



Official Study Guide

2018-2019



WORLD
AFFAIRS
COUNCILS of
AMERICA

**2018-2019 Academic WorldQuest
Introductory Packet and Official Study Guide**

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Welcome to the 2018-2019 Academic WorldQuest™!

This year, we host the 17th Annual Academic WorldQuest™, the flagship education program of the World Affairs Councils of America.

One of the greatest challenges facing our nation and our schools across the country is preparing our youth for the globally interconnected world of the 21st Century. America's ability to face economic and security challenges and seize new opportunities depends on an informed citizenry and a well-educated workforce. Academic WorldQuest™ is a unique, competitive educational program that exposes youth to the world outside our borders and prepares them for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century.

Founded in 2003, Academic WorldQuest™ is a team game testing high school students' knowledge of international affairs. In the game, four-person teams compete by answering questions divided into ten unique and engaging thematic categories. The winner is the team with the most correct answers.

Structure of Program

During the academic year preceding **The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2019 Academic WorldQuest National Competition** in the spring, over 4,000 students participate in local AWQ competitions hosted by some 50 World Affairs Councils across the United States.

This information packet includes the AWQ Study Guide, which provides detailed resources on each of 10 question categories to help students and teachers to prepare for the competition. Questions for the competition are drawn from the resources in the AWQ Study Guide.

Winning teams are invited to represent their high school, city, and local World Affairs Council at The Carlos and Malú Alvarez Academic WorldQuest National Competition, held in the spring each year in our nation's capital, Washington, DC. This year's national competition also includes a welcome reception at the U.S. Institute of Peace.

Common Core Standards

Academic WorldQuest™ contributes to the national Common Core State Standards Initiative by fostering reading comprehension skills for informational text.

To find a local competition in your area, contact the World Affairs Councils of America at 202-833-4557 or waca@worldaffairsCouncils.org.

Academic WorldQuest 2018-2019 Categories

The categories for this year's AWQ National Competition have been updated by the World Affairs Councils of America, with input from member World Affairs Councils across the country, to reflect several of the most critical global and U.S. foreign policy issues:

- 1. Country in Focus: Qatar**
- 2. How to Deal with North Korea**
- 3. Global Refugee and Migration Crisis**
- 4. #WeAreNATO – The Alliance at 70**
- 5. Great Decisions**
- 6. Japan-U.S. Relations**
- 7. Space Policy**
- 8. World Trade Organization (WTO)**
- 9. Bridging Divides to Build Peace**
- 10. Current Events**

AWQ Study Guide

The Academic WorldQuest™ Study Guide (see page 8) has been prepared by the World Affairs Councils of America. Questions for all of the above categories, with the exception of Current Events, are drawn from the resources included in the AWQ Study Guide.

The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2019 Academic WorldQuest National Competition in Washington, D.C.

Event Details

The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2019 Academic WorldQuest National Competition honors the tremendous dedication and philanthropic support of WACA Board Member Carlos Alvarez and his wife Malú to our flagship program and the Academic WorldQuest Endowment Fund. (For information on making a gift to the AWQ Fund, please visit WACA's website: worldaffairsCouncils.org.) The national competition is attended by 200-225 of the nation's most promising high school students each year, along with their parents, teachers, and chaperones. The 4-hour AWQ competition is a unique opportunity for students to visit the nation's capital, perhaps for the first time. A weekend of substantive programming is included to enhance the experience.

Schedule (Approximate)

Friday, April 26

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Check-in and Registration at the **Washington Marriott Wardman Park**

2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, DC 20008

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Welcome Reception at TBA

Saturday, April 27

9:00am - 1:00pm

The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2019 Academic WorldQuest Competition

United States Institute of Peace

Hotel Block

WACA has arranged a special group hotel block for accommodations at:

Washington Marriott Wardman Park

(2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, DC 20008) Reservation link here:

<https://aws.passkey.com/go/748cafb8>

You can also call the hotel to make reservations: 202-328-2000. Be sure to identify that you are booking under the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA)'s Academic WorldQuest group room block.

Qualifying for AWQ 2018 National Competition: Rules and Regulations

All teams that compete in the Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2019 Academic WorldQuest National Competition must win a local AWQ competition sponsored by a Member Council of the World Affairs Councils of America.

Teams may compete in only one (1) local competition in order to qualify to compete in the National Competition.

A team consists of four (4) Primary Teammates who are currently high school students (freshman – senior year). No more than four players per team will be able to compete in the National Competition.

Teams may designate Alternate Teammates to replace one or more of the four Primary Teammates in the case of sickness or other circumstances which would prevent a Primary Teammate from competing in the National Competition. Please note that local Councils may be unable to send Alternate Teammates to the National Competition.

On the day of the event (Saturday, April 27, 2019), once The Carlos and Malú Alvarez Academic WorldQuest National Competition has officially started, no substitutions of Alternate Teammates may be made.

Teams of fewer than four students are allowed to compete, but this is strongly discouraged.

If the winning team from a local competition is unable to compete in the National Competition and has no Alternate Teammates, the second-place team may compete in its place.

