

NATIONAL OPINION BALLOT REPORT

Results of the Foreign Policy Association's 2020 National Opinion Survey

GREAT DECISIONS 2020



FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION
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OPINION BALLOTS have been included with the Foreign Policy Association's *Great Decisions* since 1955 to enable participants to make their views known. Each year FPA sends the NATIONAL OPINION BALLOT REPORT to the White House, the departments of State and Defense, members of Congress, the media and concerned citizens.

ABOUT GREAT DECISIONS BALLOTTERS...

A. 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	33.9%
I participated in one previous year	15%
I participated in more than one previous year	51.1%

B. How did you learn about the Great Decisions program?

Word of mouth	38.9%
Local Library	13.9%
Foreign Policy Association website	1.7%
Promotional Brochure	2.3%
Other organization	43.2%

C. Where does your Great Decisions group meet?

Private Home	9.9%
Library	19.4%
Community Center	17.5%
Learning in retirement	16.9%
Other	36.3%

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

Less than 1 hour	11%
1-2 hours	68.6%
2-4 hours	17.3%
More than 4 hours	3.1%

E. Would you say you have or have not change your opinion in a fairly significant way as a result of taking part in the Great Decisions Program?

Have	51.1%
Have not	25.6%
Not Sure	23.3%

F. 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 community and neighborhood.

Agree strongly	2%
Agree somewhat	10.1%
Neither agree or disagree	18%
Disagree somewhat	33.2%
Disagree strongly	36.6%

G. Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

Very much interested	71.8%
Somewhat interested	25.6%
Not too interested	2.5%
Not interested at all	0%

H. 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	99.7%
Stays out of world affairs	0.3%

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

Often	13.3%
Sometimes	65.5%
Never	21.2%

J. Have you been abroad during the last two years?

Yes	63.9%
No	36.1%

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

Yes	55.5%
No	44.5%

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

Yes	42.9%
No	57.1%

For more information about *Great Decisions*, visit us online

www.fpa.org/great_decisions

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

Yes	68.4%
No	31.6%

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

Republican	11.1%
Democrat	61.4%
Independent	24.1%
Other	4.3%

O. With which gender do you most identify?

Male	45.4%
Female	53%
Transgender Male	0.3%
Transgender Female	0%
Gender variant/ non-conforming	0%
Other	0.3%
Prefer not to answer	1.1%

P. What race do you consider yourself?

White/Caucasian	95.2%
Black/African-American	0.3%
Hispanic/Latino	0.3%
Asian-American	1.1%
Native American	0%
Other	0.9%
Prefer not to answer	2.3%

Q. Were you born in the United States or another country?

United States	94.6%
Another Country	5.4%

R. Are you a citizen of the United States, another country, or both?

United States	96.9%
Another country	1.1%
U.S. and another country	2%

S. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	25.9%
Somewhat important	22%
Not too important	22.8%
Not at all important	29.3%

T. What is your age?

18 and Under	0.3%
19-29	0%
30-39	0.7%
40-49	1.3%
50-59	2.5%
60-69	27.1%
70-79	50.5%
80-89	16.1%
90-99	1.5%

U. Are you currently employed?

Full-time employee	3.9%
Part time employee	3.9%
Self-employed	5.1%
Unemployed	0.6%
Retired	85.9%
Student	0.3%
Homemaker	0.3%

V. Can you give us an estimate of your household income in 2018 before taxes?

Below \$30,000	2.5%
\$30,000-\$50,000	5.3%
\$50,000-\$75,000	11.6%
\$75,000-\$100,000	14.5%
\$100,000-\$150,000	21.3%
Over \$150,000	24.3%
Not sure	1.1%
Prefer not to say	17.6%

W. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Did not graduate from high school	0%
High school graduate	0%
Some college, but no degree (yet)	4.5%
2-year college degree	2.5%
4-year college degree	15.8%
Some postgraduate work, but no degree (yet)	12.3%
Postgraduate degree (MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, etc.)	64.9%

The NATIONAL OPINION BALLOT REPORT was prepared by the Foreign Policy Association: Karen M. Rohan, editor in chief; Matthew Bar-bari, assistant editor.

Ballot questions were composed, collected and tabulated by Lauren Prather, assistant professor of political science at the School of Global Policy and Strategy at University of California, San Diego, in affiliation with UCSD.

(Totals may not equal 100% after rounding.)

