

# GREAT DECISIONS

1918 • FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

2026 EDITION

## 2026 National Opinion Ballot

First, we'd like to ask you for some information about your participation in the Great Decisions program.

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
- Not sure

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 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
- Not often
- 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

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

- Republican
- Democrat
- Independent
- Not-aligned

With which gender do you most identify?

- Male
- 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 or another country?

- United States
- Another country

What is your age?

- 18 and under
- 19-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70 or above

Are you currently employed?

- Full-time employee
- Part-time employee
- Self-employed
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Student
- Homemaker

Can you give us an estimate of your household income in 2025 before taxes?

- Below \$30,000
- \$30,000–\$50,000
- \$50,000–\$75,000
- \$75,000–\$100,000
- Over \$100,000
- 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.)

What region of the United States do you live in?

- West
- Midwest
- Northeast
- Southwest
- Southeast

## Topic I. America's Global Role

1. To what extent do you think the United States should continue prioritizing an "America First" approach to its foreign policy?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

2. U.S. global leadership is essential to maintaining international stability.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

3. Reducing U.S. commitments abroad would strengthen national security by focusing resources domestically.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. To what extent do you believe that the U.S. should expand strategic cooperation with democratic allies even when it conflicts with short-term national interest?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

5. The U.S. should limit military interventions overseas unless there is a direct threat to homeland security.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

6. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: the United States should maintain a strong presence in international negotiations on climate, trade and security.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. Do you think that shifts in U.S. foreign policy under the current administration have improved America's standing internationally?

- Strongly improved
- Somewhat improved
- Somewhat decreased
- Strongly decreased
- No change

8. To what extent do you agree that the United States government should pursue bipartisan consensus on long-term foreign policy objectives?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

9. To what extent do you believe the "America First" strategy is sustainable?

- Very sustainable
- Somewhat sustainable
- Not very sustainable
- Not at all sustainable

## Topic 2. Trump's Tariffs in Historical Perspective

1. To what extent do you think tariffs are an effective tool to protect America industries from unfair foreign competition?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

2. Do you think that U.S. tariffs on China and other trading partners have strengthened the U.S. economy?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

3. To what extent do you think the U.S. should re-enter or create new multinational trade agreements to enhance competitiveness?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. Do you think that tariff policy should prioritize national security considerations over purely economic concerns?

- Prioritize national security
- Prioritize economic concerns
- Balance of both

5. Do you think that trade restrictions are necessary to defend critical technologies from foreign influence?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

6. Do you think that the United States should pursue greater economic cooperation with allies to counterbalance China's global trade influence?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. Should the U.S. back international organizations such as the World Trade Organization(WTO)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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## Topic 3. U.S.-China Relations in the New Trump Era

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**1.** Do you think the United States should adopt a firm stance toward China on military, economic, and technological issues?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

**2.** Is it in the United States' best interest to maintain stable diplomatic channels with China to avoid escalation?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

**3.** Should the U.S. restrict Chinese investment in critical U.S. infrastructure and technology sectors?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

**4.** Do you think that cooperation with China on issues like climate change, global health, and economic stability remains essential?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

**5.** Should the U.S. increase military support to allies in the Indo-Pacific to deter Chinese expansion?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

**6.** Do you think economic decoupling from China would ultimately benefit U.S. national strategy?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

**7.** Do you think that a balance of competition and cooperation is the most effective long-term strategy for the U.S. to manage a rising China?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

**8.** To what extent do you believe the U.S. should support international institutions that address disputes with China through multilateral mechanisms?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

## Topic 4. The Third Nuclear Age

1. To what extent do you think that U.S. alliances are essential to preventing nuclear proliferation in regions like East Asia and the Middle East?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

2. Should countries such as Japan or The Republic of Korea pursue independent nuclear weapons development?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

3. If U.S. security guarantees weaken, would it be justified for allies to seek their own nuclear deterrents?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. Should the United States reaffirm its security commitments to allies to prevent further global nuclear proliferation?

- Yes, the U.S. should reaffirm its previous commitments
- No, the U.S. should make new security commitments
- U.S. security commitments won't prevent further nuclear proliferation

5. Do you think that diplomatic engagement with Iran and North Korea is critical to reducing nuclear risk?

- Very critical
- Somewhat critical
- Not very critical
- Not at all critical

6. Strengthening nonproliferation treaties should be a top U.S. foreign policy priority.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. Do you believe that advancements in nuclear technology demand an updated global arms-control framework?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

8. To what extent does the weakening of long-standing alliances increase the likelihood of nuclear proliferation?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

## Topic 5. Ukraine and the Future of European Security

1. Do you think that the U.S. should continue to provide military aid to Ukraine?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement “Europe should take primary responsibility for its own defense, reducing U.S. support.”

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement “A negotiated settlement to the War in Ukraine is preferable even if it requires territorial compromise.”

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. Should the United States maintain, increase or decrease its presence within NATO to ensure European stability?

- Maintain current presence
- Decrease its presence
- Increase its presence

5. Do you think the current conflict in Ukraine demonstrates the need for stronger European defense cooperation?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

6. Do you think that economic sanctions on Russia should remain in place until Ukraine’s sovereignty is fully restored?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. Do you believe that U.S. disengagement from Europe and NATO would undermine global security?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement “The War in Ukraine has permanently altered the security landscape and requires long-term U.S.-European planning.”

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

## Topic 6. Multilateral Institutions in a New World Order

1. Should the United States actively strengthen international institutions such as the UN, WTO and WHO?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

2. Do you believe that multilateral institutions remain essential for addressing global crises like pandemics, climate change and armed conflict?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

3. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: the United States should reduce its participation in multilateral institutions that limit its national sovereignty.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. Do you think that reforms of global institutions is necessary to make them more effective?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

5. Does the U.S. benefit from working through alliances and multilateral frameworks rather than acting unilaterally?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

6. To what extent do you think that all countries should increase their funding for international institutions to help improve global governance capacity?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. Do you believe that U.S. should support multilateral institutions even when outcomes do not perfectly align with U.S. preferences?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

## Topic 7. U.S. Engagement of Africa

1. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: The United States should increase diplomatic and economic engagement with African nations.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

2. Is United States development aid to Africa essential for advancing long-term stability and growth?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

3. Should the U.S. focus on trying to counter China's influence and engagement with Africa?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. Do you think the U.S. should expand trade agreements and investment partnerships with African countries?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

5. Should African governments play a primary role in shaping security cooperation with the U.S?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

6. Should U.S. engagement with Africa prioritize democratic governance and anti-corruption efforts?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. Should the United States increase its support for African-led initiatives in health, agriculture, and climate adaptation?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

8. Do you believe that reducing the United States' involvement in Africa would create long-term geopolitical risk?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

## Topic 8. The Future of Human Rights

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1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement “The United States is a global leader in promoting human rights.”

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

2. Should national interests take precedence over human rights concerns?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

3. Do you believe that international law is essential to maintaining global order and preventing conflict?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. Should the United States hold its allies accountable for human rights violations?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

5. To what extent do global human rights institutions require stronger enforcement mechanisms?

- To a great extent
- To a moderate extent
- To a limited extent
- Not at all

6. Do you think the United States should accept certain international legal commitments to strengthen global norms?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. Do technological changes require a new international standard to protect privacy and civil liberties?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

8. Does the credibility of the United States’ human rights agenda depend on consistent policies at home and abroad?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree