

March 18, 2020

## China's Road into Latin America

DVD and Roundtable Discussion Event



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"?

March 25, 2020

## India and Pakistan

Scholar: **Doug Savage, PhD**

Director of the Institute for World Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee



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?

## Collaborative programming for Franklin



The 2020 Great Decisions Discussion Series is made possible through the generosity of the Franklin Public Library Foundation with financial support by The Ideas Network, WaterStone Bank, Tom and Carole Donovan and in memory of our library friend, Dora Sargent.

This collaborative program furthers the library's mission to provide quality services, resources, and lifelong learning opportunities to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs and interest of the community.



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# 2020 GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION SERIES



Explore the most critical issues facing the world today at Franklin Public Library

Wednesdays  
February 5 to March 25

6:30 to 8 pm

Fadrow Room

Attend any or all of these free sessions. Registration is not necessary.



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February 5, 2020

## Climate Change and the Global Order

*Scholar:* **Dr. Pablo Toral**  
Professor of Environmental Studies  
and International Relations  
Beloit College

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?



February 19, 2020

## U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle

**DVD and Roundtable Discussion Event**

The Northern Triangle of Central America, made of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, is a special target of the Trump 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?



March 4, 2020

## Artificial Intelligence and Data

*Scholar:* **Dr. Iqbal Ahamed**  
Professor and Chair  
Computer Science  
Marquette University  
Co-Founder of Ubitrix

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?



February 12, 2020

## Red Sea Security

**DVD and Roundtable Discussion Event**

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?



February 26, 2020

## Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

*Scholar:* **Beth Dougherty, PhD**  
Manger Professor of  
International Relations  
Beloit College

Almost every nation has enacted laws criminalizing human trafficking, and international organizations, governments, and NGOs sponsors 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?



March 11, 2020

## The Philippines and the U.S.

*Scholar:* **John Katzka, PhD**  
Retired Senior Foreign  
Service Officer

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?