How to Play

There are 10 rounds in the competition, each round having 10 questions. Teams will have 45 seconds to answer each question. **NOTE:** For the AWQ National Competition, all of the questions are multiple choice except for the Current Events category, which could feature fill-in-the-blank, true/false, or open-ended questions. For Local AWQ Competitions organized by Councils, you may use the multiple-choice format for the Current Events category.

Scoring

One (1) point is awarded for each correct answer. No penalty for incorrect answers or no answer.

The team with the most correct answers out of all 100 questions is declared AWQ Champion.

If, at the conclusion of the competition, there is a tie for 1st through 3rd place, tiebreaker rounds will be played.

Regulations

Teams are not allowed to consult with the audience, wireless devices, cell phones, other teams, books, or other written materials at any point during the competition. Any team found by World Affairs Councils of America judges, staff, or volunteers to be violating this rule will forfeit that round and a penalty of 20 points will automatically be deducted from that team's score.

If a team believes another team is cheating, a player may alert a World Affairs Councils of America representative.

However, if the other team is not found to be in violation of any rules, the accusing team will forfeit two (2) points. A team consists of four (4) players. Player substitutions are not allowed.

During the competition, a player can only use the bathroom during the break. If a player leaves at any other point during the rounds, he or she cannot return until after the break.

Parents, alternates, and other guests must remain in the reserved seating area, and "off the floor," at all times.

If a team wishes to challenge an answer, one (1) team member may bring the challenge calmly and politely to the judges within the time period allotted after answers are announced.

Teams are not allowed to discuss challenges with audience members. The decision of the head judge is final. If the challenge is unsuccessful, the team which brought it will forfeit one (1) point.

Academic WorldQuest 2018-2019 Study Guide

All questions for this year's Academic WorldQuest program will be drawn from the sources in this Study Guide (with the exception of the Current Events category, which will be drawn mostly from WACA's Weekly World News Update). This is a primary source that contains articles from a variety of media organizations worldwide. Current Events questions, however, can come from everywhere.

The AWQ Study Guide is best viewed in a current version of Adobe Reader. If you are having trouble clicking any of the below links, cut and paste them into your browser instead of clicking them, or try a different browser.

Country in Focus: Qatar

Situated on the Arabian Peninsula and ruled by the Al Thani family since the mid-1800s, Qatar within the last 60 years transformed itself from a poor British protectorate noted mainly for pearling into an independent state with significant oil and natural gas revenues. Since 1995, Qatar has seen wide-sweeping political and media reforms, unprecedented economic investment, and growing influence through the creation of the pan-Arab satellite news network Al-Jazeera. Recently, Doha's relationships with its neighbors have been tense, and in June 2017, other Gulf states – Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE – cut diplomatic and economic ties with Qatar. The resources for this topic, curated primarily by our principal sponsor, the Embassy of the State of Qatar, will cover its history, diplomacy, economic development, and the proactive measures taken to advance the country for years to come.

• History and Culture

- Read "**Country Profile: Qatar**" – British Library Partnership Team, Qatar Digital Library <https://www.qdl.qa/en/country-profile-qatar>
- Read "**Qatar's Maritime History and Heritage**" – James Olney, Qatar Digital Library <https://stories.dlme.clir.org/qatars-maritime-history-and-heritage/>
- Read "**Modernity Meets Tradition: Reflections on Traditional Music in Qatar**" – Rolf Killius, Qatar Digital Library <https://www.qdl.qa/en/modernity-meets-tradition-reflections-traditional-music-qatar>

• U.S.-Qatar Relations

- Read "**U.S. Relations with Qatar**" – United States Department of State, August 1, 2018 <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5437.htm>
- Read "**Qatar Information Packet**" ([download PDF](#)) – Qatar-America Institute, April 2018 <https://synqxzpk61kbbx049lp881e-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/QAI-Qatar-Information-Packet-April-2018.pdf>
- Read "**Mike Pompeo to Saudi Arabia: 'Gulf Unity Is Necessary'**" – Al Jazeera, April 29, 2018 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/04/mike-pompeo-saudi-arabia-qatar-blockade-180429054625262.html>

• Al Jazeera Reports on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Crisis and the Blockade of Qatar

- Read "**The Siege of Qatar**" – Al Jazeera, June 5, 2018 <https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/specialseries/2018/06/siege-qatar-180603104023939.html>
- Watch "**GCC Crisis, One Year On: What's the Impact on Gulf Economies?**" video (0:00 to 7:30 only) – Counting the Cost series on YouTube, Al Jazeera, June 2, 2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fvfRPvePno>
- **Optional:** Watch "**Beyond the Blockade**" documentary (46:30) in its entirety – Al Jazeera on YouTube, February 15, 2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dc6n31wluHI&v=1=en>

• Al Jazeera

- Read all 5 sections of "**How Al Jazeera Amplifies Qatar's Clout**" – Zachary Laub, CFR *Backgrounder*, July 12, 2017 <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-al-jazeera-amplifies-qatars-clout>

