

## Great Decisions 2022

Great Decisions 2022 kicks off on Wednesday, February 23, 11:00 - 12:30. We look forward to engaging in a wide-ranging overview of critical issues in world affairs. Here are some notes to get you ready for your Zoom webinar experience this term.

### The class experience

Each class will begin with a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation prepared by the Foreign Policy Association, followed by comments from a faculty resource person who will then guide our subsequent discussion using the Q&A feature in Zoom webinar. You can type your questions into the Q&A box at any time. A list of dates, topics, and resource faculty is below. Thanks to the volunteer committee which recruited these subject matter experts who will offer additional perspective on the topic and address your questions.

You will receive a Zoom link for the class when you register. You can order a briefing book from the Foreign Policy Association [fpa.org/great\\_decisions/?act=gd\\_materials](https://fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials). It's also available as an ebook from online retailers.



## SPEAKER SCHEDULE (descriptions from the Foreign Policy Association)

**Feb 23. Russia** - Aaron Brantly, resource person.  
Facilitator: Sue Magliaro

Russia and the U.S. have many areas of conflict and some possible areas of mutual interest. Arms control, Russian interference in U.S. elections and support of cyberattacks, the status of Ukraine, the fate of opposition politicians in Russia, all continue to be concerning. How will the new administration in Washington approach these issues?

**Mar 2. The Quad Alliance** - Paul Avey, resource person. Facilitator: Sue Magliaro

As part of the U.S. pivot to Asia, the United States has been in dialogue with Japan, Australia, and India in an effort to contain China. Recently, the Quad countries held joint naval exercises in the South Pacific. How effective will the actions of this alliance be?

**Mar 9. Myanmar and ASEAN** - Max Stephenson, resource person. Facilitator: Janet Rankin

The situation in Myanmar, including the coup by the military in February 2021 and the ongoing human rights crises, coupled with civil resistance by those opposed to the regime, has led to chaos in the Southeast Asian country. How are neighboring countries reacting, and what role will ASEAN play?

**Mar 16. Climate Change** - Todd Schenk, resource person. Facilitator: Janet Rankin

The ideological divide in the U.S. on climate change has impeded progress in curbing greenhouse emissions. But extreme weather events at both ends of the thermometer have focused attention on the consequences of inaction. What role will the U.S. play in future negotiations on climate?

**Mar 23. Outer Space** - Jack Kennedy, resource person. Facilitator: Victoria Cochran

The launch of Sputnik I in October 1957 marked the beginning of the space race between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. In the 21st century, there are many more participants in space, including India and China, and commercial companies such as SpaceX. How will the U.S. fare in a crowded outer space?

**Mar 30. Biden's Agenda** - Karen Hult, resource person. Facilitator: Joan Hirt

The Biden administration promised to reverse many of the policies of the past administration, especially in foreign policy. How will issues such as climate, the pandemic, and alliances be treated under the Biden administration?

**Apr 6. Industrial Policy** - David Bieri, resource person. Facilitator: Sue Magliaro

The discussion of industrial policy in the U.S. is not simply about whether to support specific companies or industries, but about trust or mistrust of the government and its ability to manage the economy and deal with a rising China. The upheaval in supply chains during the pandemic exposed weaknesses in the international economy. What policies can the U.S. implement to deal with trade and the economy?

**Apr 13. Drug Policy in Latin America** - Ilya Luciak, resource person. Facilitator: Joan Hirt

The issue of migration to the U.S. from Latin America has overshadowed the war on drugs, which has been underway for decades with little sign of progress. What are the roots and the bureaucratic logic behind today's dominant drug policies in Latin America? Is it time to reconsider punitive drug control policies that disrupt supply chains and punish drug possession?