BALLOT REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Opinion ballots are included in each edition of Great Decisions, a briefing book prepared annually by the non-partisan, not-for-profit Foreign Policy Association. Their responses reflect opinions crafted after the study and discussion of each of this year’s eight Great Decisions topics. The majority of ballot participants were middle or upper-middle class and held an advanced degree. They did not shy away from partisan politics either—most were Democrats, although Republicans and Independents were well represented.

The ballots cast by Great Decisions participants include:

Support For:

- ✓ The United States taking a more active role in global affairs
- ✓ Improving the country’s policy toward climate change
- ✓ Taking steps to alleviate the issues in the Northern Triangle
- ✓ U.S. taking a more “hands off” role in the Middle East
- ✓ Active government role in promoting artificial intelligence

Opposition to:

- ✓ President Trump’s cuts to foreign aid
- ✓ AI firms influence over policy and the economy
- ✓ The U.S. leaving the Paris Climate Accords
- ✓ U.S. government capping limit on refugees/asylum seekers

Other Views:

- ✓ U.S. has moral obligation to combat global slavery
- ✓ China’s growth is coming at the expense of the U.S.
- ✓ In favor of diplomatic responses opposed to military ones

Some questions from the previous opinion ballots, asked again in 2020
(Previous years’ answers are in parentheses)

A. From 2016’s “Climate Geopolitics”: All else equal, would you like the next president to be someone who favors government actions to address climate change, or someone who opposes such action?

The next president should be someone who favors government action to address climate change	95.6% (89.7%)
The next president should be someone who opposes government action to address climate change	4.4% (10.3%)

B. 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 the right amount?

Too much	1.8% (9.7%)
Not Enough	91.1% (73.4%)
About the right amount	7.1% (16.9%)

(Totals from older ballot reports may not equal 100% because some participants did not mark particular ballots or volunteered other responses not tabulated here.)

C. From 2015's "India Changes Course": To what extent do you see tensions between India and Pakistan as a possible threat to the vital interests of the United States in the next 10 years?

Critical threat	13.4% (16.4%)
An important, but not critical threat	70.2% (72.1%)
Not an important threat at all	6.5% (8.3%)
Not sure	9.8% (3.2%)

D. From 2017's "Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan": Do you approve or disapprove of the United States conducting missile strikes from pilotless aircraft, called "drones," to target extremists in countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan?

Approve strongly	13.2% (37.7%)
Approve somewhat	50.4% (39.6%)
Disapprove somewhat	24.9% (15.9%)
Disapprove strongly	11.4% (6.8%)

E. 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.	18.9% (14.6%)
Somewhat threatening	39.5% (46.7%)
Not too threatening	34.7% (35.4%)
Not threatening at all	6.9% (3.4%)

F. From 2015's "Human Trafficking": Do you think the U.S. government should increase, keep the same or decrease the amount of money it gives other countries to fight human trafficking?

Increase	60.5% (41.7%)
Keep the same	18% (38.1%)
Decrease	0.9% (6.4%)
Not sure	20.7% (13.8%)

G. From 2016's "International Migration": How likely is it that Congress will pass immigration reform legislation?

Very likely	3.6% (7.1%)
Somewhat likely	16.3% (26.4%)
Not too likely	59.5% (49%)
Not at all likely	20.5% (17.4%)

H. From 2014's "China's foreign policy": In dealing with a rising China, do you think the U.S. should...

Undertake friendly cooperation and engagement with China	75.7% (96.7%)
Actively work to limit the growth of China's power	24.3% (3.3%)

I. From 2017's "Latin America's political pendulum": In your view, is the temperature of the U.S.-Latin America relations likely to get better, get worse, or remain the same over the next five years?

It will be better	19.2% (13.8%)
It will get worse	41.8% (47.5%)
It will remain the same	39% (38.7%)

J. From 2008's "Foreign Aid": Should a donor country us foreign aid to promote a political agenda?

Yes	15.8% (7%)
No	42.1% (44%)
Unsure	42.1% (48%)

K. From 2015's "Privacy in the digital age": How concerned are you personally about the privacy of personal information you give out on the Internet, as well as privacy regarding what you do on the Internet?