- **Sustainable Development**

- Read the [summary webpage](#) for “**Qatar National Vision 2030**” – Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics; optional: download full report ([PDF](#)), July 2008
<https://www.mdps.gov.qa/en/qnv1/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Read “**Energy in Qatar**” – Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy_in_Qatar
 - Read only **Chapter 1: Introduction** of “Development of the Energy Sector in the State of Qatar, 1995-2010” ([download the PDF](#)) – Qatar Petroleum, November 2011
<https://www.qp.com.qa/en/MediaCentre/Lists/QPPublications/Attachments/7/Development%20of%20the%20Energy%20Sector%20in%20the%20State%20of%20Qatar%201995-2010.pdf>
 - Read “**Qatar Leaving a Legacy for Future Generations**” ([download PDF](#)) – General Secretariat for Development Planning, November 2012
https://www.mdps.gov.qa/en/knowledge/Doc/Reports/Qatar_Leaving_a_Legacy_for_Future_Generations_2012_EN.pdf
 - Read “**Texas A&M at Qatar Partners with QCRI and QNRF to Offer Programming Workshop for School Students**” – Wael Khedr, Qatar National Research Fund, June 26, 2018
<http://www.qnrf.org/en-us/Newsroom/In-the-Media/ArtMID/649/ArticleID/1137/Texas-AM-at-Qatar-partners-with-QCRI-and-QNRF-to-offer-programming-workshop-for-school-students>
 - Read QAI’s “**2022 Soccer World Cup Fact Sheet**” – Qatar-America Institute, April 2018
<https://qataramerica.org/projects/2022-world-cup-key-facts/>
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How to Deal with North Korea

After failing in the Korean War (1950-53) to conquer the U.S.-backed Republic of Korea (ROK) in the southern portion by force, North Korea (DPRK), under its founder President Kim Il-sung, adopted a policy of ostensible diplomatic and economic "self-reliance" as a check against outside influence. The DPRK demonized the US as the ultimate threat to its social system through state-funded propaganda, and molded political, economic, and military policies around the core ideological objective of eventual unification of Korea under Pyongyang's control. In 2011, the passing of Kim's son paved the way for his grandson, Kim Jong-un, to continue the dynasty's communist totalitarian rule. Recent high-stakes diplomacy over the North's nuclear weapons program has captured headlines worldwide. This topic will cover the country's history, including its relations with the U.S., its trade policies, foreign policy, and human rights record. _

- **History of North Korea**

- Read all 7 sections of "**North Korea**" and watch "**From King Gojong to Kim Jong-un**" video (5:35) – Editors, History.com, September 28, 2017 (updated August 21, 2018)
<https://www.history.com/topics/korea/north-korea-history>

- **How North Korea Is Ruled**

- Read all 6 sections of "**North Korea's Power Structure**" – Eleanor Albert, CFR *Backgrounder*, July 19, 2018
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-koreas-power-structure>
- Watch "**Who Actually Runs North Korea?**" video (6:52) – The Infographics Show on YouTube, February 8, 2018
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UX0Sb1e2fc4>
- Take the **CFR Quiz** on North Korea
<https://www.cfr.org/quiz/see-how-much-you-know-about-north-korea>

- **U.S.-North Korea Relations**

- Read "**North Korean Nuclear Negotiations, 1985-2018**" – Eleanor Albert, CFR *Timeline*, October 3, 2018
<https://www.cfr.org/timeline/north-korean-nuclear-negotiations>
- Read executive summary of "**A Precarious Accord: Navigating the Post-Summit Landscape**" – Patrick Cronin and Benjamin K. Silberstein, Center for a New American Security, June 20, 2018
<https://www.cnas.org/publications/reports/a-precarious-accord-navigating-the-post-summit-landscape>
- Read "**Trump Should Learn to Live with a Nuclear North Korea**" – Richard Sokolsky and Aaron David Miller, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, July 11, 2018
<http://carnegieendowment.org/2018/07/11/trump-should-learn-to-live-with-nuclear-north-korea-pub-76801>
- Read "**Trump Did Not Solve the North Korea Problem in Singapore**" – Ryan Haas, NBC Think, August 12, 2018
<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/trump-did-not-solve-north-korea-problem-singapore-fact-threat-ncna899766>
- Read "**The Real Reason Kim Jong-un Wants to Declare an End to the Korean War**" – Jung H. Pak, The Brookings Institution, September 17, 2018
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/09/17/the-real-reason-kim-jong-un-wants-to-declare-an-end-to-the-korean-war/>

- **Inter-Korean Relations**

- Read "**Why the Korean War Didn't End – and Why It Could Now**" – *Washington Post*, August 15, 2018
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2018/08/15/why-korean-war-didnt-end-why-it-could-now/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.4d0824d9b4ab
- Read "**Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018**" – National Committee on North Korea, September 19, 2018
<https://www.ncnk.org/node/1633>
- Read "**South Korea's Leader Makes Bold Effort to Enhance the Prospects for Peace**" – Scott A. Snyder, Council on Foreign Relations, September 19, 2018
<https://www.cfr.org/article/south-koreas-leader-makes-bold-effort-enhance-prospects-peace>

