

GREAT DECISIONS 2022

Owing to caution and uncertainties related to Covid, the series will continue to be presented via Zoom. Discussions will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 pm on successive Sunday evenings from February 27-April 24 (with a break for Easter on April 17). If you have not already registered, you can do so by contacting Lou Bellardo (lou@bellardo.com) or by following the instructions on the First Church website. When you register, you will receive the Zoom link good for all sessions.

The Great Decisions workbook is available from the Foreign Policy Association website at https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials, but it is not necessary to read the articles in order to benefit from the discussion. We will discuss topics in the following order:

February 27: **Russia and the U.S.** Russia and the United States 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? by Allen Lynch. The discussion will be led by Steve Pifer. Pifer is a William J. Perry Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford. He is a retired Foreign Service Officer who specialized in Russian and Eurasian affairs and served as Ambassador to Ukraine.

March 6: **Biden's Agenda II.** The initial talk on this subject was plagued by technical problems. In response to requests to reprise the subject, Tom Fingar will present a second lecture on Biden's foreign policy agenda that will incorporate some of the points made in the February 20 talk but devote most time to examination of how and why the President's approach to international issues differs from that of his predecessors. Tom Fingar is a Shorenstein APARC fellow at Stanford and a former Assistant Secretary of State and Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

March 13: **Myanmar and ASEAN.** 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 the chaos in the Southeast Asian country. How are neighboring countries reacting, and what role will ASEAN play? by Hunter Marston. The discussion will be led by Scot Marciel. Marciel is a Visiting Fellow at Stanford's Shorenstein Asia Pacific Research Center and former ambassador to Myanmar.

March 20: **Quad Alliance.** 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? by Kevin Rudd. The discussion will be led by Tom Fingar. Fingar is a Shorenstein APARC fellow at Stanford and a former Assistant Secretary of State and Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

March 27: **Climate Change.** The ideological divide in the United States on the subject of 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 United States play in future negotiations on climate? by Ron Bee. Discussion leader not yet confirmed.

April 3: **Industrial Policy**. The current discussion of industrial policy in the United States is not simply about whether or not 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 United States implement to deal with trade and the economy? by Jonathan Chanis. Discussion leader not yet confirmed.

April 10: **Outer Space**. The launch of Sputnik 1 in October 1957 marked the beginning of the space era and of the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union. In the 21st century, there are many more participants in space, including countries such as India and China, and commercial companies such as SpaceX. How will the United States fare in a crowded outer space? by Eric Berger. The discussion will be led by Jay Santee. Santee is a retired Air Force Major General and vice president for Strategic Space Operations at Aerospace Corporation.

April 24: **Drug Policy in Latin America**. The issue of migration to the United States from Latin America has overshadowed the war on drugs, which has been underway for decades with little signs 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 policies that disrupt supply chains and punish drug possession? by Mónica Serrano. Discussion leader not yet confirmed.

GD Schedule 2-22-22