

Interested in world affairs but feel like you don't know enough to discuss them intelligently?

Join us for impartial, thought-provoking analyses on eight issues of concern to U.S. policymakers

## GREAT DECISIONS 2009

Foreign Policy Association

Discussion group co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Montezuma County  
and Mancos Public Library

Organizational meeting: Monday, January 25, 10:30a – noon.

Curriculum Material will be discussed and future meetings will be scheduled.

A Foreign Policy Association DVD of one of the topics will be shown for evaluation.

TOPICS	Tentative Scheduled (Mondays 10:30 a.m. to noon
U.S. and rising powers	January 23
Afghanistan/Pakistan	February 22 or TBD
Energy & the global economy	March 22 or TBD
The Arctic	April 26 or TBD
Egypt in the 21st Century	May 24 or TBD
Global food supply	June 28 or TBD
Cuba after Castro	July 26 or TBD
Universal human rights	August 23 or TBD

Mancos Public Library, 1900 East Third Avenue, Program Meeting Room

Each participant will purchase a Great Decision 2009 briefing book for \$10  
For planning purposes, please email your desire to participate by January 18 to:  
Kate Kern, Mancos Public Library, Mancos, CO 81328

Questions: Kate Kern [katek@mancos.lib.co.us](mailto:katek@mancos.lib.co.us) 533-7600 or Jodi Foran [president.lwvmzc.com](http://president.lwvmzc.com) 882-2401  
More information about Great Decisions and the Foreign Policy Association at [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)  
or click on our web site [www.lwvmontezuma.org](http://www.lwvmontezuma.org)

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I plan to attend: the first organizational meeting.

\_\_\_ I can not attend the first organizational meeting, but am interested in attending other sessions.

## Great Decisions 2009 Topics

### **U.S. and rising powers**

Since the end of the cold war, the U.S. has emerged as the world's predominant power. However, in the 21st century some rapidly developing countries have become increasingly influential. Who are these "rising powers?" Will their emergence change the global balance of power? How will the U.S. react?

### **Afghanistan/Pakistan**

Newfound hopes for stability in Iraq have shifted the U.S. military focus back to Afghanistan and Pakistan, one of the most volatile border regions in the world. What impact will this renewed interest have on the two states as well as on U.S. defense strategy?

### **Energy & the global economy**

Rising energy prices, driven by instability in key producing regions such as the Middle East and increasing demand from developing countries, are affecting the global economy. What are the potential consequences of huge wealth transfers to oil-exporting states? Are there any realistic alternative energy scenarios on the horizon?

### **The Arctic**

Rising global temperatures have created new opportunities in the Arctic for resource extraction and inter-continental transport. How will sovereignty disputes among the five countries that border the Arctic affect its potential development? What impact will this race for the Arctic have on an environment already in serious flux?

### **Egypt in the 21st Century**

Egypt has long played an important role in the Arab world while maintaining a strategic relationship with the U.S. With elections scheduled for 2009, how will Egypt deal with serious domestic issues, ranging from Islamic radicalism to food shortages? What factors will influence the path of this regional heavyweight?

### **Global food supply**

Global prices for food staples have risen dramatically, resulting in protests and unrest around the world. What factors are driving prices up, and can they be tamed? What will the political fallout be for governments that fail to act, and what role can global institutions play?

### **Cuba after Castro**

Since Fidel Castro handed over the presidency of Cuba to his brother, Raúl in early 2008, signs of greater economic openness have led to much speculation. Will Raúl seek to reopen ties with the U.S.? What role will Cuba's American exiles play in shaping a post-Castro Cuba?

### **Universal human rights**

As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrates its 60th anniversary, events in the Balkans, Sudan and Myanmar continue to challenge its idealism, while raising new questions about the prospects for humanitarian interventions. Do human rights transcend national borders and customs? Is the definition of human rights changing?