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2024 GREAT DECISIONS

Foreign Policy Association



Climate Technology
Middle East Alignment (Two Parts)
Science and AI
NATO's Future
US China Trade Rivalry
Understanding Indonesia
High Seas Treaty

2024 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.

Climate Technology



February 5
Pablo Toral, PhD
Beloit College

Will the United States and China, with other powerful countries following suit, approach current and future climate initiatives with an increased commitment to trade protectionism and nationalism, by various measures including trade restrictions? Or could a growing spirit of international accord develop to confront the “common enemy” of climate change?

Middle East Alignment (Part One) *ONLINE ONLY*



February 12
Alise Coen, PhD
UW-Green Bay

The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads. In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U.S. still has significant national interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement, or should it recommit to a leading role in the region?

Middle East Alignment (Part Two)



February 19
Beth Dougherty, PhD
Beloit College

The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads. In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U.S. still has significant national interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement, or should it recommit to a leading role in the region?

Science and AI



February 26
Matthew Friedel, PhD
UW-Milwaukee

Scientific advances benefit from collaboration between researchers, but what happens when material, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) is controversial and important to a nation’s national security? Is there a middle ground between sharing information and denying access? How can we regulate cooperation?

NATO's Future



March 4
Martin Farrell, PhD
Ripon College
(Retired)

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has come under increased scrutiny, not because NATO troops are involved in the conflict, but because of its role in relations between Russia and its neighbors. Will expanding membership in NATO protect countries, or will it further provoke Russia?

US-China Trade Rivalry



March 11
David Fields, PhD
UW-Madison

China’s economic rise and its current policies of increasing the role of the state in the economy have led some U.S. policymakers to seek to deny China access to U.S. technology and investment. This is seen as a necessary corrective to decades of predatory Chinese economic policies. Is this a wise strategy, and how effective can it be?

Understanding Indonesia *ONLINE ONLY*



March 18
Eunsook Jung, PhD
UW-Madison

Despite its large size, Indonesia remains virtually invisible to most Americans. But as one of the world’s largest democracies, the world’s largest Muslim-majority nation, and as an economic driver of ASEAN, why does it fly below the radar? What are current issues in U.S.-Indonesian relations, and what role can the country play in Asia?

High Seas Treaty



March 25
Elizabeth Wheat, PhD
UW-Green Bay

Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise the high seas, which are facing a degradation of ecosystems due to climate change and the increase in human activities, such as shipping, overfishing, pollution, and deep-sea mining. The recently negotiated High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, will attempt to address these issues. How difficult will it be to convince nations to participate?

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