



Foreign Policy Association GREAT DECISIONS 2019

Discussion groups 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

The order of topics in the briefing book is different from the schedule shown below due to moderator availability. Please follow the schedule.

Topic	Tuesdays 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
"The Middle East: Regional Disorder" <i>Katherine Burgess</i>	January 29
"The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested" <i>Mike Todt</i>	February 12
"Decoding U.S.- China Trade" <i>Kim Martin</i>	February 26
"The Rise of Populism in Europe" <i>Paul DeBell</i>	March 12
"Refugees and Global Migration" <i>Ruth Alminas</i>	March 26
"Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?" <i>Guinn Unger</i>	April 9
"State of the State Department and Diplomacy" <i>Curt Johnson</i>	April 23
"Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics" <i>Gail Harris</i>	May 7

Durango Public Library
1900 East Third Avenue
Program Rooms 1 & 2, Main Floor
Brown bag lunch

Checks for \$25.00 for each briefing book should be made out to "LWV LPC" and mailed with the bottom of this form no later than December 31 to:

Susan McGinness 756 E. 6th Ave., Durango, CO 81301

Books will be distributed (in the priority of orders received) at the Durango Public Library Reference Desk in early January, upon notification from Susan McGinness. You can contact Susan about books at mcginnesssss@gmail.com

Other questions: Janice Sheftel 970-259-5845 janicesheftel@gmail.com

For more information about Great Decisions and the Foreign Policy Association, or to order a book if we have sold out, click on www.fpa.org or the local League's web site www.lwvaplata.org

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____



Great Decisions 2019 Topics

Refugees and Global Migration

By Karen Jacobsen

Today, no countries have open borders. Every state in today's global system has its own laws and policies about who is permitted to cross its borders, and how they will do so. Who determines whether someone is a refugee or a migrant? How have different countries, including the United States, reacted to migration? How effective are the international laws, policies and organizations that have evolved to assist and protect refugees and migrants?

The Middle East: Regional Disorder

By Lawrence G. Potter

As the presidency of Donald J. Trump passes the halfway point, the Middle East remains a region in turmoil. The Trump administration has aligned itself with strongmen in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, which along with Israel have a common goal of frustrating Iranian expansion. What will be the fallout from policy reversals such as withdrawing from the Iranian nuclear accord and moving the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem? Does the United States see a path forward in troubled states such as Syria, Yemen, Libya and Iraq? Is the United States headed toward war with Iran?

Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?

by Ronald J. Bee

Nuclear weapons have not gone away, and the Trump administration has brought a new urgency, if not a new approach, to dealing with them. The President has met with Vladimir Putin as the New Start Treaty with Russia comes up for renewal in 2021, the first presidential summit ever with Kim Jong-un occurred to discuss denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, and President Trump has decertified the Obama nuclear deal with Iran. To what degree should past nuclear talks guide future U.S. nuclear arms control negotiations? Can the art of the deal apply to stabilizing our nuclear future?

The Rise of Populism in Europe

By James Kirchick

Mass migration, and the problems associated with it, have directly abetted the rise of populist parties in Europe. Opposition to immigration was the prime driver of support for Brexit, it brought a far-right party to the German Bundestag for the first time since the 1950s, and propelled Marine Le Pen to win a third of the vote in the French presidential election. In addition to calling for stronger borders, however, these parties are invariably illiberal, anti-American, anti-NATO and pro-Kremlin, making their rise a matter of serious concern for the national security interests of the United States.

Decoding U.S.-China Trade

By Jeremy Haft

Though arguably the most advanced economy in the world, the United States still uses centuries-old numbers to measure trade. These antique numbers mangle understanding of the U.S.-China trade relationship, shrinking America's true economic size and competitiveness, while swelling China's. Bad numbers give rise to bad policies that ultimately kill U.S. jobs and cede market share to China. What other tools can the United States employ to counter China's unfair trade practices? There are several available, yet they remain mostly unused.

Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics

By Richard Andres

Cyber conflict is a new and continually developing threat, which can include foreign interference in elections, industrial sabotage and attacks on infrastructure. Russia has been accused of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections in the United States and China is highly committed to using cyberspace as a tool of national policy. Dealing with cyber conflict will require new ways of looking at 21st century warfare. Is the United States prepared to respond to such threats?

The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested

By Michael Shifter and Bruno Binetti

The United States and Mexico have a long, intertwined history, with both countries prominently featured in each other's politics and agendas. The war on drugs, immigration and trade issues have taxed the relationship over the years. What impact will new leadership in both countries have on this crucial partnership?

State of the State Department and Diplomacy

By Nicholas Burns

During the Trump administration, the usual ways of conducting diplomacy have been upended. Many positions in the State Department have never been filled, and meetings with foreign leaders such as Kim Jong-un and Vladimir Putin have been undertaken with little advance planning. What effect are these changes having now, and how will they affect ongoing relationships between the United States and its allies and adversaries?