

# GREAT DECISIONS

1918 • FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

2023 EDITION

## 2023 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 "background" section.

How long have you participated in the Great Decisions program (i.e., attended one or more discussion sessions)?

- This is the first year I have participated
- I participated in one previous year
- I participated in more than one previous year

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
- Online/Zoom
- 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

**Background Section:** Next, we'd like to ask you some information about your background.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Although the media often reports about national and international events and developments, this news is seldom as interesting as the things that happen directly in our own community and neighborhood.

- Agree strongly
- Agree somewhat
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree somewhat
- Disagree strongly

Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

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

Do you think it is best for the future of the United States if the U.S. takes an active role in world affairs or stays out of world affairs?

- Takes an active role in world affairs
- Stays out of world affairs

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

Do you have any close friends or family that live in other countries?

- Yes
- No

Do you donate to any charities that help the poor in other countries?

- Yes
- No

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

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

With which gender do you most identify?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender male
- Transgender female
- Gender variant/non-conforming
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

What race do you consider yourself?

- White/Caucasian
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Asian American
- Native American
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

Were you born in the United States or another country?

- United States
- Another country

Are you a citizen of the United States, another country, or are you a citizen of both the United States and another country?

- United States
- Another country
- United States and another country

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

What are the first three digits of your zip code? (This will allow us to do a state-by-state breakdown of results.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Can you give us an estimate of your household income in 2022 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)
- Post-graduate degree (MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, etc.)

*Now we would like to ask you some ballot questions from previous years:*

**1. From 2017's "U.S. foreign policy and petroleum":** How threatening to U.S. national security do you think America's dependence on foreign oil is?

- Very threatening
- Somewhat threatening
- Not too threatening
- Not threatening at all

**2. From 2019's "Refugees and global migration":** Do you think global migration has a positive, negative, or neutral effect on the security of the host country?

- Positive
- Negative
- Neutral

**3. From 2017's "Latin America's political pendulum":** How interested would you say you are in issues related to Latin America?

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

**4. From 2021's "Persian Gulf security":** Which of the two options do you think is best for the U.S. to use when dealing with Iran?

- Focus on handling Iran alone
- Focus efforts on a coalition of partners

**5. From 2018's "China and America":** Do you think that China's power and influence is a major threat, a minor threat or not a threat to the United States?

- Major threat
- Minor threat
- Not a threat

**6. From 2014's "Food and climate":** Thinking about U.S. foreign policy goals, how important of a goal is combating world hunger?

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

**7. From 2012's "Energy geopolitics: quandaries intensify":**

The most appropriate way for the U.S. to ensure its energy security is:

- Supply-side: Secure imported energy supplies
- Supply-side: Develop alternative, more efficient energy supplies
- Demand-side: Reduce domestic consumption of energy
- Other

**8. From 2016's "Climate Geopolitics":** Do you think that climate change is or is not caused by human activity?

- Climate change is caused by human activity
- Climate change is not caused by human activity

**9. From 2020's "China's Road into Latin America":** How concerned are you regarding the inroads that China has made into Latin America for U.S. economic power?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not at all concerned

**10. From 2014's "Food and Climate":** 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

**11. From 2019's "Decoding U.S.-China trade":** How interested would you say you are in issues related to the U.S. and China?

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

# Topic I. Energy Geopolitics

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Energy Geopolitics” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Energy Geopolitics” in the 2023 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Energy Geopolitics” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Energy Geopolitics” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Energy Geopolitics”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Energy Geopolitics”
- Have or had a job related to “Energy Geopolitics”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Energy Geopolitics”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. How concerned are you with Europe’s severe energy dependence on Russia?

- Extremely concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not at all concerned

4. How involved should the United States be in supporting the green energy manufacturing sector?

- Extremely involved
- Somewhat involved
- Not too involved
- Not at all involved

5. Should the United States attempt to cooperate with China in green energy manufacturing and production, or should it develop its own manufacturing capabilities independent from China?

