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# 2023 GREAT DECISIONS

Foreign Policy Association



Energy Geopolitics

Climate Migration

Iran at a Crossroads

Politics in Latin America

China and the U.S.

Economic Warfare

War Crimes

Global Famine

# 2023 GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions, a project of the Foreign Policy Association, is a grassroots world affairs education program which brings together Americans from across the nation to discover and discuss foreign policy issues. Over the course of eight weeks, scholars will introduce each issue, and participants may explore their own views and those of the group.

## Energy Geopolitics



**February 6**  
Pablo Toral, PhD  
Beloit College

Access to oil and gas has long held an influence over the politics of individual nations and their relations with others. But, as more countries move toward sustainable energy and supply chain shortages affect the availability of oil and gas, how will this change the way in which the United States interacts with the outside world?

## Climate Migration \*ONLINE ONLY\*



**February 13**  
Alise Coen, PhD  
UW-Green Bay

As climate change accelerates and drought and rising sea levels become more common, millions of people in affected regions must uproot themselves and seek safety elsewhere. Who are these affected individuals and how might the United States aid them—and be affected by the migration?

## Iran at a Crossroads



**February 20**  
Beth Dougherty, PhD  
Beloit College

By the fall of 2022, Iran was in a state of turmoil due to widespread protests against government-enforced wearing of the hijab, a failing economy, an ineffective new president, and the looming succession of the country's leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. Abroad, renewal of the Iran nuclear deal seemed doubtful and tensions remain high between Iran, Israel, and Arab states. Many Iranians have lost hope of a better future, and the country seems at a crossroads. How should the United States deal with it?

## Politics in Latin America



**February 27**  
Martin Farrell, PhD  
Ripon College  
(Retired)

Electoral results in Latin America over the past four years have led many observers of the regional/political scene to discern a left-wing surge in the hemisphere, reminiscent of the so-called "Pink Tide" that swept the area some 20 years ago. But, how much do these politicians actually have in common? What implication does their ascendancy have for the region?

## China and the U.S.



**March 6**  
David Fields, PhD  
UW-Madison

For the past ten years, the United States and China have been locked in a competition for who has the greatest global influence. One major point of contention is the status of Taiwanese sovereignty, which has become even more relevant recently with the possibility that Russia's invasion of Ukraine may prompt China to take similar action regarding Taiwan. How will the United States engage a China which is increasingly seeking to expand its sphere of influence?

## Economic Warfare



**March 13**  
Pablo Toral, PhD  
Beloit College

Waging economic warfare consists of a variety of measures from implementing sanctions to fomenting labor strikes. Such tools are utilized by states to hinder their enemies and in the case of the United States have been used as far back as the early 19th century. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, economic warfare has been the main means for the west to challenge Russia. How effective will these sanctions be at convincing Russia to cease its war?

## War Crimes



**March 20**  
Kevin Kelly, J.D.  
UW-Madison  
Law School

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in widespread charges of war crimes and calls for justice. But, what exactly are war crimes? Opinions of what constitutes a war crime have evolved, as have ways to identify and punish the perpetrators. How will the war crimes committed in Ukraine be dealt with?

## Global Famine



**March 27**  
Elizabeth Wheat, PhD  
UW-Green Bay

Fears of global food shortages have followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has disrupted grain shipments from the major grain producer. But, what about countries and regions that were suffering before this impending shortage? How is famine defined and how is it different from simple food shortages? What, if any, remedies are there?

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