

GREAT DECISIONS

1918 • FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

2025 EDITION

2025 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/community center
- Foreign Policy Association website/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 2018 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.)

Topic I. America at a Global Crossroads

1. Do you believe that the United States will ever be able to overcome its internal political divide?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

2. Do you think the liberal international order will continue to decline?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

3. Did the level of polarization in the United States increase in the past 5 years?

- Yes, significantly
- Yes, moderately
- Yes, slightly
- No, not at all

4. Can the Global West and the Global East ever find a compromise between their differing ideologies?

- Yes, it could be possible
- Yes, but it is unlikely
- No
- Unsure

5. How do you think the U.S.-China relationship is going to change after the inauguration of the United States' current President, Donald Trump?

- Improve
- Deteriorate
- Stay the same
- Unsure

6. How confident are you in the long-term continuation of an international liberal order?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not confident
- Unsure

7. Which grand strategy do you believe is the most beneficial to the United States?

- Liberal international leadership
- America First agenda
- Westphalian internationalist strategy

8. Do you think the America First strategy is sustainable in the long term?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No
- Unsure

9. Do you believe that the United States is setting a "good" standard when it comes to representing a powerful nation in the world order?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No
- Unsure

10. How confident are you in the United States maintaining global hegemony in the next 10 years?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not confident
- Unsure

11. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about American foreign policy? If so, please use the space below.

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Enter your answers online at

www.fpa.org/ballot

Topic 2. U.S. Leadership in the Global Economy

1. How much has neoliberalism declined in recent years?

- Significantly
- Moderately
- Slightly
- Not at all

2. Do the WTO and other international institutions play a major role in maintaining a liberal internationalist order?

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, but only slightly
- No, not at all
- Unsure

3. How much does the United States' role as a great power and hegemonic state influence the neoliberal era?

- Strongly
- Moderately
- Weakly
- Not at all

4. To what extent will the reelection of U.S. President Donald Trump impact the United States' leadership in the global economy?

- Significantly
- Moderately
- Slightly
- Not at all

5. How much will the U.S. abandoning its NATO allies affect the international order?

- Significantly
- Moderately
- Slightly
- Not at all

6. Should the U.S. pivot away from neoliberalism as a foreign policy economic policy approach?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

7. How vital is a U.S. signature on the Paris Agreement in shaping the international system?

- Very vital
- Somewhat vital
- Not vital
- Unsure

8. Do you think the U.S. is hypocritical when it comes to their domestic versus international laws/standards?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No
- Unsure

9. How important is the expansion of hyperglobalization?

- Very important
- Moderately important
- Not important
- Unsure

10. How confident are you in the U.S. maintaining an economic ideological hegemony over other states?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not confident
- Unsure

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

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Topic 3. U.S.-China Relations

1. To what extent do the values of China’s President, Xi Jinping, influence the state’s relationship to the U.S.?

- Strongly
- Moderately
- Slightly
- Not at all

2. Does U.S. domestic polarization play a major role in the U.S.-China partnership?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

3. Do China’s continued disputes over claimed land relate to the current war in Ukraine?

- Yes, the circumstances are very similar
- Yes, but there are a lot of key differences
- No
- Unsure

4. How much will the outcome of the war in Ukraine affect China’s strategies moving forward?

- Significantly
- Moderately
- Slightly
- Not at all

5. Should the U.S. put more effort into maintaining a peaceful relationship with China despite their ideological differences?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

6. How much has the Belt and Road Initiative contributed to the weakening of U.S.-China relations?

- Significantly
- Moderately
- Slightly
- Not at all

7. To what extent did President Trump’s public perception of COVID-19 in relation to China weaken the relationship between the two states?

