



# ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST™ 2021 - 2022

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STUDY GUIDE

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# ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST™



## 2021-2022 STUDY GUIDE

All questions for this year's Academic WorldQuest program will be drawn from the sources in this Study Guide (with the exception of the Great Decisions and Current Events categories). The overall aim of this Study Guide is to help you learn about important international topics of the day and to help prepare you for your future careers. More specifically, to prepare for the AWQ competitions, when reading the material, use your critical thinking skills to synthesize and understand the material. WACA often creates questions that are not straight memorization types and will ask questions instead that require broader synthesis of the required readings. The AWQ Study Guide is best viewed in a current version of Adobe Reader. If you are having trouble clicking any of the below links, cut and paste them into your browser instead of clicking them, or try a different browser.

# WHERE CLIMATE & MIGRATION MEET



Climate change presents an existential threat to human life and a unique challenge to our present global order. The UN Secretary General António Guterres said, “It’s an issue that spans beyond the boundaries of states and requires immediate action,” and leaders must, “walk the talk.” Though climate change will continue to impact fields such as ecology or economics, it will also have long-lasting impacts on migration and mass displacements. With roughly 40% of the world’s population and numerous urban centers residing along the coast, climate change has the potential to cause the mass exodus of migrants and refugees. This is already the reality in many parts of the world, especially in developing countries and regions which lack the proper infrastructure to support large quantities of climate refugees. As the climate crisis worsens, so too will the number of those displaced from their homes by climate disasters. This topic will explore the impacts of climate change upon the movements of people around the world. We will consider the intersection of climate and migration by geographic regions to better understand the unique impacts climate change has on different geographies.

## SOURCES

### The Climate-Migration Nexus Overview

1. [“Climate Refugees – The World’s Forgotten Victims”](#) Tetsuji Ida -- World Economic Forum, June 18, 2021
2. [“What We Know About Climate Change and Migration”](#) Sanjula Weerasinghe -- Center for Migration Studies, February 2021
3. [“The Climate Crisis, Migration, and Refugees”](#) John Podesta -- Brookings Institution, July 25, 2019
4. Los Angeles World Affairs Council & Town Hall hosts Reed Schuler, Senior Advisor to Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, for [“Assessing Biden’s Climate Policy: With the Presidential Envoy for Climate Senior Advisor”](#) (Watch 2:04-10:05)
5. [“Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Migration”](#) White House, October 21, 2021 (Read 4-6 and 10-11)

# SOURCES CONT.

## Region Specific Analysis

1. "[Climate-Induced Displacement: South Asia's Clear and Present Danger](#)" Michael Kugelman -- Wilson Center, September 30, 2020
2. "[Climate-Induced Migration Could Intensify Asia's Urbanization Woes](#)" Nithin Coca -- Devex, March 9, 2021
3. "[Climate Change Will Claim 160,000 Lives a Year In India By 2050](#)" D'Monte - - The Third Pole, August 8, 2016
4. "[Climate Migration Hotspots in Mexico and Central America](#)" Adriana Abdenur -- Igarapé Institute, January 24, 2019
5. "[How the Climate Crisis is Affecting Central America](#)" The Climate Reality Project, March 30, 2021
6. "[African Cities Must Prepare for Climate Migration](#)" Aimée-Noël Mbiyozo -- Institute for Security Studies Africa, January 15, 2021
7. "[Africa's Climate Crisis, Conflict, and Migration Challenges](#)" Ahmadou Aly Mbaye -- Brookings Institution, September 20, 2019
8. "[How Climate Change Is Driving Mass Migration](#)" DW News, April 30, 2019 (Watch 5:10-9:25)