Very concerned.	53.8% (45.8%)
Somewhat concerned	39.6% (36.7%)
Not too concerned	6% (14.2%)
Not at all concerned	0.6% (3.3%)

L. From 2012's "Cybersecurity": What party or parties is best equipped to lead in the global governance of cyberspace?

A multilateral body, like the UN, where all countries have a say	27.7% (28%)
Liberal democracies, such as the U.S., that have a commitment to open networks	18.5% (14%)
A collaboration between the public and private sector	53.5% (55%)
The private sector alone	0.3% (3%)

TOPIC I / CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change has become one of the defining issues of our time. As much of the world bands together to come up with a plan, the U.S. remains the notable holdout. What is the rest of the world doing to combat climate change? What impact will the effects of climate change have on global geopolitics?

The most pressing topic according to our NATIONAL OPINION BALLOT participants, climate change had by far the largest pool of respondents, with nearly 98% of balloters having some or greater interest in the topic. More than 90% of respondents believe that climate change has become a greater threat over the last six years, with human activity being a major factor. Climate change also had the highest percentage of respondents that followed news related to the topic or took a class to learn more about it.

Ballot participants were largely in agreement for climate change, with most respondents viewing multinational organizations as the leader for global climate reform. 75% of respondents say they want climate change to be the “top priority” for Congress and the President going forward, with the same amount agreeing that any climate policy helps more than it harms.

A. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to “Climate Change and the Global Order” topic?

Read the article on climate change in the 2020 Great Decisions briefing book	93.7%
Discussed the article on climate change with a Great Decisions discussion group	89.6%
Discussed the article on climate change with friends and family	63.9%
Followed news related to climate change	86.5%
Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to climate change	16.4%
Have or had a job related to climate change	0.1%
None of the above .	.01%

‘It’s a world problem, but the United States should be leading the way. The human race is in danger.’

(Comments from balloters are in orange boxes throughout the report.)

B. How interested would you say you are in issues related to climate change?

Very interested	85.6%
Somewhat interested	13.2%
Not too interested	0.9%
Not at all interested	0.3%

C. To what extent do you think climate change has changed as a threat in the last six years or so?

Much worse	66.4%
Somewhat worse	24.2%
About the same	8.9%
Somewhat better	0.6%
Much better	0%

D. Should climate change be the “top priority” for the President and Congress?

Yes	75.2%
No	12.9%
Unsure	11.9%

E. Generally, most policies that are developed to help combat or reduce the effects of global climate change...

Do more good than harm	77.4%
Do more harm than good	5.1%
Make no difference	17.5%

F. Which organizations do you think should take the lead in promoting climate change reform?

Individual governments	28.6%
Multinational organizations	54.2%
NGOs	4.2%
Civil society	12.9%

G. Which aspect of climate change concerns you the most?

Rising sea levels	17.1%
Global warming	51.2%
Deforestation/Desertification	10.7%
Displaced peoples	18.3%
Climate change does not concern me	2.6%

H. To the best of your knowledge, how much does human activity effect global climate change?

A lot	77.1%
Somewhat	17.2%
Not too much	4.1%
Not at all	0.9%
I don’t know	0.6%

TOPIC 2/INDIA AND PAKISTAN

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi rode a wave of Hindu nationalism to a historic reelection in 2019. His first order of business was to revoke the special status granted to the Kashmir region, inflaming the rivalry between India and Pakistan. How will the Kashmir situation affect the region, both economically and politically?

The India and Pakistan topic was among the more indecisive for NATIONAL OPINION BALLOT participants. Great Decisions readers were asked to navigate the historical issues between India and Pakistan that were intensified by India's revoking of autonomy for the Muslim majority Jammu-Kashmir region. Balloters could not come to a consensus on many of the topics, with no one answer getting more than 70%.

The trickiest issue was surrounding the recent Jammu-Kashmir dispute, with 48% wanting to support autonomy for the Jammu-Kashmir region and 47% wanting the U.S. to remain out of the dispute. Neither India nor Pakistan inspire much confidence in our readers, with both nations getting close to 50% as neither an ally nor adversary. Similar results are found when asked how the dispute over Jammu-Kashmir will end, with 40% seeing an India dominated region but another 40% unsure over the outcome.

A. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the "India and Pakistan" topic?