- Significantly
- Moderately
- Slightly
- Not at all

8. Is it possible for a U.S. President to be fully aligned with China in the future and bring no tension to their ongoing relationship?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

9. Do you believe that China will attempt to invade Taiwan in the next 5 years?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

10. How confident are you in the U.S. and China coming to a diplomatic agreement that resolves the sovereignty issues around Taiwan?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not confident
- Unsure

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

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Topic 4. India: Between China, the West, the Global South

1. Do you support the U.S. deepening its strategic and economic partnership with India to counterbalance China’s growing influence in the Indo-Pacific?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Oppose

2. Should the U.S. collaborate more with India to lead efforts addressing economic inequality and climate change in the Global South?

- Yes, collaborate more
- Maintain current efforts
- No, focus on other regions

3. Do you support India gaining a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as part of broader reforms to reflect current global power dynamics?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

4. Should the U.S. reconsider its approach toward India’s relationship with Russia, given India’s reliance on Russian arms and energy?

- Adopt a more flexible approach
- Press India to distance itself from Russia
- No change in current policy

5. Do you believe India’s “multi-alignment” foreign policy -- working with both the U.S. and its rivals -- supports or undermines U.S. global interests?

- Supports U.S. interests
- Undermines U.S. interests

6. Do you support the U.S., India, Japan, and Australia strengthening the Quad alliance to promote stability and counter China in the Indo-Pacific?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Oppose

7. Should the U.S. negotiate a free trade agreement with India to expand economic cooperation despite ongoing trade barriers?

- Yes, prioritize trade negotiations
- No, maintain current policies
- No opinion

8. Should the U.S. prioritize investments in India’s manufacturing and technology sectors to diversify supply chains away from China?

- Yes, prioritize investments
- No, focus on domestic industries

9. Should the U.S. partner with India to accelerate its transition to renewable energy as part of global climate change efforts?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Oppose

10. Should the U.S. pressure India to take a stronger stance against Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, including reducing its reliance on Russian oil?

- Yes, pressure India
- No, respect India’s position
- No opinion

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

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Topic 5. International Climate Cooperation

1. Do you believe the U.S. should lead global efforts to combat climate change by providing greater financial and technological support to developing nations?.

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

2. Should the United States remain committed to the Paris Agreement and continue implementing policies to meet its emissions reduction goals?

- Yes, fully committed
- Somewhat committed
- No, withdraw from the Paris Agreement

3. Should the U.S. prioritize climate cooperation with China despite rising geopolitical and economic tensions?

- Yes, climate cooperation is critical
- No, focus on competition with China
- No opinion

4. Do you support the U.S. increasing its contributions to international climate finance to help developing nations adapt to climate change and transition to clean energy?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Oppose

5. How important is the role of U.S. businesses and private investments in driving global climate solutions?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

6. Do you believe U.S. policies like the Inflation Reduction Act, which invests in clean energy, strengthen America's global leadership on climate change?

- Yes, they strengthen leadership
- No, they are insufficient
- No opinion

7. Should the U.S. advocate for stronger international accountability mechanisms to ensure countries meet their climate commitments?

- Yes, advocate for stronger mechanisms
- No, respect national sovereignty

8. Should the U.S. accelerate its transition away from fossil fuels, even if it requires significant public investment and policy changes?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

9. Should the U.S. prioritize addressing climate change as a national security issue, including preparing for extreme weather and global instability caused by climate impacts?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

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

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Topic 6. The Future of NATO and European Security

1. Can NATO be dismantled in a way that allows for European security to remain intact?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No
- Unsure

2. Can European militaries fully prosper while the U.S. continues their involvement with NATO?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No
- Unsure

3. To what extent does the admittance of Ukraine into NATO pose a threat to Russia?

- Major threat
- Somewhat of a threat
- Mild threat
- No threat at all

4. Is it strategically viable for China to invade Taiwan while European security remains under threat?

- Yes, it is a plausible strategy
- Possibly, depending on the situation
- No, it is not a good strategy
- Unsure

5. Are there any instances where regional hegemonic powers become more influential when compared to a global great power, such as the United States?

