

# GREAT DECISIONS

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2014 EDITION

## 2014 National Opinion Ballot

First, we'd like to ask you for some information about your participation in the Great Decisions program. If you are not currently a Great Decisions program member, please skip to the next page by clicking the arrow at the bottom of this page.

- How long have you participated in the Great Decisions program (i.e., attended one or more discussion sessions)?
- I participated in one previous year.
- I participated in more than one previous year.
- This is the first year I have participated.

How did you learn about the Great Decisions program?

- Word of mouth
- Local library
- Foreign Policy Association website
- Promotional brochure
- Other organization \_\_\_\_\_

Where does your Great Decisions group meet?

- Private home
- Library
- Community center
- Learning in retirement
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours, on average, do you spend reading one Great Decisions chapter?

- Less than 1 hour
- 1–2 hours
- 3–4 hours
- More than 4 hours

Would you say you have or have not changed your opinion in a fairly significant way as a result of taking part in the Great Decisions program?

- Have
- Have not
- Not sure

Next, we'd like to ask you some information about your background.

Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

- Very much interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not interested at all

How interested are you in foreign affairs specifically?

- Very much interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not interested at all

How often are you asked for your opinion on foreign policy?

- Often
- Sometimes
- Never

Have you been abroad during the last two years?

- Yes
- No

Do you know, or are you learning, a foreign language?

- Yes
- No

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

- Republican
- Democrat
- Independent
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

What race do you consider yourself?

- White/Caucasian
- Black/African-American
- Asian-American
- Native American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

How important is religion in your life?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not at all important

What is your age?

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently employed?

- Full-time employee
- Part time employee
- Self-employed
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Student
- Homemaker

Can you give us an estimate of your household income in 2013 before taxes?

- Below \$30,000
- \$30,000-\$50,000
- \$50,000-\$75,000
- \$75,000-\$100,000
- \$100,000-\$150,000
- Over \$150,000
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Did not graduate from high school
- High school graduate
- Some college, but no degree (yet)
- 2-year college degree
- 4-year college degree
- Some postgraduate work, but no degree (yet)
- Postgraduate degree (MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, etc.)

Thank you for your responses! Please continue to the *Great Decisions 2014* topics.

# Defense Technology/2014 National Opinion Ballot

Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the Defense Technology topic? Click all that you have done.

- Read the article on defense technology in the 2014 *Great Decisions* briefing book
- Discussed the article on defense technology with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on defense technology with friends or family
- Followed news related to defense technology
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to defense technology
- Have or had a job related to defense technology

How interested would you say you are in issues related to defense technology?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

How closely have you been following news about the U.S. government's use of unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly known as drones?

- Very closely
- Somewhat closely
- Not too closely
- Not at all closely

Overall, do you think each of the following has made the United States safer from terrorism, less safe from terrorism, or hasn't it made a difference?

	SAFER	LESS SAFE	HAS NOT MADE A DIFFERENCE
The war in Afghanistan			
The NSA's phone and internet surveillance programs			
The use of military drones to target extremists in countries such as Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia			

Do you think the U.S. government should or should not use drones to...?

	SHOULD	SHOULD NOT	NO OPINION
Launch airstrikes in other countries against foreigners who are suspected terrorists			
Launch airstrikes in other countries against U.S. citizens living abroad who are suspected terrorists			
Launch airstrikes in the U.S. against foreigners living in the U.S. who are suspected terrorists			
Launch airstrikes in the U.S. against U.S. citizens who are suspected terrorists			

Assume the U.S. government is going to use drones to launch airstrikes in a foreign country, do you agree or disagree that the U.S. government should obtain permission from the foreign country's government before launching the airstrikes?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Do you think the U.S. government should increase, maintain or decrease the amount of money it spends on programs to develop new defense technologies?

- Increase the amount
- Maintain the current amount
- Decrease the amount

Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about defense technology? If so, please use the space below.

## Israel and the U.S./2014 National Opinion Ballot

Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the Israel and the U.S. topic? Click all that you have done.