# HUMAN-CENTERED AGENDA TO THE FUTURE OF WORK



The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It was created by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 following the devastation of WWI. The beginning of the 20th century was a time of tremendous change due to the Industrial Revolution, social change, and competing economic models. The ILO was created with the idea that promoting social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace. To this day, the ILO continues its work to promote better conditions of work for women and men worldwide by bringing together governments, employers, and workers (known in the ILO as “tripartite” stakeholders) to set labor standards, develop policies, and devise and implement programs that promote decent work globally. We continue to see the importance of working together to promote decent work in some of the major challenges of the 21st century – from people being exploited in forced labor to help produce the food we eat and the clothes we wear; to the importance of ensuring workers’ and employers’ health and safety in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic; to the challenges and opportunities that COVID-19 has presented for building back better with a human centered approach at the core. Overall, this topic explores the history of the ILO; international labor standards and their benefits; major findings in the world of work; and the implications of artificial intelligence and other technologies replacing human work in the future.

## SOURCES

### Overview and History

1. "[Laying the Foundations of Social Justice](#)" International Labour Organization. Read Chapters 1 and 9. No questions will be based on videos.

# SOURCES

## Rights at Work

1. "[Inequalities and the World of Work](#)" International Labour Organization, 2021 (Read pages 9-19)

## Human-Centered Approach to Building Back from COVID-19

1. "[Work in the Time of COVID](#)" International Labour Organization, May 20, 2021 (Read pages 29-34)

## ILO Working Together With Social Partners

1. "[The Workers First Agenda: 5 Priorities for 2021](#)" American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), 2021
2. "[Worker Rights Provisions in U.S. Trade Policy](#)" Congressional Research Service, July 16, 2021 (Read pages 1-15)
3. "[COVID-19, Inequalities, and Building Back Better](#)" United Nations HCLP Inequalities Task Team
4. "[2020 List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#)" U.S. Department of Labor, September 2020 (Read pages 1-15)
5. "[The Work of the Future: Building Better Jobs in an Age of Intelligent Machines](#)" David Autor, David Mindell, and Elisabeth Reynolds -- Massachusetts Institute of Technology Task Force on the Work of the Future, 2020 (Read pages 1-52 and 74-80)

## Findings of World of Work Reports

1. "[World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021](#)" International Labour Organization, June 2, 2021
2. "[The Role of Digital Labour Platforms in Transforming the World of Work](#)" International Labour Organization, February 2021 (No questions will be based on videos. Read text and links in each section).
3. "[ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers](#)" International Labour Organization
4. "[Ensuring Fair Recruitment: What the ILO Has Achieved](#)" International Labour Organization, April 2021 (No questions will be based on videos. Read text and links for Pillars 1 through 4).

# TECHNOLOGY & DEMOCRACY: THREAT OR PROMISE?



Technology and the internet have made warp speed advances and are ingrained in everyday life. Despite the widespread benefits of modern technology there is the demonstrated capacity to undermine democracies and bolster authoritarian surveillance states. We have witnessed how social media can support grassroots movements fighting against injustice, yet also transmit propaganda to large audiences with devastating effects. Cyberattacks pose another threat to democracies and social order. For the topic, we will investigate the double-edged sword of technology and the internet, encompassing social media, data privacy, cyber, and technology.

## SOURCES

### Social Media and Democracy

1. "[Digital Technology's Evolving Role in Politics, Protest and Repression](#)" Steven Feldstein -- United States Institute of Peace, July 21, 2021
2. "[Technology and Democracy](#)" Francis Fukuyama -- American Purpose, April 29, 2021 (Watch 12:09-26:13)
3. "[The Social Media Myth About the Arab Spring](#)" Haythem Guesmi -- Al Jazeera, January 27, 2021
4. "[Whistleblower Confirms What We Knew: Facebook Blowing It on Political Disinformation](#)" Jesse Littlewood -- USA Today, October 8, 2021
5. "[Issues on the Frontlines of Technology and Politics](#)" Steven Feldstein -- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, October 19, 2021
6. "[Social Media and Online Speech: How Should Countries Regulate Tech Giants?](#)" Anshu Siripurapu and William Mellow -- Council on Foreign Relations, February 9, 2021



