

GREAT DECISIONS

Coordinators: Stephen Kalinsky and Arlyne Leschack

The Great Decisions program, now in its 53rd year, is the world's largest nonpartisan public education program on international affairs. The briefing book, published annually by the Foreign Policy Association, as well as supplementary materials distributed by the coordinators, provides the basis for our discussion of timely and challenging issues in United States foreign policy. Among the topics lined up for 2017 are; the Future of Europe, Trade and Politics, Conflict in the South China Sea, Saudi Arabia in Transition, U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum, Latin America's Political Pendulum, Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Nuclear Security. The Syrian Civil War and a discussion of how U.S. foreign policy is crafted is likely to be on the agenda.

Readings and other Materials/Online Services: "The Great Decisions Briefing Book". To order the required text, please include a check for \$25 payable to the Institute for Retired Professionals with your registration. Your check will be cashed if you are enrolled in the class. If the study group is oversubscribed and you are not enrolled, your check will be returned to you.

Other materials will be emailed to study group members by the coordinators.

Stephen Kalinsky studied political science; considered entering the Foreign Service and instead opted for a career as an attorney. He has coordinated a number of study groups. **Arlyne LeSchack** studied Third World history, worked in insurance, import/export and manufacturing but settled on a career as an educator. She has coordinated a number of study groups.

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Week 1: How is U.S. foreign policy made? Discussion of the role of the President and Congress as well as the relationship between the United States and international bodies such as the U.N. and Nato. Materials will include relevant sections of the U.S. Constitution, the

United Nations Charter, the North Atlantic Treaty as well as explanatory materials provided by the Foreign Policy Association, the U.S. Department of State and others.

Week 2: The Syrian Civil War: How did it start? Who is fighting who? How is it likely to play out? Materials will include Backgrounder reports from the Council on Foreign Relations, articles from Foreign Affairs, The Atlantic and other publications.

Week 3: The Future of Europe: Is the European Union (E.U.) still viable? What are the implications of the Brexit vote? How will the refugee crisis impact Europe? Materials will include articles from the Great Decisions Briefing Book as well as The Guardian, The Economist, the New York Times and other publications.

Week 4: Trade and Politics.

Week 5: Conflicts in the South China Sea

Week 6: Saudi Arabia in Transition

Week 7: U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum

Week 8: Latin America's Political Pendulum

Week 9: Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan

Week 10: Nuclear Security

Week 11: Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 12: Russia and China