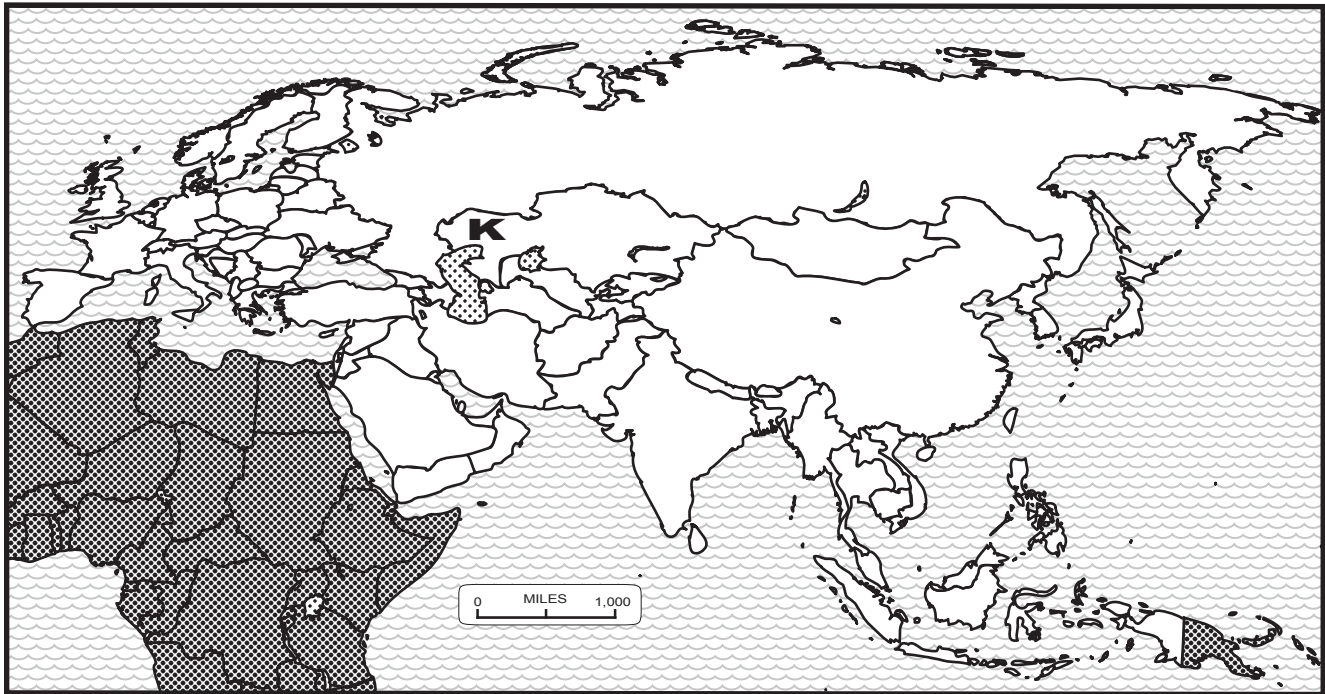


Getting Oil Out of Kazakhstan

In order to understand a place, it is not enough to know the conditions at the place. You also need to know about the connections between that place and other places.

Background: Land around (and under) the Caspian Sea in Kazakhstan (K) has several of the largest oil discoveries in the last 20 years. Unfortunately, this part of Asia is dry and sparsely populated, far away from the economic centers of the world.

Options: An oil pipeline could go west toward Europe, north to Russia, east to China, or south to a port on the Indian Ocean. Each option has advantages and disadvantages.



For each proposed route on list 1, pick the best descriptions of conditions along the way: environmental conditions from list 2, and political conditions from list 3.

1. ROUTE

Westward
E__ P__

Northward
E__ P__

Eastward
E__ P__

Southward
E__ P__

2. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

E1 - generally low land that gradually gets colder and is covered by forest

E2 - rugged mountains, with grassland and desert between the ranges

E3 - mostly plains with crop fields, and low hills covered by forest

E4 - grassland, then very high mountains, a barren desert, and finally forest and cropland

3. POLITICAL CONDITIONS

P1 - many countries that were divided during the Cold War; now they must negotiate a pipeline right-of-way

P2 - just one border, with a large country that was the core of the Soviet Union, which ruled Kazakhstan for many years

P3 - small, ethnically divided countries that are involved in civil wars and terrorist activity

P4 - one border, with a large country that has had trade links with Central Asia for 2000 years

Then: Design a presentation to persuade people to choose the route you think is best.