Great Decisions is America’s largest discussion program on world affairs. Developed by the Foreign Policy Association, the program intends to engage communities and broaden public involvement in foreign affairs. The Foreign Policy Association provides background information and policy options for the eight most critical issues facing America each year. Participants will view a related dvd and then participate in a discussion, led by Barbara Krebs of the League of Women Voters.

A briefing book is available at the library for check out or purchase for $20. The group meets on Thursday evenings February 6 through March 26, from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Montrose Library Meeting Room.

February 6 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Climate Change and the Global Order**

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 13 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**India and Pakistan**

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?

February 20 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Red Sea Security**

The Red Sea has remained vital for global trade since the time of ancient Egypt. 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 27  6:30 – 8:30 pm
*Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking*

Almost every nation has enacted laws criminalizing human trafficking, and international organizations, governments, and NGOs sponsor 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 5  6:30 – 8:30 pm
*U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle*

Combatting illegal immigration has become a priority of the Trump administration. The Northern Triangle of Central America, made up of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, is a special target of the 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 12  6:30 – 8:30 pm
*China’s Road into Latin America*

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 19  6:30 – 8:30 pm
*The Philippines and the U.S.*

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?

March 26  6:30 – 8:30 pm
*Artificial Intelligence and Data*

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?