- **Attitudes of North Koreans; and Perspectives of Defectors**

- Read "**What Hostile Policy? North Korean Views of the United States**" – Victor Cha and Marie DuMond, CSIS Beyond Parallel, June 8, 2018
<https://beyondparallel.csis.org/hostile-policy-north-korean-views-united-states/>
 - Read "**In North Korea, Rise of Consumer Culture Is the Real Revolution**" – AP/Voice of America News, August 18, 2017
<https://www.voanews.com/a/north-korea-consumer-culture-real-revolution/3990832.html>
 - Watch "**What Happens to North Korean Defectors After They Escape**" video (5:55) – Business Insider on YouTube, Aug 5, 2018
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAvgXmM7Elg>
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Global Refugee and Migration Crisis

Migration is reshaping politics on an unprecedented scale the world over. The biggest refugee crisis since the end of World War II has seen asylum seekers pour into developing countries bordering conflict zones in a bid to cross deadly routes toward hoped-for safety in the developed world. Throughout history, those who flee their country due to political, economic, or religious concerns, bring with them a new sense of identity to their new country. These identities can sometimes clash with locals upon arrival and have caused political uproar, fueling the rise of populist authoritarianism. This has compelled governments, international organizations like the UN, and NGOs such as Refugees International to devise and advocate for better methods of handling large influxes of migrants, especially since the peak of the Syrian refugee crisis in 2015. This topic will examine the sources and nature of the crisis, its manifestations across several regions of the world, and the quest for humane solutions.

- **United Nations**

- Read “**Refugees**” webpage
<http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/refugees/>
- Read all chapters of UNHCR’s “**Global Trends: Forced Migration in 2017**” website only (full report is optional)
<http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2017/>
- Read “**Migration**” webpage
<http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/migration/index.html>
- Read “**United Nations Launches Youth2030 Strategy**” – Amira Nassim, International Organization for Migration (IOM), September 26, 2018
<https://medium.com/@UNmigration/un-focuses-on-youth-launch-of-youth-2030-the-united-nations-youth-strategy-1a81a6701cfd>
- Watch “**World Humanitarian Day: Abdullah’s Story**” video (3:08) – IOM-UN Migration on YouTube, August 15, 2018
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWoy-ElQVoE&feature=youtu.be>

- **Refugees International**

- Read “**Our Mission**” webpage and watch “**Refugees International: Speak Up, Save Lives**” video (2:00) at the bottom of the RI Our Mission webpage
<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/what/>
- Read “**What We Do**” webpage
<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/currentwork/>
- Read “**Climate Displacement Program**” webpage
<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/about-our-climate-program>
- Read “**5 Key Priorities to Address the Rohingya Crisis**” – Daniel Sullivan, Refugees International Issue Brief ([PDF](#)), August 22, 2018
<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2018/8/22/5-key-priorities-to-address-the-rohingya-crisis>

- **U.S. Immigration and Refugee Policies**

- Read all 6 sections of “**The U.S. Immigration Debate**” – Claire Felter and Danielle Renwick, CFR *Backgrounder*, July 2, 2018
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-immigration-debate-0>
- Read all 10 sections of “**How Does the U.S. Refugee System Work?**” – Claire Felter and James McBride, CFR *Backgrounder*, October 10, 2017
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/how-does-us-refugee-system-work>

- Take the **CFR Quiz** on Immigration in the U.S.
<https://www.cfr.org/quiz/see-how-much-you-know-about-immigration-united-states>
 - **Europe**
 - Read "**Is Europe Afraid of Migration?**" – Judy Dempsey, Carnegie Europe, September 13, 2018
<https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/77246>
 - **Syria**
 - Read "**Europe's Great Challenge: Integrating Syrian Refugees**" – Ernesto F. L. Amaral, Mahlet A. Woldetsadik, and Gabriela Armenta, Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, April 20, 2018
<https://www.georgetownjournalofinternationalaffairs.org/online-edition/2018/4/20/europes-great-challenge-integrating-syrian-refugees>
 - Watch "**Preventing a Syrian Lost Generation**" video (4:37) – RAND Corporation, June 7, 2017
<https://www.rand.org/multimedia/video/2017/06/07/preventing-a-syrian-lost-generation.html>
 - **The Middle East**
 - Read "**Refugees and Displacement in the Middle East**" – Marc Lynch and Laurie Brand, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 29, 2017
<http://carnegieendowment.org/2017/03/29/refugees-and-displacement-in-middle-east-pub-68479>
 - **Latin America**
 - Read "**They Are (Still) Refugees: People Continue to Flee Violence in Latin American Countries**" – Silva Mathema, Center for American Progress, June 1, 2018
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2018/06/01/451474/still-refugees-people-continue-flee-violence-latin-american-countries/>
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WeAreNATO – The Alliance at 70

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries. The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed April 4, 1949. From its inception, NATO's main purpose was to defend its members from aggression from the Soviet Union and communist bloc countries. Since the end of the Cold War, NATO's mission is to secure the peace and freedom of its members from threats posed by weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and cyberattacks. This topic will cover the Alliance's foundation and history; how member countries work, train, and cooperate to fulfill missions around the world; public attitudes in the U.S. and Europe toward NATO; and why and how NATO must adapt to meet future challenges.

