, the hub of China's manufacturing plants. "It's no longer simply a matter of raising the wages."…

The young migrant workers whose labor has fueled much of the growth of China's economy and the global manufacturing sector have begun to change in demographics and desires. That labor pool is shrinking, according to experts, as workers from China's provinces have become better educated and hold higher expectations for their lives.…

But the heavy demands of the factory jobs have not changed with the demographics, leaving many frustrated. Most of the jobs require little education or, in many cases, skill — only intensity.

"The companies haven't figured out how to manage that intensity," Gallagher said. "It's intense because of the precision required. It's intense because of how quickly technology changes and newer models are demanded. And while the number of workers is shrinking, you have the pressures on them mounting."…

Source: William Wan, "Foxconn riot in China unlikely to be the last, experts say," *The Washington Post*, September 25, 2012