- Read the article on Israel and the U.S. in the 2014 *Great Decisions* briefing book
- Discussed the article on Israel and the U.S. with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on Israel and the U.S. with friends or family
- Followed news related to the Israel and the U.S. topic, including news on the Palestinian Territories
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to the Israel and the U.S. topic, including those related to the Palestinian Territories
- Have or had a job related to the Israel and the U.S. topic, including one related to the Palestinian Territories
- Traveled to Israel
- Traveled to the Palestinian Territories

How interested would you say you are in issues related to Israel and the U.S.?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

In terms of resolving the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, do you think the United States should be more involved than it is now, as involved as it currently is, or less involved than it is now?

- More involved
- As involved as it currently is
- Less involved

In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, do you think the United States should support Israel, support the Palestinians, or take a neutral position?

- Support Israel
- Support the Palestinians
- Take a neutral position

In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which side do you sympathize with more, Israel or the Palestinians?

- Israel
- Palestinians
- Both
- Neither

People debate whether Israelis should be permitted to construct villages, called settlements, for Israelis in the Palestinian Territories. Do you think Israelis should be permitted to build settlements in the Palestinian Territories, or do you think they should not?

- Israelis should be permitted to build settlements in the Palestinian territories
- Israelis should not be permitted to build settlements in the Palestinian territories

Do you think Israel and an independent Palestinian state could coexist peacefully with each other, or not?

- Yes
- No

What kind of effect has U.S. support for Israel had on U.S. relations with other countries in the Middle East?

- Very positive effect
- Somewhat negative effect
- Very negative effect
- Somewhat positive effect
- Neither positive nor negative effect

Following the political movements that started in 2010 known as the Arab Spring, new governments are being established in nations such as Libya, Egypt, and Tunisia. In your view, will these changes be mostly good for Israel, mostly bad for Israel, or will they have no impact?

- Mostly good
- Mostly bad
- No impact

Suppose Israel were to conduct airstrikes against Iranian nuclear facilities, Iran were to retaliate against Israel, and the two were to go to war. Do you think the U.S. should or should not bring its military forces into the war on the side of Israel and against Iran?

- It should bring its military forces into the war on the side of Israel and against Iran.
- It should not bring its military forces into the war on the side of Israel and against Iran.

Should the U.S. government increase, keep the same, or decrease the following types of foreign aid it sends to Israel?

	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>KEEP THE SAME</b>	<b>DECREASE</b>
Economic aid			
Military aid			

Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about Israel and the U.S.? If so, please use the space below.

# Turkey's Challenges/2014 National Opinion Ballot

Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the Turkey's Challenges topic? Click all that you have done.

- Read the article on Turkey's Challenges in the 2014 *Great Decisions* briefing book
- Discussed the article on Turkey's Challenges with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on Turkey's Challenges with friends or family
- Followed news related to Turkey
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to Turkey
- Have or had a job in or related to Turkey
- Traveled to Turkey

How interested would you say you are in issues related to Turkey's Challenges?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

Please tell us whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Turkey?

- Very favorable
- Somewhat favorable
- Somewhat unfavorable
- Very unfavorable

Generally speaking, do you think that Turkey's membership in the European Union would be...?

- A good thing
- A bad thing
- Neither good nor bad

How likely or not do you think it is that Turkey will join the European Union?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not too likely
- Not likely at all

Some people say that the United States and Turkey have enough common values to be able to cooperate on international problems. Others say that the U.S. and Turkey have such different values that cooperating on international problems is impossible. Which is closer to your view?

- Enough common values to cooperate on international problems
- Such different values that cooperating on international problems is impossible

On international matters, with which one do you think Turkey would act in closest cooperation?