- **U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian**
 - Read "**Milestones: 1945-1952: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization**"
<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/nato>
- **#WeAreNATO**
 - Watch all videos on the **#WeAreNATO** website
<https://www.nato.int/wearenato/>
- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Official Website**
 - Read "**A Short History of NATO**"
https://www.nato.int/cps/ie/natohq/declassified_139339.htm
 - Read each of the 5 topics presented in the "**What is NATO?**" website
<http://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html>
 - Read "**The Day After**" webpage
https://www.nato.int/cps/ie/natohq/declassified_137124.htm
 - Read "**Collective Defense – Article 5**" webpage
https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_110496.htm
- **Council on Foreign Relations: Quiz, Backgrounder, and Expert Testimony**
 - Take the **CFR Quiz** on NATO
<https://www.cfr.org/quiz/see-how-much-you-know-about-nato>
 - Read all 8 sections of "**The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**" – Jonathan Masters, *CFR Backgrounder*, July 5, 2018
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-atlantic-treaty-organization-nato>
 - Read "**Assessing the Value of the NATO Alliance**" – Testimony to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee ([download PDF](#)) by Richard N. Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations, September 5, 2018
<https://www.cfr.org/report/assessing-value-nato-alliance>
- **NATO Secretary General on the Future of NATO**
 - Read "**The Future of NATO**" keynote speech by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, February 16, 2018
https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_152166.htm
 - Read "**In Face of Trump Criticism, NATO Works to Build Conservative Support**" – Julian E. Barnes, *New York Times*, September 14, 2018
https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/14/us/politics/stoltenberg-heritage-foundation.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FNorth%20Atlantic%20Treaty%20Organization&action=click&contentCollection=timestopics®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=8&pgtype=collection

- **Public Opinion Poll**

- Read "**NATO Is Seen Favorably in Many Member Countries, But Almost Half of Americans Say It Does Too Little**" – Moira Fagan, Pew Research Center, July 9, 2018
<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/07/09/nato-is-seen-favorably-in-many-member-countries-but-almost-half-of-americans-say-it-does-too-little/>

- **NATO in the News**

- Read "**Trump-NATO Summit: U.S. President Antagonizes Allies with Call to Double Defense Spending**" – Kim Sengupta, *The Independent*, July 11, 2018
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/trump-nato-summit-us-germany-spending-nations-russia-merkel-a8443021.html>
 - Read "**Charting Russia's Role in Poland's Path to NATO**" – Deutsche Welle, September 17, 2018
<https://www.dw.com/en/charting-russias-role-in-polands-path-to-nato/a-45530894>
 - Read "**NATO Stuck in the Middle of a Messy, Multi-Billion-Dollar Weapon Sale Between Turkey, Russia and the U.S.**" – Amanda Macias, CNBC, September 18, 2018
<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/09/17/nato-stuck-in-middle-of-messy-multi-billion-dollar-weapon-sale-between-turkey-russia-and-us.html>
 - Read "**Macedonia Takes a Big Step to Becoming NATO's 30th Member**" – Aaron Mehta, *Defense News*, October 2, 2018
<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2018/10/01/macedonia-just-took-a-big-step-to-becoming-natos-30th-member/>
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Great Decisions

Great Decisions is an annual program that focuses on critical international issues issued by the Foreign Policy Association, a member of the World Affairs Councils of America. This year's Great Decisions categories are:

- ***The Waning of Pax Americana?***
- ***Russia's Foreign Policy***
- ***China and America: The New Geopolitical Equation***
- ***Media and Foreign Policy***
- ***Turkey: A Partner in Crisis***
- ***U.S. Global Engagement and the Military***
- ***South Africa's Fragile Democracy***
- ***Global Health***
- ***Progress and Challenges***

The Great Decisions 2018 Briefing Book is required study material for the National Competition. However, the Briefing Book will NOT be required reading for local competitions. *In order to prepare for local competitions, students should study the online resources outlined below. The Briefing Book will be made available through the World Affairs Councils of America to the member Councils. Please study the following online information for both the local and national competition:*

Foreign Policy Association http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_topics

(For 2018 topics, please choose "Past Topics" at the bottom of the page and select "2018")

- Under each topic's page, read the Glossary and all available updates
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Japan-U.S. Relations

Japan is one of the most successful democracies and the world's third-largest economy. The United States and Japan have maintained a very close economic, political, and military partnership since the end of World War II. The U.S.-Japan Alliance has been the cornerstone of American security interests in Asia and is fundamental to regional stability and prosperity. While the partnership is based on shared vital interests and values, it faces major strains and risks. The following resources, curated by topic sponsor Sasakawa USA, will look at how the administrations of Shinzo Abe, who is likely to be the longest-serving Japanese prime minister in the postwar era, and President Donald Trump, aim to chart the next phase of the relationship. Japan's domestic politics, economy, and culture are also key subject areas for study.

