

Great Decisions Tyler

Great Decisions, a project of the Foreign Policy Association, is jointly sponsored in Tyler by AAUW Tyler, League of Women Voters of Tyler/Smith County and the Tyler Public Library.

The 2012 Steering Committee invites all those attending Great Decisions to give input at the end-of-series debriefing session in April, 2012.



Briefing Books are available for \$20 at the library check-out desk.

Great Decisions Tyler

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Great Decisions

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FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

Great Decisions Tyler

Foreign Policy Discussion Series
2012



Wednesdays at Noon
Jan. 18-March 2

TYLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Great Decisions Tyler

January 18 Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq

Dr. Martin Slann
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, UT Tyler

Ten years after September 11, 2001, the U.S. is winding down its military commitment in Iraq and slowly pulling out of Afghanistan. What exit strategy will help Afghanistan and Iraq build stable democratic nations? How can the U.S. continue to achieve its counterterrorism goals? What is the role of the U.S. in the future of the Middle East?



January 25 Cyber Security

Dr. Leonard Brown
Dr. Nary Subramanian
Associate Professors of Computer Science, UT Tyler

The securitization of cyberspace has caused a sea change for both governments and the private sector, faced with new threats, new battlegrounds and new opportunities. Faced with challenges such as international cybercrime and authoritarian control of networks, how will the U.S. and its democratic allies approach the cyber frontier? How does this new domain figure in U.S. strategic interests?



February 1 Middle East Realignment

Mohamed Elibiary
Freedom and Justice Foundation, Dallas

The popular revolts and upheaval of the Arab Spring have radically changed the face of the Middle East. What lies ahead for the Middle East's transition to democracy? What are the prospects for the governments that have held out in this new order? With many longtime U.S. allies ousted, how will the U.S. recalibrate its relations with the new regimes?



February 8 Mexico

Price Arredondo
Director of Hispanic Business Services, Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce

Mexico's border with Central America, as well as the border it shares with the U.S., has been a pathway for people, goods, crime and contraband in both directions. How can Mexico address these transborder challenges? What is the future of Mexico's relations with its northern and southern neighbors? How will Mexico's foreign relations affect its domestic politics?



February 15 Energy Geopolitics

Dr. James K. Nelson
Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science
Dr. Martin Slann
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, UT Tyler

The energy markets have been shaken by the instability of Middle East oil and the vulnerability of nuclear power. Moreover, developing countries like China are becoming bigger energy consumers, while energy producers like Russia see the opportunity to widen their influence. In this changed landscape, how will the U.S.'s energy needs affect its relations with other nations?



February 22 Promoting Democracy

Dr. Marcus Stadelmann
Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science, UT Tyler

The U.S. has had a history of advancing and supporting democracy around the world. What place does democracy promotion have in U.S. foreign policy today? With a choice of tools ranging from economic aid to military force, what are the appropriate yet effective methods that the U.S. should use to promote democracy?



February 29 State of the Oceans

Dr. Bob Sterken
Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of International Programs, UT Tyler

The world's oceans are essential to life on earth, and are tremendously sensitive to global climate change. What are the consequences of climate change on oceanic factors like biodiversity, sea levels and extreme weather systems? How can the U.S. and its international partners address the emerging challenges to this shared resource?



March 7 Thurs. March 8 Indonesia

Dr. Amentahru Wahrab
Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, UT Tyler

Having emerged from authoritarianism in the last 15 years, Indonesia has made remarkable strides politically, economically and socially. Yet the new, democratic Indonesia is still a developing country facing considerable challenges. How can Indonesia continue its path of growth, reform and prosperity? What is Indonesia's role in the global community?



BRIEFING BOOKS - \$20 at the library check-out desk.

After reading and discussing each topic presented in *Great Decisions*, participants may complete the opinion ballots included in the *Great Decisions* briefing books. Tabulated results are analyzed by a polling expert, who writes the *National Opinion Ballot Report* sent to the President and the Congress.

Opinion ballots also can be filled out online at fpa.org

Want to talk more?

Participants are invited to accompany the speaker at each session to lunch for further discussion on the topic of the day. Just sign up the day of the session.