- The countries of the EU
- The U.S.
- The countries of the Middle East
- Turkey would act alone
- All of the above
- None of the above

On the issue of Turkey’s membership to the European Union, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	<b>AGREE STRONGLY</b>	<b>AGREE SOMEWHAT</b>	<b>DISAGREE SOMEWHAT</b>	<b>DISAGREE STRONGLY</b>
Turkey’s membership in the EU would help promote peace and stability in the Middle East.				
Turkey’s membership in the EU would be good in economic terms for Turkey.				
As a predominantly Muslim country, Turkey does not belong in the EU.				
Turkey is too populous to be integrated into the EU.				
Turkey’s economy is too weak to be integrated into the EU.				
Turkey’s membership in the EU would be good in economic terms for the EU.				

How concerned are you that if Turkey’s membership in the EU is delayed, the following things will happen?

	<b>VERY CONCERNED</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT CONCERNED</b>	<b>A LITTLE CONCERNED</b>	<b>NOT AT ALL CONCERNED</b>
Turkey will drift away from the EU.				
Turkey will move toward the Middle East.				

Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about Turkey’s Challenges? If so, please use the space below.

# Islamic Awakening/2014 National Opinion Ballot

Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the Islamic Awakening topic? Click all that you have done.

- Read the article on Islamic Awakening in the 2014 *Great Decisions* briefing book
- Discussed the article on Islamic Awakening with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on Islamic Awakening with friends or family
- Followed news related to the Islamic Awakening topic
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to the Islamic Awakening topic
- Have or had a job related to the Islamic Awakening topic
- Traveled to a Muslim-majority country

How interested would you say you are in issues related to the Islamic Awakening topic?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

When it comes to recent changes in political leadership in Middle Eastern countries such as Egypt and Libya, do you think the United States should be more involved than it is now, as involved as it currently is, or less involved than it is now?

- More involved than it is now
- As involved as it currently is
- Less involved than it is now

In terms of the political situation in the Middle East, which is more important?

- Democratic governments, even if there is less stability in the region
- Stable governments, even if there is less democracy in the region

Suppose there is a Muslim-majority country that is not democratic and if it were democratic, the people would probably elect an Islamic fundamentalist leader. Do you think the U.S. should encourage democracy, discourage democracy, or take no position on the issue either way in that country?

- Encourage democracy
- Discourage democracy
- Take no position either way

Following the political movements that started in 2010 known as the Arab Spring, new governments are being established in nations such as Libya, Egypt and Tunisia. In your view, will these changes be mostly good for the United States, mostly bad for the United States, or will they have no impact?

- Mostly good
- Mostly bad
- No impact

Please select which of the following statements is closer to your own view:

- Because Muslim religious, social and political traditions are incompatible with Western ways violent conflict is inevitable.
- Because most Muslims are like people everywhere, we can find common ground and violent conflict between the civilizations is not inevitable.

Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about the Islamic Awakening topic? If so, please use the space below.

# Energy Independence/2014 National Opinion Ballot

Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the Energy Independence topic? Click all that you have done.

- Read the article on Energy Independence in the 2014 *Great Decisions* briefing book
- Discussed the article on Energy Independence with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on Energy Independence with friends or family
- Followed news related to the Energy Independence topic
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to the Energy Independence topic
- Have or had a job in the energy sector or otherwise related to the Energy Independence topic

How interested would you say you are in issues related to the Energy Independence topic?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

Thinking about long-range foreign policy goals, how much priority do you think the U.S. government should give to reducing U.S. dependence on imported energy sources?

- Top priority
- Some priority
- No priority at all

How much do you favor or oppose expanding offshore drilling for oil and natural gas off the U.S. coast?

- Strongly favor
- Somewhat favor
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

How much of a threat to the vital interests of the United States in the next 10 years is U.S. dependence on foreign oil?

- Critical threat
- Important but not critical threat
- Not important or critical threat

There has been some discussion about the circumstances that might justify using U.S. troops in other parts of the world. Would you favor or oppose the use of U.S. troops to ensure the oil supply?

- Favor
- Oppose

Some people say that the world is facing some new problems that require new international institutions or agencies to deal with them. Do you think there should be new international institutions to monitor the worldwide energy market and predict potential shortages?