# SOURCES CONT.

## Data Privacy

1. "[User Privacy or Cyber Sovereignty?](#)" Adrian Shahbaz, Allie Funk, and Andrea Hackl -- Freedom House, 2020 (Read Section 4, Human Rights Implications, and Section 5, Global Landscape)
2. "[2020 Is a Crucial Year to Fight For Data Protection in Africa](#)" Privacy International, March 3, 2020 (Read "Beginning" to the end of the "More and more laws..." section)

## Cyber

1. "[How Democracies Can Win an Information Contest Without Undercutting Their Values](#)" Jessica Brandt -- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, August 2, 2021
2. "[NATO Members Agree to New Cyber Defense Policy](#)" Maggie Miller -- The Hill, June 14, 2021
3. "[Pegasus: The Spyware Technology That Threatens Democracy](#)" The Guardian, July 19, 2021
4. "[Promote and Build: A Strategic Approach to Digital Authoritarianism](#)" Erol Yayboke -- Center for Strategic and International Studies, October 15, 2020
  - a. Download the Brief (11 pages)
  - b. The Rise of Digital Authoritarianism -- Video
5. "[Countering Russia and Chinese Cyber-Aggression: Prospects for Transatlantic Cooperation](#)" Franklin Holcomb -- Center for European Policy Analysis, December 4, 2020 (Read Section 1, The Cyber Bear and Dragon)

# GREAT DECISIONS



Great Decisions is an annual program that focuses on critical international issues provided by the Foreign Policy Association, a member of the World Affairs Councils of America. This year's Great Decisions topics are:

- ♦ Global Supply Chains
- ♦ Persian Gulf Security
- ♦ Brexit and the EU
- ♦ The Arctic
- ♦ China in Africa
- ♦ The Two Koreas
- ♦ Role of the WHO
- ♦ End of Globalization

The [Great Decisions 2021 Briefing Book](#) is required study material for the Competition. The WorldQuest committee is currently deciding which topics will be covered for this year's local competition. Great Decisions Briefing Books will be provided to each team in the coming weeks along with more information about which topics to study for the local competition.

# 21ST CENTURY MONEY: DOLLARS TO DIGITAL CURRENCIES



Though cryptocurrency is a relatively new phenomenon, its increasing acceptance and impact for both the private sector and central banks alike. Decentralized yet relatively secure from tampering, mining for these cryptocurrencies has soared in popularity. Though currencies like Bitcoin are volatile, new tests are being conducted with e-currency across the world. Participants entering this new market include major corporations like Facebook as well as countries like China, El Salvador, and Sweden. This topic explores what cryptocurrency really is, how it's being used around the world, and the legal and political implications of its growing popularity.

## SOURCES

### Cryptocurrencies

1. "[Report of the Attorney General's Cyber Digital Task Force](#)" Sujit Raman, et al. -- Department of Justice, October 2020 (Read pages 1-20 [PDF pages 13 - 32])
2. "[No, Digital Currency Is Not the Same As Cryptocurrency](#)" NDTV Business Desk, August 9, 2021
3. "[The Growing Influence of Cryptocurrency](#)" Yaya Fanusie -- International Relations Council (Kansas City), August 4, 2021 (Watch 15:26-27:38)
4. "[The Political Geography and Environmental Impacts of Cryptocurrency Mining](#)" Heidi Samford and Lovely-Frances Domingo -- Henry M. Jackson School of International Affairs (University of Washington), July 10, 2019
5. "[Digital Currencies Are Transforming the Future of Money](#)" Eswar Prasad and David Dollar -- Brookings Institution, June 21, 2021 (Watch 7:00-9:38)
6. "[Banning Bitcoin is a Bad Idea](#)" JP Schnapper-Casteras -- The Atlantic Council, May 27, 2021

# SOURCES CONT.

## Blockchain

1. "[What Is Blockchain Security?](#)" IBM (Read from beginning to "How Fraudsters Attack Blockchain Technology")
2. "[Can Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain Help Fight Corruption?](#)" Enrique Aldaz-Carroll and Eduardo Aldaz-Carroll -- The World Bank, February 20, 2018

## CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currencies)

1. "[Central Bank Digital Currency \(CBDC\): In-Depth Guide](#)" Alamira Jouman Hajjar -- AI Multiple, September 20, 2021
2. "[Central Bank Digital Currency Tracker](#)" Atlantic Council
3. "[El Salvador Is Betting on Bitcoin to Rebrand the Country -- And Strengthen the President's Grip](#)" Ciara Nugent -- Time, October 1, 2021
4. "[Is Cuba Looking To Adopt Bitcoin?](#)" Luke Conway -- The Street, August 27, 2021
5. "[Report on A Digital Euro](#)" European Central Bank, October 2020 (Read Section 3, pages 16-23)
6. "[What Will Be the Impact of China's State-Sponsored Digital Currency?](#)" Robert Greene -- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, July 1, 2021

# WORKING FOR PEACE THROUGH LEGACIES OF WAR: THE CASE OF VIETNAM



It took two decades for the United States and Vietnam to normalize their relationship following the end of the Vietnam War in the 1970s. Through years of work to rebuild trust and foster dialogue, the two countries are now close partners. But building peace is a continuous process. This category will explore historical and current efforts to overcome the legacies of war and promote reconciliation, using Vietnam as a case study to explore broader themes.

This category is sponsored by the *United States Institute of Peace*, a national, nonpartisan, independent institute founded by Congress and dedicated to the proposition that a world without violent conflict is possible, practical, and essential for U.S. and global security. In 2021, USIP launched the Vietnam War Legacies and Reconciliation Initiative.

## SOURCES

1. [“Healing the Wounds of War with the Vietnam Wartime Accounting Initiative”](#) USIP, August 5, 2021 (Text only)
2. [“A Primer on Multi-track Diplomacy: How Does it Work?”](#) Jennifer Staats, Johnny Walsh, and Rosarie Tucci – USIP, July 31, 2019
3. [“Reconciliation: Rebuilding Trust After the Tragedy of Violent Conflict”](#) Allison Sturma -- USIP from the 2019 National History Day theme book, 2019
4. [“FACT SHEET: Strengthening the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership\\_”](#) White House, August 25, 2021
5. [“To Walk the Earth in Safety”](#) U.S. Department of State, January-December 2020  
Read pages 2-5, 26-27 only

# SOURCES CONT.

6. "[Vietnam](#)" United States Trade Representative
7. "[History](#)" Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the United States of America
8. "[Foreign Policy](#)" Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the United States of America
9. "[U.S.-Vietnam Relations](#)" Congressional Research Service (via FAS), February 16, 2021
10. "[The Evolution of U.S.-Vietnam Ties](#)" Eleanor Albert -- Council on Foreign Relations, March 20, 2019
11. "[The Unlikely, Indispensable U.S.-Vietnam Partnership](#)" Gregory Poling, Simon Tran Hudes, and Andreyka Natalegawa -- CSIS, July 2021
12. "[Global Peace Index 2021 Briefing](#)" Institute for Economics and Peace
13. "[Global Peace Index 2021](#)" Institute for Economics and Peace Executive Summary, Key Findings, and Results, pages 2-12
  - a. Asia-Pacific Regional Overview, page 15
  - b. Improvements and Deteriorations, pages 23-26
14. "[Vietnam Must Be Pleased with the Biden Administration—for the Most Part](#)" Derek Grossman – RAND, March 16, 2021
15. "[U.S. Relationship With Vietnam Blossoms as Former Foe Opens Up Economically](#)". Anthony Kim and Gavin Zhao -- The Heritage Foundation, June 11, 2021
16. "[U.S.-Vietnam Post-War Reconciliation: A Work in Process](#)" Ivan Small -- The University of Melbourne, June 4, 2021
17. "Vietnam after the War" —Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada  
[HTTPS://ASIAPACIFICCURRICULUM.CA/LEARNING-MODULE/VIETNAM-AFTER-WAR](https://asiapacificcurriculum.ca/learning-module/vietnam-after-war) -

