



The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (www.wacmb.org)

February 2021

Quick Takes: World Issues in the Age of Covid-19

Check your email on the scheduled days for links to these videos.

Beginning this month, the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area offers an 8-part series of *Quick Takes* to explore the political and economic landscape the Biden Administration will encounter as it reformulates US foreign policy. We begin with an examination of the effectiveness of the current international network of multilateral organizations, followed by an analysis of how the Biden Administration's foreign policy agenda will likely differ from the Trump Administration's. Future programs will look at China's foreign policy, trends in the European Union and Russia, and the role of technology in international relations.

February 15, 2021: Bruce Jones, The Brookings Institution *The Long Crisis of Order*



Throughout the last century, the international community sought to manage world order through a network of treaties and multilateral institutions, including NATO and the UN. But that arrangement has failed to keep up with major developments. Are the treaties and institutions on which the American-led order rests still capable of handling contemporary challenges? Can they be adapted, and if so, by whom? What should be the role of the United States in driving that change? Dr. Bruce Jones of the Brookings Institution discusses these important issues. Bruce Jones is Director and a Senior Fellow in the Project on International Order and Strategy of the Foreign Policy Program at the Brookings Institution. He works with the Center for East Asia Policy Studies, and is a consulting professor at the Freeman Spogli Institute at Stanford University. Dr. Jones has extensive experience with multilateral institutions, including serving as a senior advisor to Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of UN reform. His most recent book is *The Marshall Plan and the Shaping of American Strategy* (Brookings Institution Press, 2017). He holds a doctorate from the London School of Economics.

February 28, 2021: Charles Kupchan, Council on Foreign Relations & Georgetown University *From Trump to Biden: Navigating Isolationism and Internationalism in US Statecraft*

Dr. Charles Kupchan addresses the potential for a course correction in US foreign policy after four years of the Trump Administration's "America First" approach. Drawing on both US history and an assessment of the emerging geopolitical landscape, Dr. Kupchan discusses how the Biden Administration can best go about meeting the many strategic challenges now facing the United States. Charles Kupchan is Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University. From 2014 to 2017, he served as Special Assistant to the President on the National Security Council in the Obama White House. He also served on the NSC during the Clinton Administration. Dr. Kupchan's most recent book, *Isolationism: A History of America's Efforts to Shield Itself from the World*, was published in 2020 by Oxford University Press. He received his BA from Harvard University, and his MPhil and DPhil from Oxford University.



Great Decisions is Underway!

The 2021 *Great Decisions* discussion series has begun. Produced by the Foreign Policy Association of America, *Great Decisions* is the country's largest discussion program on world affairs.

Your World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is offering two discussion groups that will use FPA's materials to guide this eight week-long program. One group is moderated by Judith Glickman and Boyd Haight. The other group is moderated by John Hetz, and is offered in partnership with the OLLI program at CSUMB.

Both groups meet online on Monday evenings from 4:00 - 5:30 pm. Both groups will follow the same schedule, which is printed below.

2021 *Great Decisions* Schedule

Week 1, February 1: Global Supply Chains and National Security

Week 2, February 8: Persian Gulf Security Issues

February 15: No Meeting: Presidents' Day

Week 3, February 22: Brexit and the European Union

Week 4, March 1: Struggles Over the Melting Arctic

Week 5, March 8: China's Role in Africa

Week 6, March 15: The Korean Peninsula

Week 7, March 22: Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic

Week 8, March 29: The End of Globalization?

After the conclusion of *Great Decisions*, WACMB will resume its regular discussion group schedule. If you are interested in attending a discussion group at that time, please send an email to info@wacmb.org.

World Affairs Trivia

1. Which organization is the oldest?
 - a. The United Nations
 - b. The International Monetary Fund
 - c. The World Trade Organization
 - d. The International Labor Organization
 - e. The World Health Organization
2. How many countries are currently member states of the United Nations? How many countries were original member states?
3. Which of the following countries is *not* a member of NATO?
 - a. Albania
 - b. Denmark
 - c. Ireland
 - d. North Macedonia
 - e. Poland
4. Name the world's newest country.
5. Which country elected the world's first female prime minister?
6. How many Soviet Socialist Republics were in the Soviet Union?
7. Which of the following island groups has been the subject of disputes between China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam?
 - a. Amakusa
 - b. Revillagigedo
 - c. Spratly
 - d. Tiwi
 - e. Yasawa

1. d. The ILO was founded in 1919. 2. 193; 51
3. c. Ireland 4. South Sudan, founded in 2011
5. Sri Lanka, in 1960. 6. 15. 7. c. Spratly

Some Thoughts from the WACA President and CEO

On January 7, the day after the deadly insurrection at the US Capitol, Bill Clifford, the President and CEO of the World Affairs Councils of America (our umbrella organization) sent an email to the member organizations. You may recall that Bill spoke at our December 2018 luncheon program on the topic “Japan, America, and the New Nationalism.” Bill’s email about the attack on the Capitol gives us much to think about, particularly when it comes to the role of the United States in world affairs. We thought it important to share his thoughts with our members, and so we are reprinting his email in its entirety below.

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the World Affairs Councils of America:

On January 6, 2021 - the deadliest day of the pandemic in the United States with 3,964 COVID-19 fatalities - the nation and the world bore witness to another shocking American tragedy: the violent assault on our democracy, institutions, and the U.S. Capitol building that represents our republic.

What will make this day live in infamy was that none other than the President of the United States himself tapped into the anti-democratic bent and rhetoric he has unleashed for more than four years to incite a mob to perpetrate acts of domestic terrorism. Having declined during the election campaign to commit to the peaceful transfer of power on which our democracy rests, President Trump has consistently and vociferously refused to accept his electoral defeat. Nor did he and too many of his enablers inside and outside Congress condemn yesterday’s disgraceful attack on the values we cherish because their seditious aim has been to subvert a presidential transition.

The World Affairs Councils of America is deeply saddened by the leadership malpractice that has stoked divisions and eroded confidence here and abroad in the rule of law, a free press, and our common democratic cause to form a more perfect union. The example of our Constitution and principles of governance has inspired individuals and groups around the world to fight for equality and democratic freedoms to build better societies. The iconic image of the Chinese man standing before a column of tanks in Tiananmen Square on June 5, 1989, a day after Beijing began crushing pro-democracy protestors, resonated with the American people and tarnished China’s image for years because he literally stood for what we stand for.

Now, China and other adversaries are already making the most of the horrifying and shameful images of the failed January 6 coup at the seat of the U.S. government. This, on the same day that Hong Kong police arrested 53 officials and activists, for their involvement in the city’s legislative elections, under the national security law imposed by the Chinese government last summer. Those detained are bereft, for the time being, of a human rights beacon here.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

—Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

WACA’s mission is to expand civil discourse inclusively - including with individuals with whom we disagree, for this is the practice of democracy - to wrestle with ideas, perspectives, and policy decisions so that an informed public will engage responsibly in national and international affairs.

As we approach Martin Luther King Day and Inauguration Day in less than two weeks, we are mindful of our staunch opposition to the incitement and enabling of violence against our fellow human beings and institutions. We stand together with organizations that respect diversity and uphold the values of our democracy.

With hope,

Bill Clifford
President and CEO

This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB). WACMB is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion, and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, EIN-770301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups, and student scholarships.

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*** Student rates are for full-time students at accredited colleges, universities, or graduate schools, as well as for enlisted military personnel in Grades E1 to E4.**

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