- Should be
- Should not be

How important is investing in renewable energy to the United States remaining competitive with other countries in the global economy?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not important at all

How much do you agree or disagree that the United States should fund renewable energy projects over “traditional” energy projects, even if the payoff is not as immediately high?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

Thinking about how to address America's dependence on foreign energy sources, please indicate whether you favor or oppose each of the following:

	<b>FAVOR</b>	<b>OPPOSE</b>
Creating tax incentives to encourage the development and use of alternative energy sources such as solar or wind power.		
Requiring automakers to increase fuel efficiency, even if this means the price of cars would go up.		
Building new nuclear power plants to reduce reliance on oil and coal.		
Raising taxes on fuels such as coal and oil to encourage individuals and businesses to use less.		

Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about the Energy Independence topic? If so, please use the space below.

## Food and Climate/2014 National Opinion Ballot

Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the Food and Climate topic? Click all that you have done.

- Read the article on Food and Climate in the 2014 *Great Decisions* briefing book
- Discussed the article on Food and Climate with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on Food and Climate with friends or family
- Followed news related to the Food and Climate topic
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to the Food and Climate topic
- Have or had a job related to the Food and Climate topic

How interested would you say you are in issues related to the Food and Climate topic?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

Thinking about U.S. foreign policy goals, how important of a goal is combating world hunger?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important at all
- Not too important

Do you feel the amount the U.S. government spends on efforts to reduce hunger in poor countries is too much, too little, or about right?

- Too much
- Too little
- About the right amount

Please select which of the following two statements comes closer to your point of view.

- The United States should only send aid to parts of the world where the U.S. has security interests.
- When hunger is a major problem in some part of the world, the United States should send aid whether or not the U.S. has a security interest in that region.

When it comes to addressing the problem of hunger, there is a debate about whether the U.S. should just provide food or if it also should help poor countries develop their economies. Please select which of the following two statements you agree with more:

- It is important to help poor countries develop their economies so that they can become more self-sufficient.
- Helping poor countries develop their economies is too complicated and it is impossible to tell if it is doing much good.

Current U.S. food aid policy requires some of the food aid sent abroad to be grown or raised in the United States and shipped to countries in need. A current proposal before the U.S. government would relax these requirements and allow the U.S. government to give more flexible food aid, including purchasing food from local farmers or giving poor people in other countries money to purchase food themselves locally. Do you think the U.S. should maintain its current food aid policy or relax the current requirements to make food aid more flexible?

- The U.S. government should maintain its current food aid policy.
- The U.S. government should relax the current requirements to make food aid more flexible.

If you had to choose which countries should get U.S. aid, which of these would you select as most important?

- Countries with the poorest economies
- Countries needed by the U.S. as trade partners
- Countries important to U.S. security

Is it your overall impression, that over the last few decades the number of people in the world who do not have enough to eat has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

- Increased
- Decreased
- Stayed the same

There is a controversy over what the countries of the world, including the U.S., should do about the problem of climate change. Here are three statements. Please select which statement comes closest to your own point of view:

- Until we are sure that climate change is really a problem we should not take any steps that would have economic costs.
- The problem of climate change should be addressed but its effects will be gradual so we can deal with the problem gradually by taking steps that are low in cost.
- Climate change is a serious and pressing problem and we should try taking steps now even if this involves significant costs.

To deal with the problem of climate change, do you think the U.S. government is doing too much, not enough, or about the right amount?

- Too much
- Not enough
- About the right amount

Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about the Food and Climate topic? If so, please use the space below.

# China's Foreign Policy/2014 National Opinion Ballot

Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the China's Foreign Policy topic? Click all that you have done.

- Read the article on China's Foreign Policy in the 2014 *Great Decisions* briefing book
- Discussed the article on China's Foreign Policy with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on China's Foreign Policy with friends or family
- Followed news related to the China's Foreign Policy topic
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to the China's Foreign Policy topic
- Have or had a job related to the China's Foreign Policy topic
- Traveled to China

How interested would you say you are in issues related to the China's Foreign Policy topic?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

How much of a threat is China's emergence as a world power to the well-being of the United States?

- Major threat
- Minor threat
- Not a threat

All things considered, which of these descriptions comes closest to your view of China today? Do you think China is...?

