

GREAT DECISIONS

2026 Discussion Topics & Dates

The Stanford University Women's Club Great Decisions group will meet during Winter and Spring Quarter on Zoom, most every other Tuesday evening from 7:30 - 9:00 PM. Stanford faculty experts will guide us through the discussions. Buying and reading the text for the eight discussion sessions makes the discussion more meaningful. Members will receive information and reminders via email, as well as Zoom invitations in due time.

Winter Quarter

January 21 - Debating A.'s Global Role: America First vs. Lib. Internationalism

Trump's return has marked a break from 80 years of U.S. foreign policy leadership, embracing an "America First" approach. This chapter explores the risks of isolation and diminished influence in relation to Trump 2.0 foreign policy.

By G. John Ikenberry

February 3 - Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy

Trump's aggressive trade and tariff policies have shaken global economic norms. What's the rationale behind this radical shift in economic policy, and what are the implications for multilateral trade and geopolitics?

By Michael Mastanduno

February 17 - U.S.-China Relations

Relations with China remain tense, with tariffs, military modernization, and pressure on Taiwan. Does Trump have a coherent China policy, and will his tariffs on Rare Earth minerals be effective? What are America's strategic options?

By Oriana Mastro

March 3 - Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation

U.S. alliance skepticism may drive countries like Japan and South Korea to reconsider

nuclear options. What are the implications of the Trump administration's rethinking of the U.S. alliance system for regional and global security? Will this new uncertainty alter the way allies and rivals in various regions make decisions about security and nuclear weapons?

By Gideon Rose

Spring Quarter

March 17 - Ukraine and the Future of European Security

With reduced U.S. support for NATO and Ukraine, Europe faces strategic uncertainty. The Trump administration has signaled an intention to reduce its security role in Europe. What are America's stakes in NATO and Europe's strategic dilemmas, and how might Europe respond?

By Thomas Wright

April 7 - Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order

Can multilateralism survive amid shifting global power and rising nationalism? This chapter examines the future of global cooperation across trade, health, and finance.

By Scott Bessent (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

April 21 - U.S. Engagement of Africa

Africa's geopolitical role is growing. What lessons can the U.S. learn from China's presence there, and how might it strengthen ties, especially with leading nations like Nigeria? What tools of statecraft might the U.S. bring to its engagement with Africa?

By Jendayi E. Frazer

May 5 - The Future of Human Rights and International Law

As democracy and human rights retreat globally—and the U.S. pulls back—how can civil society and legal norms remain effective in a divided world? What is the role and force of international law in this era of impunity?

By Jose Enrique Alvarez

Please contact Meredith Einaudi (mweinaudi@gmail.com) and Antonia Fore (AHoldegel@aol.com) with questions and comments.