Read the article on India and Pakistan in the 2020 Great Decisions briefing book	95.9%
Discussed the article on India and Pakistan with a Great Decisions discussion group	91.3%
Discussed the article on India and Pakistan with friends and family	50.5%
Followed news related to India and Pakistan	70%
Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to India and Pakistan	.07%
Have or had a job related to India and Pakistan	.04%
Traveled to India and Pakistan	20.1%
None of the above	0%

B. How interested would you say you are in issues related to India and Pakistan?

Very interested	33.9%
Somewhat interested	58.8%
Not too interested	7.1%
Not at all interested	0%

C. In your opinion, India is more of a...

Partner	50%
Enemy	2.2%
Neither	43.8%
Don't know	4%

D. In your opinion, Pakistan is more of a...

Partner	15.8%
Enemy	22%
Neither	53.5%
Don't know	8.6%

E. With regards to the Jammu-Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan, the United States should...

Support India	2.4%
Support Pakistan	2.6%
Support Jammu-Kashmir self-determination	48%
The U.S. should stay out of the dispute	47%

F. Which do you think is a more likely outcome in the dispute between India and Pakistan over Jammu-Kashmir?

War between India and Pakistan	30.5%
Diplomatic agreement between India and Pakistan	69.5%

G. In your opinion, what is the most likely outcome of the Jammu-Kashmir dispute?

India dominated Jammu-Kashmir region	40%
Pakistan dominated Jammu-Kashmir region	1.4%
Return to autonomous region	18.7%
Not sure	39.8%

H. How important is the India and Pakistan dispute in global affairs?

Very important	3.2%
Somewhat important	21.4%
Not too important	60.1%
Not at all important	15.3%

The views expressed in the comments are those of the individual respondents and not those of the Foreign Policy Association.

TOPIC 3/RED SEA SECURITY

The Red Sea has remained vital for global trade since the time of ancient Egypt. Once home to the spice trade, the Red Sea now sees millions of barrels of oil a day transported across its waters. With major nations like China, France, Italy, and the U.S. building large ports and bases in the region, what does the future of the region look like? How important is Red Sea security for global security? Can the region be a place of global cooperation?

The Red Sea region has remained a vital link between the oil of the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea. With the U.S. and China taking more and more active diplomatic and military roles in the region, the Red Sea has seen renewed importance within American foreign policy. NATIONAL OPINION BALLOT respondents were asked to gauge what U.S. interests should be, and what the biggest cause of unrest and destabilization is in the region.

More than 90% of ballot respondents say they have some or more concern over the growth of China in the Red Sea. However, most respondents opted against the more aggressive response (30% total for either increasing military presence or naval patrols in the region) and in favor of diplomatic solutions like sanctions (just over 60%). A small majority also believed that foreign nations should strive to improve the regions where they have military bases or ports.

A. Have you engaged in any of the following related to the “Red Sea Security?” topic?

Read the article on “Red Sea Security” in the 2020 Great Decisions briefing book	95.9%
Discussed the article on “Red Sea Security” with a Great Decisions discussion group	90.6%
Discussed the article on “Red Sea Security” with friends and family	50.1%
Followed news related to “Red Sea Security”	58.6%
Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Red Sea Security”	0.1%
Have or had a job related to “Red Sea Security”	.03%
Traveled to the Red Sea region	0.17%
None of the above	0%

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B. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Red Sea Security”?

Very interested	39.5%
Somewhat interested	54%
Not too interested	5.6%
Not at all interested	0.9%

C. Should the U.S. be concerned about the growing presence that China has in the Red Sea Region?

Very concerned	43.5%
Somewhat concerned	48.9%
Not too concerned	7.6%
Not at all concerned	0%

D. How should the U.S. react to issues of aggression by other nation in the Red Sea?

Naval/military response	8.6%
Economic sanctions	22%
Increase patrols in the region	21.8%
Diplomatic sanctions	40.7%
U.S. should not react to issues of aggression in the region	6.8%

E. Do you think that the foreign countries that have bases/ports in the Red Sea region are responsible for domestic issues in the region?

Foreign nations should strive to help solve domestic issues	52.4%
Foreign nations should have no say in domestic issues	21.7%
Not sure	25.9%

F. In your opinion, what is the biggest roadblock to development in the Red Sea region?

Saudi/Yemen conflict	12.2%
Reliance on oil trade	8.1%
Saudi/Iran conflict	26.6%
Local regional conflicts	42.9%
Piracy/Terrorism	2.5%
Not Sure	7.7%

G. In your opinion, should the United States combat the litany of terrorist organizations within the Red Sea region?

Yes, with military force	9.2%
Yes, by arming/training local resistance groups	52.8%
No, the United States should not combat terrorist groups in the Red Sea region	37.9%

TOPIC 4/SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Almost every nation has enacted laws criminalizing human trafficking, and international organizations, governments, and NGOs sponsor a large variety of projects to curb trafficking and slavery. Billions of dollars have been allocated to these efforts. What is the international community doing to combat slavery and trafficking? What are the experiences like for those being trafficked?

The modern migration crisis found in many parts of Africa and Latin America has seen a tragic increase in the rate of slavery and human trafficking in the world. Many migrants get caught by smugglers or slavers that take advantage of their desperation. NATIONAL OPINION BALLOT respondents agreed, with nearly 85% saying that the U.S. has a moral obligation to combat human trafficking and slavery and that more action must be taken by the U.S. government.

Many respondents believed that any victims of human trafficking that are found in the U.S. should be given a pathway to citizenship through filing for asylum. Respondents also believed that the best way to mitigate the crisis is to be more involved in rooting it out from the countries and areas where it is most prevalent. Balloters want to see trade limited to any nations that have slave labor as part of their supply chain and diplomatic sanctions to put pressure on local governments.

A. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking” topic?

Read the article on human trafficking in the 2020 Great Decisions briefing book	96.2%
Discussed the article on human trafficking with a Great Decisions discussion group	88.7%
Discussed the article on human trafficking with friends and family	58.6%
Followed news related to human trafficking	67.4%
Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to human trafficking	0.1%
None of the above	0.03%

B. How interested would you say you are in issues related to modern slavery and human trafficking?

Very interested	48.6%
Somewhat interested	45.9%
Not too interested	5.2%
Not at all interested	0.2%

C. Do you think the United States government is doing enough to combat human trafficking?

Yes, they are doing enough	8.6%
No, they are not doing enough	72.3%
Not sure	19.1%

D. How should the United States handle victims of human trafficking who are found in the United States?

Resettle them in the U.S.	14.9%
Return them to their country of origin	2.9%
Turn them over to NGO/Rescue group	1.7%
Allow them to file for asylum	45.6%
Other	5%

E. In your opinion, to what extent would legalizing prostitution in the U.S. help to alleviate the prevalence of sex trafficking?

Alleviate a great deal	7.7%
Alleviate somewhat	31.3%
Neither alleviate nor worsen	32.8%
Worsen somewhat	8.6%
Worsen a great deal	7.6%
Unsure	12%

‘Yes, the United States does have a moral obligation to combat slavery worldwide. Every major nation has the same obligation as well.’

‘Human trafficking will never be properly addressed until we re-work our nation’s immigration policy.’

F. How should the U.S. act with regard to trading with nations where slave labor is used?

Limit trade from nations that use slave labor to products that are certified to be made by paid workers	48.8%
Enact sanctions against nations that use slave labor	36.8%
End all trade relations with nations where slave labor is used	7.9%
Cut all ties with nation where slave labor is used	2.4%
Other	4.1%

G. How likely do you think it is that the next Presidential administration will make alleviating human trafficking and modern slavery a priority?

Very likely	4.8%
Somewhat likely	34.1%
Not too likely	54.2%
Not likely at all	6.8%

H. In your opinion, does the U.S. have a moral obligation to combat human trafficking and slavery around the globe?

Yes, the U.S. has a moral obligation to combat human trafficking and slavery	84.9%
No, the U.S. does not have a moral obligation to combat human trafficking and slavery	6.7%
Not sure	8.4%

TOPIC 5/THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE

Combating illegal immigration has become a priority of the Trump administration. The Northern Triangle of Central America, made up of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, is a special target of the administration, which holds the nations responsible for the large flow of migrants from Latin America to the U.S. With funds from the U.S. cut, how can the Northern Triangle countries curtail migration?

The Northern Triangle of Central America has remained a hot spot in the region for U.S. interest in managing migration and the drug trade. NATIONAL OPINION BALLOT respondents agreed that President Trump’s cut to foreign aid to the region would be a net negative that will only worsen the many issues the region has. Respondents also agreed that people from the Northern Triangle should be able to apply for either refugee status (70%) or for asylum (77%).

‘The U.S. must work with both the Northern Triangle countries and their neighbors to improve the region and make the region one where people won’t want to migrate from.’

