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The Foreign Policy Association's  
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## **Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions 2023 List of Topics - Preliminary Release**

There are multiple ways to consider these matters of global importance  
~ *Book, DVD, Discussion, YouTube & ZOOM* ~

The Foreign Policy Association's preliminary list of topics for the Great Decisions 2023 publication includes the following, listed in no particular order:

- 1. Global Famine - Lack of Food Worldwide**
- 2. Climate Migration - The human impact of climate change**
- 3. Energy Geopolitics - the oil and gas industries in flux**
- 4. Economic Warfare - The power of sanctions**
- 5. War Crimes - A history of crimes against humanity**
- 6. Elections in Latin America - The rise of left-wing governments in Latin America**
- 7. China's Foreign Policy - China's push for global dominance**
- 8. Iran and the Gulf States - Iran's status in the world**

As the authors complete their articles, titles may change and content may shift in focus. In the published document, the order of the topics may change, as well. Therefore, this list is a starting point for Great Decisions leaders around the state to begin planning their series and identifying experts to address these topics of global significance.

As the Foreign Policy Association's State Coordinator for book sales, the Indiana Council on World Affairs will offer the Great Decisions Briefing Book at group discount. ICWA's pre-publication rates will be offered on-line with orders due by November 1, 2022.

### **Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions 2023 Topics - Preliminary Release**

#### **1. Global Famine - Lack of Food Worldwide**

Reduction of food production, supply chain disruption, and political upheaval are among the fundamental factors for food scarcity, hunger, and famine. Multiple factors affect food supply and distribution. Just one example is Russia's invasion into Ukraine which is making agricultural production in one of the world's breadbaskets limited and uncertain. Concurrently, weather, droughts and torrential rains destroy food production resulting in food shortages affecting millions of destitute, hungry people, and determining whether they live or die. Desperate to survive, mass migration by millions of people effect worldwide population distribution.

#### **2. Climate Migration - The human impact of climate change**

When regions of the world become inhabitable, people migrate for sustainability - food, water, and work - for themselves and their families. Whether it's conditions such as drought in N. Africa or rising sea levels in Latin America, millions of people live in these affected regions and will make decisions to relocate temporarily or permanently. In short, changes in climate affect migration, and changes in migration affect climate. Legal and social frameworks may become extended to the max and may need to be reinvented.

#### **3. Energy Geopolitics - the oil and gas industries in flux**

Access to sources of energy embolden "energy rich" countries to seize military or economic advantage. Access to energy sources, such as oil and gas, can determine a country's capacity to maintain sovereignty and extend influence and dominance over countries with less capacity. Meanwhile, the U.S. energy sector is maintaining and expanding domestic energy sources and capacity while international diplomatic relations are important in continued access to world energy supply.

#### **4. Economic Warfare - The power of sanctions**

While the U.S. has itself exercised and encouraged other countries to enact economic sanctions against Russia, sanctions alone as a deterrent are not sufficient to render the immediate effect and

meanwhile Ukraine suffers the effects of invasion. With many European countries' dependence on Russian oil and gas, sanctions to compel Russia to abandon its incursion into Ukraine are incomplete, affect broader populations, and hampered a swift end of war.

### **5. War Crimes - A history of crimes against humanity**

Maintaining world consciousness of violations against humanity is of paramount importance for working to mitigate crimes against humanity. While military operations causing human suffering or death on a large scale may initially shock the world, as such offensive attacks continue, the world's attention turns away and inhumane campaigns continue, unchecked. What can be done to resolve such conflict and mitigate tragic outcomes?

### **6. Elections in Latin America - The rise of left-wing governments in Latin America**

The flux of Latin American politics from a right-wing stance to economic and social issues is gravitating back to more left-wing government approaches and solutions to social and economic conditions. Instability of government leadership impedes substantial nation-building progress. Some may observe that this mirrors the U.S.'s own swing in political responses to economic and social matters. With a number of presidential and legislative elections being held in Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica the outcomes are bound to affect the U.S. in significant ways.

### **7. China's Foreign Policy - China's push for global dominance**

While China maintains ties to Russia, it also exerts increasing political and economic influence over emerging countries. As China ingratiates itself into emerging economies with the provision of financing and technical expertise for infrastructure projects, it is perceived as a partner in improving the lives of the broader populations. Meanwhile both China and the U.S. continue economic and diplomatic relations within mutual interests of both countries.

### **8. Iran and the Gulf States - Iran's status in the world**

Iran maintains influence in the Middle East - both stabilizing and destabilizing. Concerns for the conditions in Yemen and Israel as well as other countries in the Middle East and Gulf states keep U.S. foreign policy attention on the region, such as Saudi Arabia's moves to increase, or decrease, oil production affecting the balance of sustained world economic growth. While Iran and Russia are deemed to be allies, Iran has its own economic and diplomatic interests for oil production and holding sway over the region and world.

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