- An adversary of the United States
- A serious problem, but not an adversary
- Not much of a problem

In general, do you think Chinese trade policy toward the U.S. is fair or unfair?

- Fair
- Unfair

Now thinking about U.S. foreign policy in Asia, do you think the U.S. should put a higher priority on building strong relations with traditional allies like South Korea and Japan even if this might diminish its relations with China, or put a higher priority on building new partnerships with China, even if this might diminish U.S. relations with its traditional allies?

- Higher priority on building strong relations with traditional allies
- Higher priority on building new partnerships with China

If China's economy were to grow to be as large or larger than the US economy, do you think that would be mostly positive, mostly negative, or equally positive and negative?

- Mostly positive
- Mostly negative
- Equally positive and negative

In dealing with a rising China, do you think the US should:

- Undertake friendly cooperation and engagement with China
- Actively work to limit the growth of China's power

When it comes to economic development do you think the way that the Chinese government manages its economy and its political system is more of an advantage or more of a disadvantage for China?

- More of an advantage
- More of a disadvantage

For each of the following possible future trends, please tell us if you would see it as mainly positive or mainly negative.

	MAINLY POSITIVE	MAINLY NEGATIVE
China becomes significantly more powerful economically		
China becomes significantly more powerful militarily		

How concerned are you about the following issues in US-China relations:

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not at all concerned
China's unwillingness to limit greenhouse emissions.				
China's government limiting its people's access to the Internet.				
China's keeping its currency cheap to make its exports more competitive.				
China's repression of pro-democracy dissidents.				
China's treatment of Tibet.				
US weapons sales to Taiwan despite China's objections.				

How worried are you, if at all, that China could become a military threat to the U.S. in the future? Please say whether you are very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

- Very worried
- Somewhat worried
- Not too worried
- Not worried at all

Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about the China's Foreign Policy topic? If so, please use the space below.

# U.S. Trade Policy/2014 National Opinion Ballot

Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the U.S. Trade Policy topic? Click all that you have done.

- Read the article on U.S. trade policy in the 2014 *Great Decisions* briefing book
- Discussed the article on U.S. trade policy with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on U.S. trade policy with friends or family
- Followed news on U.S. trade policy
- Taken a class in which you learned about international trade or U.S. trade policy
- Have or had a job in which goods or services were imported from other countries
- Have or had a job in which goods or services were exported to other countries

How interested would you say you are in issues related to U.S. trade policy?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

People debate whether the U.S. government should increase restrictions on imports, keep restrictions on imports at current levels, or decrease restrictions on imports. What do you think the U.S. government should do?

- Increase restrictions on imports
- Keep restrictions on imports at current levels
- Decrease restrictions on imports

Do you think that reducing the U.S. trade deficit with foreign countries should be a very important foreign policy goal of the U.S. government, a somewhat important foreign policy goal, or not an important goal at all?

- Very important foreign policy goal
- Somewhat important foreign policy goal
- Not an important foreign policy goal

Do you think the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the free trade agreement the U.S. is negotiating with 11 countries in Asia and Latin America, would be a good thing or a bad thing for the United States?

- Good thing
- Bad thing

Do you think the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, the free trade agreement the U.S. is negotiating with the European Union, would be a good thing or a bad thing for the United States?

- Good thing
- Bad thing

Do you think the growing trade and business ties between the U.S. and other countries are a very good thing, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or a very bad thing for the United States?

- Very good
- Somewhat good
- Somewhat bad
- Very bad

Do you favor or oppose engaging in trade with the following countries?

	<b>FAVOR TRADE</b>	<b>OPPOSE TRADE</b>
Cuba		
Venezuela		
Iran		
North Korea		
China		

Overall, do you think the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, is very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad for:

	<b>VERY GOOD</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT GOOD</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT BAD</b>	<b>VERY BAD</b>
The U.S. economy				
Consumers like you				
The Mexican economy				
Job security for American workers				

Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about U.S. trade policy? If so, please use the space below.