**GREAT DECISIONS 2024 TOPICS**

1. **(January 30, 2024) Mideast Realignment**

**By Marc Lynch, OLLI moderator Patricia Sohler**

**The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads.**

**In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the**

**U.S. still has significant national interests there and**

**the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can**

**the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle**

**East and globally with a lower level of military and political**

**involvement, or should it recommit to a leading**

**role in the region?**

1. **(Feb. 06, 2024) Climate technology and competition**

**By Bud Ward, OLLI moderator Art Quinn**

**Will the United States and China, with other powerful**

**countries following suit, approach current and future**

**climate initiatives with an increased commitment to**

**trade protectionism and nationalism, by various measures**

**including trade restrictions? Or could a growing**

**spirit of international accord develop to confront the**

**“common enemy” of climate change?**

1. **(February 13, 2024) Science across borders**

**By Mila Rosenthal, OLLI moderator Larry Wolfe**

**Scientific advances benefit from collaboration between**

**researchers, but what happens when material, such as**

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) is controversial and important**

**to a nation’s national security? Is there a middle**

**ground between sharing information and denying**

**access? How can we regulate cooperation?**

1. **(February 20, 2024) U.S. -China trade rivalry**

**By Jonathan Chanis; Need OLLI Moderator**

**China’s economic rise and its current policies of increasing**

**the role of the state in the economy have led**

**some U.S. policymakers to seek to deny China access**

**to U.S. technology and investment. This is seen as a**

**necessary corrective to decades of predatory Chinese**

**economic policies. Is this a wise strategy, and how**

**effective can it be?**

1. **(February 27, 2024) NATO’s future**

**By Sarwar Kashmeri; OLLI Moderator David Kikel**

**Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February**

**2022, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

**has come under increased scrutiny, not because**

**NATO troops are involved in the conflict, but because**

**of its role in relations between Russia and its neighbors.**

**Will expanding membership in NATO protect**

**countries, or will it further provoke Russia?**

1. **(March 05, 2024) Understanding Indonesia**

**By Charles Sullivan; Need OLLI Moderator**

**Despite its large size, Indonesia remains virtually**

**invisible to most Americans. But as one of the world’s**

**largest democracies, the world’s largest Muslim-majority**

**nation, and as an economic driver of ASEAN,**

**why does it fly below the radar? What are current**

**issues in U.S.-Indonesian relations, and what role can**

**the country play in Asia?**

1. **(March 12, 2024) High Seas Treaty**

**By FPA editors, OLLI Moderator Patrick O’Leary**

**Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise**

**the high seas, which are facing a degradation of**

**ecosystems due to climate change and the increase**

**in human activities, such as shipping, overfishing,**

**pollution, and deep-sea mining. The recently negotiated**

**High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity**

**Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, will attempt to**

**address these issues. How difficult will it be to convince**

**nations to participate?**

1. **(March 19, 2024) Pandemic preparedness**

**By Carolyn Reynolds, OLLI moderator Gerry Mowris**

**Looking back at the covid-19 pandemic, there are many**

**lessons to take away in terms of domestic and international**

**policies. Although this pandemic seems to have**

**waned, how can we apply these lessons to future pandemics?**

**Will countries cooperate, and will a consensus**

**emerge on how to manage global health challenges?**