

GREAT DECISIONS TOPIC SUMMARIES

January 29 & 31 *The Waning of Pax Americana?*

By Carla Norrlof

During the first months of Donald Trump's presidency, the U.S. began a historic shift away from Pax Americana, the liberal international order that was established in the wake of World War II. Since 1945, Pax Americana has promised peaceful international relations and an open economy, buttressed by U.S. military power. In championing "America First" isolationism and protectionism, President Trump has shifted the political mood toward selective U.S. engagement, where foreign commitments are limited to areas of vital U.S. interest and economic nationalism is the order of the day. Geopolitical allies and challengers alike are paying close attention.

February 5 & 7 *Russia's Foreign Policy*

By Allen C. Lynch

Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia is projecting an autocratic model of governance abroad and working to undermine the influence of liberal democracies, namely along Russia's historical borderlands. Russia caused an international uproar in 2016, when it interfered in the U.S. presidential contest. But Putin's foreign policy toolkit includes other instruments, from alliances with autocrats to proxy wars with the U.S. in Georgia, Ukraine and Syria. How does Putin conceive of national interests, and why do Russian citizens support him? How should the United States respond to Putin's foreign policy ambitions?

February 12 & 14 *China And America: The New Geopolitical Equation*

By David M. Lampton

In the last 15 years, China has implemented a wide-ranging strategy of economic outreach and expansion of all its national capacities, including military and diplomatic capacities. Where the United States has taken a step back from multilateral trade agreements and discarded the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), China has made inroads through efforts like the Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). What are Beijing's geopolitical objectives? What leadership and political conditions in each society underlie growing Sino-American tensions? What policies might Washington adopt to address this circumstance?

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WINNETKA-NORTHFIELD-KENILWORTH CALENDAR 2018

FEBRUARY

5	Board Meeting, 9:30 am Winnetka Park District, Community room
5	Great Decisions 12:30-2:45 pm Northfield Public Library
7	Great Decisions 7-8:45 pm Northfield Public Library
12	Great Decisions 12:30-2:30 pm Northfield Public Library
14	Great Decisions 7-8:45 pm Northfield Public Library
19	Great Decisions 12:30-2:30 pm Northfield Public Library
20	Last day to register to vote by paper application
21	First day grace period registration and voting
21	Great Decisions 7-8:45 pm Northfield Public Library
26	Great Decisions 12:30-2:30 pm Northfield Public Library
28	Great Decisions 7-8:45 pm Northfield Public Library
TBD	Local issues committee meet to discuss program (if not completed in January)
TBD	By-Law Committee meeting
TBD	Budget Meeting

MARCH

4	Last day to register to vote by online application
5	First day early voting
5	Board Meeting 7:00 pm location TBD
5	Great Decisions 12:30-2:30 pm Northfield Public Library
7	Great Decisions 7-8:45 pm Northfield Public Library
12	Great Decisions 12:30-2:30 pm Northfield Public Library
14	Great Decisions 7-8:45 pm Northfield Public Library
15	Last day to request a mail ballot, including military and overseas voters
19	Last day early voting
19	Last day of grace period registration and voting
19	Great Decisions 12:30-2:30 pm Northfield Public Library
21	Great Decisions 7-8:45 pm Northfield Public Library
20	Last day mail ballots can be posted
20	Illinois Primary Elections
21	Conversations, 11:45, Happ Inn, Northfield, Opioids , Speaker: Kate Mahoney
TBD	Budget, bylaws and nominating committee if necessary

APRIL

2	Board Meeting 9:30 am Winnetka Park District
18	Conversations, 11:45, Happ Inn, The Future Path of New Trier High School , Speaker: Paul Sally, Superintendent

MAY

7	Annual Meeting LWVWNK, location TBD
TBD	Annual Meeting LWVCC

JUNE

5	New/Old Board meeting and luncheon
28-July 2	LWVUS Convention, Chicago, Illinois

* All Board meeting except when noted are held at the Winnetka Park District, Community room, 540 Hibbard Road, entrance on the north side of building.

** All Voter Service are bold