While in agreement over some issues, balloters were unable to come to a consensus on how to go about improving the region, and what the biggest issue in the region is. While corrupt local governments were seen by 38% of balloters as the biggest cause of instability, there were many write-ins that suggested that there is no “one” cause and that all the issues of gang violence, interference from the U.S., and the drug trade lead to an unstable Northern Triangle.

A. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle” topic?

Read the article on the Northern Triangle in the 2020 Great Decisions briefing book	97.7%
Discussed the article on the Northern Triangle with a Great Decisions discussion group	88.1%
Discussed the article on the Northern Triangle with friends and family	58.8%
Followed news related to the Northern Triangle	69.8%
Take a class in which you learned about issues related to the Northern Triangle	0.1%
Have or had a job related to the Northern Triangle	0.4%
Traveled to the Northern Triangle countries	0.15%
None of the above	0%

B. How interested would you say you are in issues related to the Northern Triangle?

Very interested	49.2%
Somewhat interested	46.1%
Not too interested	4.6%
Not at all interested	0%



C. On March 30, 2019, President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. would be cutting off all foreign aid to the Northern Triangle nations. To what extent do you agree with President Donald Trump’s decision to cut foreign aid to the Northern Triangle?

Very much agree	5.1%
Somewhat agree	7.5%
Neither agree or disagree	5.7%
Somewhat disagree	15.5%
Very much disagree	66.2%

D. Do you think President Trump’s cutting of foreign aid will have a positive, negative, or no effect on the Northern Triangle nation’s ability to curtail migration?

Very positive	2.3%
Somewhat positive	6.2%
No effect	11.1%
Somewhat negative	27.1%
Very negative	53.4%

E. Which of the following in your opinion is the biggest cause for the instability in the Northern Triangle?

U.S. interference	6.2%
Gang violence	14.4%
The drug trade	29.1%
Corrupt local governments	38.1%
Other	12.1%

F. In your opinion, should individuals living in the Northern Triangle be able to apply for refugee status in the United States?

Yes	69.6%
No	12.1%
Unsure	18.3%

G. In your opinion, should migrants who travel from the Northern Triangle to the United States be able to apply for asylum status at the U.S. border?

Yes	77.1%
No	10.6%
Unsure	12.4%

H. Do you think that decriminalizing drug use in the United States will increase, decrease, or not effect the power of drug gangs in the Northern Triangle?

Increase	9.1%
Decrease	56%
No effect	34.9%

I. Which of the following in your opinion is the most effect policy to curtail migration from the Northern Triangle?

U.S. foreign aid	65.8%
Economic/Political sanctions	7%
Military intervention	1.6%
Border Wall	3.6%
The U.S. should not try to curtail migration from the Northern Triangle	7.5%
Other	14.5%

TOPIC 6/CHINA AND LATIN AMERICA

As the Trump administration continues to withdraw from the world stage, China is looking to fill the void. How does Latin America fit into China's "One Belt, One Road" plan? How will the relationship with China affect the region? Should the U.S. be concerned about China's growing "sphere of influence"?

With an interest level of 96%, the topic of China in Latin America has shown Great Decisions readers some of the inroads China has made into the Western Hemisphere. NATIONAL OPINION BALLOT respondents are concerned over the growth of China and its threat to the U.S. as both a political and economic power. They have a more negative view of the Belt and Road initiative with 61% total have a negative view compared to only 39% with any positive view.

Despite the fears over China's power and influence growth, most respondents see the China and Latin America relationship as a "win-win". However, respondents were more convinced about China getting any benefit from the relationship than the nations of Latin America. Balloters also disagreed with any notion of the U.S. adopting a similar form of State capitalism to China's in order to compete with their global ambitions.

A. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the "China's Road into Latin America" topic?

Read the article on China in Latin America in the 2020 Great Decisions briefing book	95.7%
Discussed the article on China in Latin America with a Great Decisions discussion group	88%
Discussed the article on China in Latin America with friends and family	55.3%
Followed news related to China in Latin America	56.9%
Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to China in Latin America	0.04%
Travelled to a Latin American country	41.2%
None of the above	0%

B. How interested would you say you are in issues related to China in Latin America?

Very interested	47.6%
Somewhat interested	48.4%
Not too interested	4%
Not at all interested	0%

C. Do you believe that the growing relationship between China and Latin America is a "win-win"?

Yes, I think both China and Latin America will benefit	50.4%
No, I think only China will benefit	36%
No, I think only Latin American countries will benefit	0.8%
No, I don't think either China or Latin America will benefit	1.3%
Unsure	11.5%

D. How concerned are you regarding the inroads that China has made into Latin America for U.S. national security?

Very concerned	30.1%
Somewhat concerned	49.1%
Not too concerned	18.7%
Not at all concerned	2.1%

E. How concerned are you regarding the inroads that China has made into Latin America for U.S. economic power?

Very concerned	30.6%
Somewhat concerned	51.6%
Not too concerned	16%
Not at all concerned	1.9%

F. How positive or negative do you feel about the Chinese "One Belt, One Road" initiative?

Mostly positive	6.5%
Somewhat positive	32.5%
Somewhat negative	44.2%
Mostly negative	16.8%

G. In your opinion, are Latin American nations "better off" taking economic assistance from China than from the U.S.?

Yes, Latin American countries are better off with China	20.4%
No, Latin American countries are better off with the U.S.	59.9%
Latin American nations are better off left on their own	19.6%

H. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: The United States should convert to a form of State capitalism (similar to China's) in order to compete with China's Belt and Road initiative?

Strongly agree	2.7%
Somewhat agree	14.8%
Somewhat disagree	27.8%
Strongly disagree	54.7%

TOPIC 7//THE PHILIPPINES AND THE U.S.

The Philippines has had a special relationship with the United States since the islands were ceded by Spain to the United States after the Spanish-American War at the end of the 19th century. However, since the election of Rodrigo Duterte, the country has pivoted more toward China, and away from the U.S. Duterte has also launched a largescale war on drugs that many criticize for its brutality. What does the future hold for U.S. relations with the Philippines?

The Philippines' election of Rodrigo Duterte has thrust the small island nation back into the spotlight of regional and global affairs. NATIONAL OPINION BALLOT respondents were asked to give their opinion on the history of the U.S. relationship with the Philippines, and how the U.S. should respond to the disputes over naval territory in south-east Asia. Just over 60% of respondents said they would support the U.S. intervening in any future issues between China and the Philippines.

Respondents were also asked about the nature of U.S. intervention in different regions. More than 50% of balloters believe that the U.S. should support its allies, even when those allies have leaders that are less than reputable. This comes despite 80% of respondents saying that they are concerned about the actions Duterte has taken since his latest election.

A. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the "The Philippines and the U.S." topic?

Read the article on the Philippines and the U.S. in the 2020 Great Decisions briefing book	97.2%
Discussed the article on the Philippines and the U.S. with a Great Decisions discussion group	83.4%
Discussed the article on the Philippines and the U.S. with friends and family	45.9%
Followed news related to the Philippines and the U.S.	50.6%
Taken a class in which you learned about issues related the Philippines and the U.S.	0.03%
Have or had a job related to the Philippines and the U.S.	0.07%
Traveled to the Philippines	0.11%
None of the above	0.01%

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

Very interested	24.1%
Somewhat interested	53.8%
Not too interested	21.6%
Not interested at all	0.6%

C. Should the United States commit to positive relations with allies, even if those allies have less than reputable leaders in charge?

Yes, the U.S. should support allies regardless of who leads them	53.3%
No, the U.S. should only support allies with strong, democratically elected leaders	33.5%
Unsure	13.2%

D. In your opinion, should the United States offer reparations to the Philippines for their years of colonial rule?

Strongly agree	2.5%
Somewhat agree	23.7%
Somewhat disagree	34.5%
Strongly disagree	39.2%

'The Trump administration appears to be pulling back from a position of world leadership and engagement with foreign powers. We need to show the world, particularly small countries, that democracy can work and that they will benefit more than the autocratic models of China, Russia, Turkey, the Philippines, and many middle eastern states.'

E. Would you support U.S. military intervention in the South China Sea if China continues to encroach on Philippine naval territory?

Strongly support	14.1%
Somewhat support	47.6%
Somewhat oppose	27.2%
Strongly oppose	11.2%

F. The 2019 midterm elections in the Philippines has seen Rodrigo Duterte and his HNP party consolidate their power over the government. Are you concerned that Duterte will recompose the Philippine government to a single party state?

Very concerned	32.2%
Somewhat concerned	52.7%
Not too concerned	13.3%
Not concerned at all	1.9%



TOPIC 8/ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA

Policymakers in many countries are developing plans and funding research in artificial intelligence (AI). Global growth is slowing, and not surprisingly, many policymakers hope that AI will provide a magic solution. The EU, Brazil, and other Western countries have adopted regulations that grant users greater control over their data and require that firms using AI be transparent about how they use it. Will the U.S. follow suit?