- Cooperate more with China
- Develop its own manufacturing capabilities

6. To what extent should the United States work with its allies to develop climate change solutions?

- Heavy cooperation
- Moderate cooperation
- Little cooperation
- No cooperation

7. In moving away from hydrocarbons, do you think that nuclear energy has a role to play?

- Yes
- No

8. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Energy Geopolitics”? If so, please use the space below.

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## Topic 2. War Crimes

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “War Crimes” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “War Crimes” in the 2023 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “War Crimes” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “War Crimes” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “War Crimes”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “War Crimes”
- Have or had a job related to “War Crimes”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “War Crimes”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. What is more important, the establishment of an international law code or the preservation of state sovereignty?

- Establishment of international law code
- Preservation of state sovereignty

4. How concerned are you with the choice of many United Nations member states (the U.S., China, Russia, etc.) to opt out of joining the ICC, severely limiting its power?

- Extremely concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not at all concerned

5. In your opinion, how likely is it that war crimes will continue to occur in the absence of an enforcement system?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely

6. Are rulings by international courts valuable even if they have no enforcement mechanisms of their own?

- Yes
- No

7. In your opinion, how likely is it that war crimes will continue to occur in the absence of an enforcement system to operate in conjunction with the ICC?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely

8. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “War Crimes”? If so, please use the space below.

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# Topic 3. China and the U.S.

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “China and the U.S.” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “China and the U.S.” in the 2023 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “China and the U.S.” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “China and the U.S.” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “China and the U.S.”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “China and the U.S.”
- Have or had a job related to “China and the U.S.”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “China and the U.S.”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. How concerned are you that China will attack Taiwan in the near future?

- Extremely concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not at all concerned

4. Should the United States intervene if China attacks Taiwan?

- Yes, with military force
- Yes, with aid including weaponry
- Yes, with diplomacy
- No

5. Should the United States intervene if China seizes smaller, offshore islands currently occupied by Taipei?

- Yes, with military force
- Yes, with aid including weaponry
- Yes, with diplomacy
- No

6. How important is the U.S.-ASEAN alliance and increased cooperation going forward?

- Extremely important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not at all important

7. Should the United States try to improve relations with China in order to win cooperation in the struggle against Russia in Europe?

- Yes
- No

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

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# Topic 4. Economic Warfare

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Economic Warfare” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Economic Warfare” in the 2023 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Economic Warfare” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Economic Warfare” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Economic Warfare”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Economic Warfare”
- Have or had a job related to “Economic Warfare”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Economic Warfare”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. How effective do you believe sanctions are in advancing U.S. foreign policy objectives?

- Very effective
- Somewhat effective
- Not too effective
- Not at all effective

4. Are sanctions the best policy tool the United States has to use against Russia?

- Yes
- No

5. In your opinion, is it time for a reevaluation of U.S. foreign policy regarding sanctions in nations like Cuba and Iran, where sanctions programs have existed for many decades?

- Yes, reevaluate sanctions on Cuba
- No, leave sanctions on Cuba in place
- Yes, reevaluate sanctions on Iran
- No, leave sanctions on Iran in place

6. How concerned are you at the vulnerability of the United States to economic warfare imposed by others (esp. China)

- Extremely concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned

Not at all concerned

7. To what degree do you feel that the sanctions process has become outdated and is in need of reform?

- Needs intense reform
- Needs some reform
- Not in need of reform

8. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Economic Warfare”? If so, please use the space below.

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# Topic 5. Politics in Latin America

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Politics in Latin America” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Politics in Latin America” in the 2023 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Politics in Latin America” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Politics in Latin America” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Politics in Latin America”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Politics in Latin America”
- Have or had a job related to “Politics in Latin America”
  
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Politics in Latin America”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. How confident are you that the recent election of leftists in Latin America will have a positive effect on the region?

- Extremely confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not too confident
- Not at all confident

4. With the recent elections in Latin America, how do you see U.S. relations being affected?

- Relations will improve significantly
- Relations will improve somewhat
- Relations will not change
- Relations will deteriorate somewhat
- Relations will deteriorate significantly

5. Should the U.S. work to improve relations with Latin American dictatorships going forward (ie. Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela)?

