



Foreign Policy Association www.fpa.org
GREAT DECISIONS 2021

These discussion groups are co-sponsored by the [League of Women Voters of La Plata County](#), the Durango Branch of the American Association of University Women & The Durango Public Library. We will be using the Zoom platform starting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 and continuing every other Tuesday for 8 sessions.

Based on moderator availability, these sessions will be held in a different order than their appearance in the Briefing Book. Please follow the order displayed in the table below.

Topic	Tuesdays 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Persian Gulf Security Issues <i>Moderator: Eric Nedergaard</i>	January 26, 2021
China's Role in Africa <i>Moderator: Mike Todt</i>	February 9, 2021
Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic <i>Moderator: Prof. Ben Waddell</i>	February 23, 2021
Brexit and the European Union <i>Moderator: Prof. Paul DeBell</i>	March 9, 2021
Global Supply Chains and National Security <i>Moderator: Alex Lemmel</i>	March 23, 2021
The end of globalization? <i>Moderator: Prof. Ruth Alminas</i>	April 6, 2021
Struggles Over the Melting Arctic <i>Moderator: Guinn Unger</i>	April 20, 2021
The Korean Peninsula <i>Moderator: Holly Vaughn</i>	May 4, 2021

These will be virtual sessions using the Zoom Streaming platform

The link will be sent to your email a week ahead and a day ahead of each meeting and will also be available on the 2021 Great Decisions page of the [LWV La Plata web site](#)

If you have not already preordered a briefing book, contact janicesheftel@gmail.com by November 30, 2020. After that please contact www.fpa.org to order one.

Other questions: Janice Sheftel 970-259-5845 janicesheftel@gmail.com
 For more information about Great Decisions and the Foreign Policy Association, www.fpa.org
 or the LWV La Plata web site www.lwvlaplata.org



Global supply chains and national security: by Jonathan Chanis

The shutdown of global supply chains due to the Covid-19 pandemic brought to the fore an issue with the high level of global economic interdependence: what happens when one country is the main source for an item, say face masks, and then can no longer supply the item? Countries suddenly unable to meet the demand for certain supplies are faced with growing calls for economic nationalism. What are some of the lasting effects that the pandemic could have on global supply chains and trade? How would this affect national security?

Persian Gulf security issues: by Lawrence G. Potter

The Persian Gulf remains tense as the rivalry between the regional powers of Saudi Arabia and Iran continues. Tensions escalated in early 2020 as the United States began to intervene in the Gulf, launching an airstrike that killed two Iranian military commanders. What are the historical influences that have led to these tensions? What role, if any, should the United States play? Is using military force a viable foreign policy option for 2021 and beyond?

Brexit and the European Union: by Harris LaTeef

With the “Brexit transition period” coming to an end this year, the United Kingdom will formally leave the European Union at the start of 2021. With negotiations between the two entities continuing to stall, what does the future of Europe and the UK look like? Will the UK survive a possible Scottish vote to leave? Who will step up and take command of Europe now that Angela Merkel is out of the spotlight?

Struggles over the melting Arctic: by Stephanie Pezard

U.S. President Donald Trump left many scratching their heads when it was rumored that he was looking to purchase the large island nation of Greenland from Denmark. While any potential deal seems highly unlikely, the event shows the changing opinion within the U.S. government toward engagement with the Arctic region. Because of climate change, large sheets of arctic ice are melting, exposing vast stores of natural gas and oil. With Russia and China already miles ahead with their Arctic strategies, can the U.S. catch up?

China's role in Africa: by Cobus van Staden

The Covid-19 crisis has put a massive strain on what was growing a positive economic and political relationship between China and the continent of Africa. As Chinese President Xi Jinping's centerpiece “Belt and Road initiative” continues to expand Chinese power, the response to the spread of Covid-19, as well as the African government's growing debt to China, has seen pushback. What are some of the growing economic and political issues between China and Africa?

The Korean Peninsula: by Scott Snyder

The Korean Peninsula is facing a defining era. Attempts by South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump to repair the rift between North and South have lost any momentum as Pyongyang continues to test long-range missiles for its nuclear weapons program. As the rift between the U.S. and China grows further, South Korea may end up in the middle of the two superpowers. What does the future hold for the U.S. relationship with the ROK?

Roles of international organizations in a global pandemic: by Mara Pillinger

The Covid-19 pandemic has thrust the World Health Organization (WHO) into the limelight, for better and for worse. While some of the Trump administration's criticism of the organization is unfair, the response to the

early stages of the pandemic left many experts wanting more from the WHO. What is the WHO's role in responding to international pandemics? What can be done to improve the WHO's response to future global health crises?

The end of globalization?: By Anne O. Krueger

As the United States enters another election season, the merits and drawbacks of globalization are again being debated by the presidential candidates. With the passing of the Brexit vote and Donald Trump's America First doctrine, protectionist policies have become more prevalent, challenging globalization. What is globalization and how will it be affected by protectionist trade policies? How will the United States and the world be affected by such policies? Is globalization really at an end, or in need of a refresh?

For more information, please contact editorial@fpa.org

****Titles are subject to change before publication**