# INSECURITY IN CHINA'S NEIGHBORHOOD



The People's Republic of China stands in the center of Asia. It has an enormous land border: 14,000 miles touching 14 countries, with three of which it fought undeclared border wars. It has over 9,000 miles of coastline along waters connecting to a host of rivals, who jointly contest land and sea claims and increasingly worry about Beijing's economic, military, and political goals. It claims sovereignty over a prosperous, populous nation, Taiwan, which enjoys supposed superpower protection. Amid this geopolitical reality is the necessity for China to engage its neighbors as trading partners and reliable custodians of the global commons. China has shown phenomenal economic growth in the years since paramount leader Deng Xiaoping in 1990 cautioned, "Hide your strength; bide your time." Forsaking that dictum, President Xi Jinping seeks the "great rejuvenation" and today promises "a great wall of steel" facing those seeking to "oppress," in a China's Communist Party 100th anniversary speech this year. Large questions loom for the United States, its Indo-Pacific allies, and all the nations on China's periphery. What will it mean for them for China to pursue Xi's goal to make the nation "the biggest player in the history of the world?"

## SOURCES

### General Overview

1. "[The Chinese Communist Party](#)" Eleanor Albert, Lindsay Maizland, and Beina Xu – Council on Foreign Relations, June 23, 2021
2. "[What Xi Jinping Wants](#)" Graham Allison -- The Atlantic, May 31, 2017
3. "[Xi Jinping Calls for More 'Lovable' Image for China in Bid to Make Friends](#)" Stephen McDonnell -- BBC, Jun 2, 2021
4. "[China's Approach to Global Governance](#)" Council on Foreign Relations
  - a. "Stage 5: Center Stage 2012-Present"
  - b. "Stage 6: Looking Ahead"

# SOURCES CONT.

## Maritime Challenges

1. "[Why Is the South China Sea Contentious?](#)" BBC -- Jul 12, 2016
2. "[How China is Bending the Rules in the South China Sea](#)" Oriana Skylar Mastro -- The Interpreter, The Lowy Institute, February 17, 2021

## Taiwan

1. "[China: Rise or Demise?](#)" John Mueller -- Cato Institute, May 18, 2021
  - a. The Issue of Taiwan -- **Executive summary only**
2. "[China's Designs on Taiwan](#)" The Week, April 25, 2021

## Hong Kong

1. "[Hong Kong's Freedoms: What China Promised and How It's Cracking Down](#)" Lindsay Maizland and Eleanor Albert -- Council on Foreign Relations, February 17, 2021

## Central Asia

1. "[How Will China Deal With the Taliban?](#)" Ian Johnson -- Council on Foreign Relations, August 24, 2021
2. "[China-Central Asia Relations: An Uneasy Co-Existence](#)" Ashok Sajjanhar -- Observer Research Foundation (ORF) (India), March 10, 2021
3. "[China in Central Asia: Is China Winning the 'New Great Game'?](#)" Susan A. Thornton -- Brookings Institution, June 2020

## Allied Blocs: The Quad

1. "[What You Need to Know About The "Quad" In Charts](#)" Tanvi Madan -- Brookings Institution, October 5, 2020
2. "[Confusion Matrix in the Oceans](#)" Taihe Institute, July 2021 (Read Section 4, pages 30-33)

## Internal Issues, External Concerns

1. "[Who Are the Uyghurs and Why is China Being Accused of Genocide?](#)" BBC, June 21, 2021
2. "[China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang](#)" Lindsay Maizland -- Council on Foreign Relations, March 1, 2021



# CURRENT EVENTS



The WorldQuest committee will be providing more information regarding the current events categories closer to the competition. Students are encouraged to view the Weekly World News Updates from the [World Affairs Council of America's website](#), select the "Newsroom" tab, view "World Briefing" box, and select 2021 or 2022 from the archive dropdown menu.

Subscribe [here](#) or scan the QR code.





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