- Yes
- No

6. How concerned are you with the growth of Chinese influence in Latin America?

- Extremely concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not at all concerned

7. Do you think that the second “pink tide” will have a positive effect on Latin America?

- Extremely positive
- Somewhat positive
- Not too positive
- Not at all positive

8. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Politics in Latin America”? If so, please use the space below.

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## Topic 6. Global Famine

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Famine” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Famine” in the 2023 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Famine” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Famine” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Famine”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Famine”
- Have or had a job related to “Famine”
  
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Famine”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. To what degree should the U.S. be involved in preventing world hunger?

- Extremely involved
- Somewhat involved
- Not too involved
- Not at all involved

4. Should the use of hunger as a weapon be considered a war crime?

- Yes
- No

5. With the current war in Ukraine severely disrupting the global grain supply, especially to countries that rely on grain imports in the Middle East and North Africa, should the United States step in and provide aid to those places most affected?

- Yes

- Only U.S. allies
- No

6. In what sector of famine response, if at all, do you think the United States should improve efforts?

- Famine early warning
- Humanitarian response
- Providing cash assistance
- Anticipating and mitigating causal factors
- Accountability and preventing the use of hunger as a weapon
- None of the above, the U.S. famine response is adequate

7. Should the U.S. care about global famine at all since the U.S. is largely unaffected?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

8. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Global Famine”? If so, please use the space below.

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# Topic 7. Iran at a Crossroads

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Iran at a Crossroads” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Iran at a Crossroads” in the 2023 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Iran at a Crossroads” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Iran at a Crossroads” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Iran at a Crossroads”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Iran at a Crossroads”
- Have or had a job related to “Iran at a Crossroads”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Iran at a Crossroads”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. How confident are you that Iran-U.S. relations will be improved in the near future?

- Extremely confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not too confident
- Not at all confident

4. Is Iran or Saudi Arabia a greater source of insecurity in the Persian Gulf?

- Iran
- Saudi Arabia

5. Should President Biden commit to renewing the Iran nuclear deal repealed under the Trump administration?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

6. Do you believe that the U.S. should seek cooperation with Iran to fight terrorism in the region?

- Yes
- No

7. In the face of the intense support the Biden administration has given to Ukraine, what kind of support should the Biden administration provide to the protesters in Iran?

- Humanitarian aid
- Increased sanctions on the Iranian government
- Information support (ie. providing a platform for internet access and/or an alternate means for communication between protesters)
- Militaristic support in the form of arms
- Militaristic support by U.S. troops and/or weaponry
- All of the above
- None of the above

8. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about the “Iran at a Crossroads”? If so, please use the space below.

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# Topic 8. Climate Migration

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Climate Migration” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Climate Migration” in the 2023 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Climate Migration” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Climate Migration” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Climate Migration”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Climate Migration”
- Have or had a job related to “Climate Migration”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Climate Migration”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. To what extent should the United States be involved in supporting international climate migrants? (Check all that apply)

- Provide financial support
- Provide more avenues for obtaining citizenship
- Provide humanitarian aid
- All of the above
- None of the above

4. How about for domestic climate migrants? (Check all that apply)

- Provide financial support
- Provide humanitarian aid
- Provide relocation services
- All of the above
- None of the above

5. How concerned are you about climate change effects in the U.S. regarding forced migration? (flooding, wildfires, etc.)

- Extremely concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned

Not at all concerned

6. What degree of responsibility should international organizations like the IPCC have in aiding climate migrants?

- Highly responsible
- Somewhat responsible
- Not very responsible
- Climate migrants are a national issue

7. Should there be a distinction by the U.S. in accepting climate migrants by country of origin? (ex. Accepting migrants from Canada but denying migrants from Cuba)

- Yes
- No
- Case-by-case basis

8. Should the U.S. government provide support for climate migrants looking to leave the U.S.?

- Yes
- No

9. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Climate Migration”? If so, please use the space below.

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