

### ***Great Decisions topics for 2020***

***Here are the discussion topics for the Spring 2020 Great Decisions class starting B session next Spring. Some are timely topics currently under discussion in the media; some reside just below the headlines. Note that one of the topics will center on Artificial Intelligence. Ron Rutschman will be giving a presentation on that subject in the Potpourri class this coming C session. The books will be going on sale very shortly. If you are interested in the class and want to purchase a book at the discounted price now is the time to let me know. Email Richard Cato at [ask4cato@hotmail.com](mailto:ask4cato@hotmail.com). Last year the books were regularly priced at \$32. The preorder discount price was \$26. I expect the price to be at least the same.***

#### ***Climate Change and the Global Order by Ronald Bee***

*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?*

#### ***India and Pakistan by Barbara Crossette***

*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?*

#### ***Red Sea Security by David Shinn***

*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?

**Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking by Ronald Weitzer**

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?

**U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle by Michael Shifter and Bruno Binetti**

Combatting 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 hold 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?

**China's Road into Latin America by Margaret Myers**

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?"

**The Philippines and the U.S. by Julio Amador and Deryk Matthew N. Baladjay**

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 large-scale war on drugs that many criticize for its brutality. What does the future hold for U.S. relations with the Philippines?*

***Artificial Intelligence and Data by Susan Ariel  
Aaronson***

*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?*