The topic with the second-highest interest from Great Decisions 2020 readers, Artificial Intelligence and Data saw an interest level of over 95% with close to 70% of NATIONAL OPINION BALLOT respondents looking for more news and information regarding AI. Close to 60% of balloters want to see the U.S. government invest more funding and management towards developing AI firms to remain on the cutting edge. While there was great interest in the topic, there were also several causes for concern.

The biggest sources of concern from respondents was the spreading of disinformation (44%) and the rise of surveillance systems (26%). This concern explains why most respondents have a level of distrust towards AI firms and think that they maintain too much control over the U.S. economy and government.

A. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Artificial Intelligence and Data” topic?

Read the article on Artificial Intelligence and Data in the 2020 Great Decisions briefing book	92.8%
Discussed the article on Artificial Intelligence and Data with a Great Decisions Discussion group	80%
Discussed the article on Artificial Intelligence and Data with friends and family	59.9%
Followed news related to Artificial Intelligence and Data	69.3%
Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to Artificial Intelligence and Data	13.7%
Have or have a job related to the artificial intelligence	13%
None of the above	.01%

B. How interested would you say you are in issues related to Artificial Intelligence and Data?

Very interested	65.7%
Somewhat interested	31.1%
Not too interested	2.5%
Not at all interested	0.6%

C. Which of these, if any, is your largest source of concern with regards to artificial intelligence?

Surveillance systems	26.1%
Potential job loss	6.3%
Autonomous weapons	9.4%
Spreading of disinformation	44.3%
Other	13.8%

D. Are you in favor of the United States government regulating personal and public data?

Very much in favor	24.7%
Somewhat in favor	41.5%
Neither in favor nor oppose	15.8%
Somewhat oppose	14.9%
Very much oppose	3.2%

E. In your opinion, should the United States government invest in AI firms, or should it remain in the private sector?

Yes, the U.S. government should invest in AI firms	58.9%
No, AI firms should remain in the private sector only	22.8%
Unsure	18.4%

F. Do you trust AI firms with your data?

Trust completely	0.9%
Trust somewhat	16.9%
Neither trust nor distrust	23.8%
Distrust somewhat	44.2%
Distrust completely	14.1%

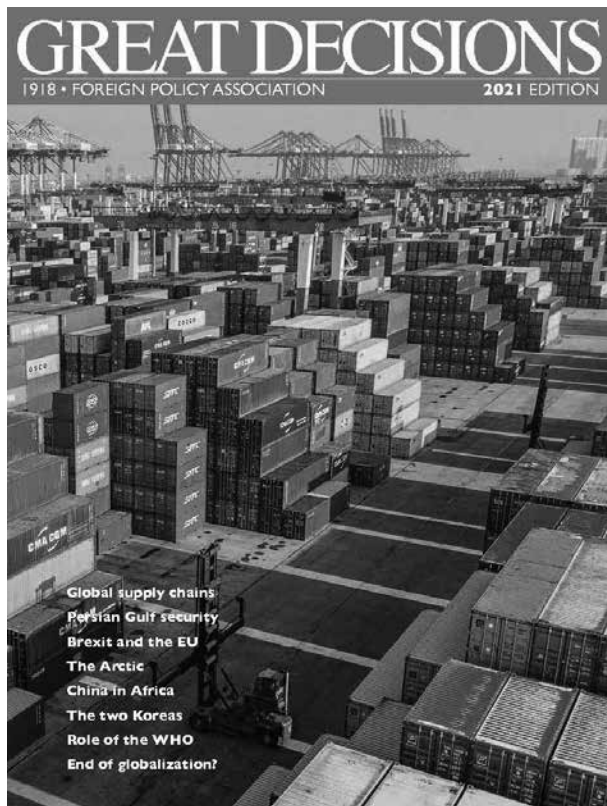
G. In your opinion, do technology/AI companies hold too much, about the right amount, or not enough influence over the U.S. economy?

Too much	57.6%
About the right amount	38.8%
Not enough	3.6%

H. In your opinion, do technology/AI companies hold too much, about the right amount, or not enough influence over the U.S. government?

Too much	50%
About the right amount	43.1%
Not enough	6.8%

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