- Yes, this happens often
- Yes, sometimes
- Yes, but rarely
- No, not at all

6. Should Ukraine continue to fight for NATO admittance, or should they begin to consider other strategies?

- Yes, Ukraine should continue to gain admittance into NATO
- Yes, but there are other alternative strategies for Ukraine

No, Ukraine should begin to consider other strategies

7. How confident are you in a peaceful transition of the U.S. leaving NATO, should the circumstance arise?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not confident at all

8. Are you concerned in the continued reliance of European allies on the U.S. for military defense?

- Yes, Europe should build up their own militaries
- Yes, but this is a mild concern
- No, European states do not need to build up their defense while in NATO

9. Can the U.S. remain prosperous if Europe is struggling?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

10. Should states still be considered for admittance into NATO?

- Yes, all eligible states should be considered
- Yes, but only a select few
- No, states should no longer be considered for admittance

11. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about the future of NATO and European security? If so, please use the space below.

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Topic 7. AI and American National Security

1. Should the U.S. prioritize maintaining a global leadership role in artificial intelligence development to enhance its national security and competitiveness?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

2. Do you support international agreements to regulate the use of AI in warfare to ensure human control over critical decisions, such as launching nuclear weapons?

- Yes, support regulation
- No, oppose regulation

3. How important is it for the U.S. to limit China's access to advances AI technologies, such as semiconductors and GPUs, to maintain its technological advantage?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

4. Should the U.S. government increase investments in AI-powered cybersecurity systems to defend against growing cyber threats?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

5. Do you support stronger federal regulations to protect personal privacy from AI-powered surveillance technologies?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

6. Should the U.S. government provide workforce retraining programs to address potential job losses caused by advancements in AI?

- Yes, provide retraining
- No, focus on other priorities

7. Should the U.S. work with international organizations like UNESCO and the EU to establish global standards for AI ethics and governance?

- Yes, collaborate internationally
- No, focus on domestic regulations

8. How concerned are you about the use of AI, such as deep-fakes and disinformation campaigns, in undermining U.S. elections?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not concerned

9. Do you support the continued development of AI for U.S. military applications, such as autonomous systems and battle-field decision-making tools?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

10. Should the U.S. prioritize ethical considerations, such as minimizing bias and ensuring transparency, when developing AI for national security purposes?

- Yes, prioritize ethics
- No, focus on efficiency

11. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about AI and national security? If so, please use the space below.

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Topic 8. American Policy in the Middle East

1. Should the U.S. reduce its military presence in the Middle East, even if it risks destabilizing the region and empowering adversaries like Iran?

- Yes, reduce presence
- No, maintain current levels

2. Should the U.S. resume negotiations with Iran to limit its nuclear program, even if it requires lifting economic sanctions?

- Yes, resume negotiations
- No, maintain sanctions

3. Do you believe the U.S. should place conditions on military aid to Israel to encourage greater efforts to minimize civilian casualties in Gaza?

- Yes, place conditions
- No, continue unconditional support

4. Should the U.S. play a leading role in funding and overseeing the reconstruction of Gaza after the current conflict ends?

- Yes, lead the efforts
- No, focus on domestic priorities

5. Should the U.S. prioritize human rights when dealing with allies like Saudi Arabia, even if it jeopardizes security and energy agreements?

- Yes, prioritize human rights
- No, prioritize security and energy

6. Do you think the U.S. should take a more active role in restarting peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians?

- Yes, resume negotiations
- No, maintain sanctions

7. How concerned are you about China expanding its economic and diplomatic influence in the Middle East at the expense of U.S. leadership?:

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not concerned

8. Given that the U.S. imports little Middle Eastern oil, should the U.S. continue to spend billions to secure energy exports from the Persian Gulf?:

- Yes, continue spending
- No, reduce involvement
- No opinion

9. Should the U.S. engage in limited diplomacy with groups like Hezbollah and Hamas to reduce violence, or maintain a policy of total isolation?:

- Engage diplomatically
- Maintain isolation
- No opinion

10. Should the U.S. pursue regime change in Iran through economic sanctions and covert efforts, or focus on diplomacy to change Iranian behavior?:

- Pursue regime change
- Focus on diplomacy
- No opinion

11. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about American policy in the Middle East? If so, please use the space below.

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