• The U.S.-Japan Alliance

- Read "**More Important than Ever: Renewing the U.S.-Japan Alliance for the 21st Century**" ([download PDF](#)) – Center for Strategic and International Studies, October 3, 2018
Required: [12-page CSIS report](#); **optional:** CSIS expert panel [video](#) (1:32:53) on report's launch
- "**Uncommon Alliance for the Common Good: The United States and Japan After the Cold War**" – ([download PDF](#)) – James L. Schoff, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, January 2017
Required reading: [Summary and Introduction \(pp. 1-13\)](#); the rest of the book is optional
- Read "**Public Opinion and the U.S.-Japan Alliance at the Outset of the Trump Administration**" – Craig Kafura, Chicago Council on Global Affairs – February 8, 2017
<https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/publication/public-opinion-and-us-japan-alliance-outset-trump-administration>
- Read "**Joint Statement of the United States and Japan**" – The White House, September 26, 2018
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/joint-statement-united-states-japan/>
- Read "**Joint Statement from President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe**" – The White House, February 10, 2017
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/joint-statement-president-donald-j-trump-prime-minister-shinzo-abe/>
- Read "**U.S. Relations with Japan**" – U.S. State Department Fact Sheet, July 17, 2018
<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/4142.htm>

• Security and Foreign Affairs

- Read "**Abe's Push to Change Japan's Defense Strategy**" – Brittney Washington and Kangkyu "David" Lee, *Japan Today*, April 30, 2018
<https://japantoday.com/category/politics/abe%E2%80%99s-push-to-change-japan%E2%80%99s-defense-strategy?key=lofls3u8u1zpuuwuqq4970andccvgilu>
- **Optional:** Explore [Asia Power Index 2018, Japan](#) website – Lowy Institute, 2018
<https://power.lowyinstitute.org/countries.php?profile=114>

• Economics and Trade

- Read "**Abenomics and the Japanese Economy**" – James McBride and Beina Xu, CFR *Backgrounder*, March 23, 2018
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/abenomics-and-japanese-economy>

- **Japan's Domestic Politics and Challenges**
 - Read the latest two posts on "**Japan Political Pulse**" – Tobias Harris, **October 5 and July 11, 2018**
<https://spfusa.org/category/japan-political-pulse/>
 - Read "**Why Japan Will Lose 20 Million People by 2050**" – Michael Richey, Sasakawa USA and Tofugu, February 7, 2017
<https://www.tofugu.com/japan/population-decline/>

 - **Japanese American Experience in the U.S**
 - Read "**Civil Rights: Japanese Americans**" and "**Fighting for Democracy**" from *The War* documentary directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, PBS, 2007
 - 1. http://www.pbs.org/thewar/at_home_civil_rights_japanese_american.htm
 - 2. http://www.pbs.org/thewar/at_war_democracy_japanese_american.htm
 - **Optional:** watch sidebar video interviews
 - Read "**A Historical Overview: Japanese American Internment in the 1940's and Muslim Registry in the 2010's under President-elect Trump**" – Kei M. Ashizawa, Ginger Koto Vaughn & Andy Vo, *Asian American Policy Review*, November 28, 2016
<http://aapr.hkspublications.org/2016/11/28/a-historical-overview-japanese-american-internment-and-muslim-registry/>

 - **Cool Culture**
 - Read "**Japanese Restaurants on the Rise Abroad**" – Nippon.com, February 4, 2016
<https://www.nippon.com/en/features/h00128/>
 - Read "**Japan's Ministry of Cool**" – Patrick St. Michel, *The Atlantic*, March 19, 2015
<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2015/03/japan-and-the-power-of-coolness/387664/>
 - Read "**Tokyo Wants to Surpass Pyeongchang as the Most High-Tech Olympics**" – Blanche Lim, CNBC, February 26, 2018
<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/02/26/tokyo-wants-to-surpass-pyeongchang-to-be-the-most-high-tech-olympics.html>
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Space Policy

The United States, as the world's leading power, has tapped its space capabilities to advance scientific endeavors, the information age economy, and national security. During the Cold War, the space race reflected a key element of national power and prestige in a battle with America's ideological rival. Decades of investment have inspired scientific discovery and yielded important military and intelligence advantages for the United States and allies. In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "We do these things not because they are easy, but because they are hard." This topic will cover the Trump administration's recently announced space strategy, the pursuit of space technologies and power by other major countries, whether this competition tilts to cooperation or conflict, and how billionaires are getting into the act.

• United States Government

- Read "**An America First National Space Strategy**" – The White House, March 23, 2018
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-unveiling-america-first-national-space-strategy/>
- Read "**What Does Trump Mean by 'Space Force'**" – Marina Koren, *The Atlantic*, March 13, 2018
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/03/trump-space-force-nasa/555560/>
- Read "**The Most Important Reactions to Trump's Space Force You Need to Read**" – Carly Cassella, ScienceAlert.com, June 27, 2018
<https://www.sciencealert.com/neil-degrasse-tyson-astronaut-mark-kelly-opinions-trump-space-force>
- Listen to the "**Space Force All the Way!**" podcast (37:58) – Katherine Charlet and Tommy Vietor, *Pod Save the World*, on August 15, 2018
<https://carnegieendowment.org/2018/08/15/space-force-all-way-pub-77047>
- Read "**Why We Need a Space Force**" ([download PDF](#)) – Todd Harrison, Center for Strategic and International Studies, October 3, 2018
<https://aerospace.csis.org/why-we-need-a-space-force/>

• Role of the Private Sector

- Read "**Billionaires May Be the Future of Space Policy. Here's What They Want.**" – Emily Tamkin, *Foreign Policy*, December 17, 2017
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/12/18/billionaires-may-be-the-future-of-space-policy-heres-what-they-want/>
- Read "**Trump Hails Astronauts That Will Fly on SpaceX and Boeing Spaceships. And Space Force, Too?**" – Tariq Malik, Space.com, August 3, 2018
<https://www.space.com/41379-trump-hails-nasa-commercial-crew-astronauts.html>

• Russia, Europe, and China

- Read "**Roscosmos: Russia's Space Agency**" – Elizabeth Howell, Space.com, January 29, 2018
<https://www.space.com/22724-roskosmos.html>
- Read "**A United Europe in Space?**" – Alexandra Stickings, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), July 19, 2018
<https://rusi.org/commentary/united-europe-space>
- Read "**The 'Celestial Empire' Looks to Space**" – Veerle Nouwens and Alexandra Stickings, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), February 24, 2017
<https://rusi.org/commentary/%E2%80%98celestial-empire%E2%80%99-looks-space>

- **War and Peace in Space**

- Read "**Safeguarding the Heavens: The United States and the Future of Norms of Behavior in Outer Space**" ([download PDF](#)) – Frank A. Rose, The Brookings Institution, June 2018
https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FP_20180614_safeguarding_the_heavens.pdf
 - Read "**The Bold Future of the Outer Space Treaty**" – Ann Deslandes, JSTOR Daily, August 1, 2018
<https://daily.jstor.org/the-bold-future-of-the-outer-space-treaty/>
 - Read "**Cooperation in Space Can Bridge Differences Between U.S. and Russia**" – Pavel Luzin, Kennan Institute at the Wilson Center, August 29, 2017
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/cooperation-space-can-still-bridge-differences-between-us-and-russia>
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World Trade Organization (WTO)

The World Trade Organization is an intergovernmental organization that regulates international trade. Created on January 1, 1995, under the Marrakesh Agreement signed by 124 nations the previous year, the WTO replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948. The WTO, based in Geneva, is the world's largest international economic organization. It deals with regulation of trade in goods, services and intellectual property between participating countries by providing a framework for negotiating trade agreements and resolving disputes among its members. Studies show that the WTO has boosted trade, supporting global economic growth, and that barriers to trade would be higher in the absence of the WTO. But the organization has come under much criticism as the U.S. and China appear to be precipitating a trade war. This topic explores these issues.

- **Introduction**

- Read "**WTO Members, Categories & Benefits**" – Kimberly Amadeo, *The Balance*, July 10, 2018
<https://www.thebalance.com/wto-membership-benefits-and-importance-3306364>

- **World Trade Organization, Official Website**

- Explore the "**Students and Young Professionals**" webpage. Be sure to check out these "Learn More" links: [The WTO... In brief](#); [Understanding the WTO](#); [10 things the WTO can do](#); and [What does your country trade?](#) (WTO Student and YP webpage)
https://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/students_e/students_e.htm
- Watch "**Trade at Work**" video (3:50) – WTO on YouTube, September 30, 2015
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0hAJG_8qVg
- Watch "**The Future of Trade – WTO Public Forum 2018**" video (2:32) – WTO on YouTube, October 2, 2018
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=8&v=aCLv6A1zwX0
- Watch "**Jack Ma and the Trade War's Impact**" video (1:29) – WTO on YouTube, October 2, 2018
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=84&v=6Hh8lQGtDyg

- **Office of the United States Trade Representative**

- Read "**Mission of the USTR**" – Office of the U.S. Trade Representative website
<https://ustr.gov/about-us/about-ustr>
- Read "**United States Trade Representative, Robert E. Lighthizer**" bio – USTR.gov
<https://ustr.gov/about-us/biographies-key-officials/united-states-trade-representative-robert-e-lighthizer>
- Read "**Office of WTO and Multilateral Affairs**" – USTR.gov
<https://ustr.gov/issue-areas/trade-organizations/world-trade-organization-wto>
- Read "**Trump Administration's Annual Trade Agenda Report to Congress**" (USTR.gov); also read the accompanying "**Fact Sheet**" ([download PDF](#))
<https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/february/trump-administration-sends-annual>
- Read only the **Introduction (pp. 85-86) to Chapter V – World Trade Organization** ([download PDF](#)) of the "2018 Trade Policy Agenda and 2017 Annual Report." This long chapter in this long report illustrates the complexity of U.S. trade policy and the international trading system.
<https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/reports-and-publications/2018/2018-trade-policy-agenda-and-2017>

- **World Economic Forum**
 - Read “**The WTO: What is It, and What Does It Do?**” – Stephen J. Silva, July 5, 2018
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/07/what-is-the-wto>
 - Read “**Trade Wars Won’t Fix Globalization. Here’s Why**” – Aditi Verghese and Sean Doherty, June 28, 2018
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/06/trade-wars-wont-fix-globalization-tariffs>
 - Read “**Three Things the G20 Can Do to Save the WTO**” – Shuaihua Cheng, September 11, 2018
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/09/g20-wto-2018-trade-china/>

 - **Council on Foreign Relations: Backgrounder and Blog Posts**
 - Read all 7 sections of “**What’s Next for the WTO?**” – James McBride, CFR *Backgrounder*, March 23, 2018
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/whats-next-wto>
 - Read “**Trump, China, and Steel Tariffs: The Day the WTO Died**” Blog Post – Edward Alden, CFR, March 9, 2018
<https://www.cfr.org/blog/trump-china-and-steel-tariffs-day-wto-died>
 - Read “**The Promising Future of the WTO: A Response from the Deputy Director-General**” Blog Post – Alan Wm. Wolff, CFR, March 12, 2018
<https://www.cfr.org/blog/promising-future-wto-response-deputy-director-general>

 - **WTO in the News**
 - Read “**Once the WTO’s Biggest Supporter, U.S. Is Its Biggest Skeptic**” – Ana Swanson, *New York Times*, December 10, 2018
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/10/business/wto-united-states-trade.html>
 - Read “**The World Trading System Is Under Attack**” – Briefing, *The Economist*, July 19, 2018
<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2018/07/19/the-world-trading-system-is-under-attack>
 - Read “**How to Rescue the WTO**” – Lead Editorial, *The Economist*, July 19, 2018
<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2018/07/19/how-to-rescue-the-wto>
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Bridging Divides to Build Peace

A core element of peacebuilding focuses on bridging divides in communities and countries that are either at risk of violent conflict or that need knitting back together in the aftermath of such conflict. While the news often focuses on political, religious, ethnic or economic differences, violence can also be fueled by less-obvious divides such as urban/rural, generational, technological, and other cultural/social factors. To find solutions across these divides, peacebuilders need to carefully analyze the causes of conflict, and find some common space to establish a foundation on which all parties can begin to build a shared understanding and find a way forward.

The resources included here, curated by the topic's sponsor, the United States Institute of Peace, provide a snapshot of the current concepts in peacebuilding; introduce some tools used to bridge divides in conflict zones; and highlight examples of people, organizations and communities that are making peace possible by bridging divides to prevent or resolve violent conflict. Learn more at www.usip.org.

- **United States Institute of Peace**

- Watch “**About the U.S. Institute of Peace**” video (4:00) – USIP on YouTube, June 21, 2017
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJzzENBjnU&feature=youtu.be>
- Read “**The Peace Trail on the National Mall**” ([download PDF](#)) – and walk it some day!
<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/Peace-Trail-on-the-National-Mall.pdf>

- **USIP In the Field**

- Read “**In South Sudan, an Artists’ Movement for Peace Catches Fire**” – Nicholas Zaremba, January 19, 2018
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/01/south-sudan-artists-movement-peace-catches-fire>
- Read “**Colombia War-Crime Prisoners Face Past, Plan Future**” – Aubrey Cox and Maria Antonia Montes, December 26, 2017
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2017/12/colombia-war-crime-prisoners-face-past-plan-future>
- Read “**Nigeria’s Imam and Pastor: Faith at the Front (Video)**” – USIP Staff, September 29, 2017
 - **Note:** Reference both the video and the article!
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2017/09/nigerias-imam-and-pastor-faith-front-video>
- Read “**Tunisian Student Unions Bridge Islamist, Secular Divide**” – Fred Strasser, September 6, 2017
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2017/09/tunisian-student-unions-bridge-islamist-secular-divide>

- **USIP Special Report**

- Read “**Leveraging U.S.-China Cooperation to Build a Regional Consensus on Afghanistan**” ([download the PDF](#)) – David Rank, February 2018
<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2018-03/sr420-leveraging-us-china-cooperation-to-build-a-regional-consensus-on-afghanistan.pdf>

- **Fragility Study Group Policy Brief**
 - Read “**Fostering a State-Society Compact**” ([download PDF](#)) – Stephen J. Hadley and Rachel Kleinfeld, November 2016
<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/Fragility-Report-Policy-Brief-Fostering-a-State-Society-Compact.pdf>
 - **USIP Analysis and Commentary: Middle East**
 - Read “**To Stabilize Iraq After ISIS, Help Iraqis Reconcile**” – USIP Staff; Nancy Lindborg; Sarhang Hamasaed, February 11, 2018
<https://www.usip.org/index.php/publications/2018/02/stabilize-iraq-after-isis-help-iraqis-reconcile>
 - Read “**Grassroots Work in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**” – Fred Strasser, March 23, 2017
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2017/03/grassroots-work-israeli-palestinian-conflict>
 - **USIP Analysis and Commentary: Bipartisan Congressional Dialogues**
 - Read “**Congress Can Be Bipartisan: The Case of Human Rights**” – USIP Staff, March 20, 2018
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/03/congress-can-be-bipartisan-case-human-rights>
 - Read “**How Saving Rhinos Can Cut Poverty—and Even Terrorists’ Funds**” – Fred Strasser, July 18, 2018
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/07/how-saving-rhinos-can-cut-poverty-and-even-terrorists-funds>
 - **Other Resources**
 - United Nations: [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 \(PDF\)](#); read “**Overview**” section, pp. 4-15
 - Institute for Economics and Peace, Global Peace Index 2018:
 - 1. [Global Peace Index 2018 Snapshot \(PDF\)](#)
 - 2. [Executive Summary and Key Findings \(PDF\)](#); read pp. 2-4
 - U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace and Security: [Building Gender Equality in Ukraine \(PDF\)](#), June 2017
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