



2020-2021

Study Guide

Adapted for the
Coachella Valley Competition
March 4, 2020
World Affairs Council of the Desert



WORLD
AFFAIRS
COUNCILS of
AMERICA

**2020-2021 Academic WorldQuest
Introductory Packet and Local Study Guide**

Table of Contents

Page 3.....Question Categories

Page 4.....Local Competition Rules and Regulations for the AWQ Desert

Pages 6-19.....Local Study Guide

Academic WorldQuest 2020-2021 Categories

The categories for this year's AWQ National Competition have been updated by the World Affairs Councils of America, with input from member World Affairs Councils across the country, to reflect several of the most critical global and U.S. foreign policy issues:

Topics for the local competition in the Coachella Valley include:

Global Protests
Shifting Sands: The Arab Spring 10 Years On
The U.S. Foreign Service in the 21st Century
Great Decisions
Exploring Peace in a World of Conflict
Fraying Alliances
Looking to a Post-Pandemic Economy
Current Events

Topics that will be part of the National Academic WorldQuest Competition, but NOT the local competition:

International Labour Organization (ILO)
Country in Focus: Uzbekistan

AWQ Local Study Guide

The Academic WorldQuest Study Guide has been prepared by the World Affairs Councils of America. Questions for all the above categories are drawn from the resources included in the AWQ Study Guide.

WELCOME to the 16th Annual Academic WorldQuest of the Desert Local Competition!

The Academic WorldQuest of the Desert competition will be held on **Thursday, March 4, 2021**, either in late afternoon or early evening, time to be decided later.

The currently planned format is for each school team to be gathered in a school or nearby community location, appropriately set up for questions to be presented on MyQuiz on a projected screen or shared computer. Only the team coach and an Academic World Quest Desert monitor will be present at the location. The details of this arrangement will be worked out with each school by February 15, 2021.

If students are not permitted to work together in a single location, Academic World Quest Desert will consider a format in which students are separated and linked in computer breakout rooms. The selection of format will be made no later than February 15, 2021.

Qualifying for AWQ Competition: Rules and Regulations

A team consists of four (4) Primary Teammates who are currently high school students (freshman – senior year). No more than four players per team will be able to compete in the National Competition.

Teams may designate Alternate Teammates to replace one or more of the four Primary Teammates in the case of sickness or other circumstances which would prevent a Primary Teammate from competing in the National Competition. Please note that local Councils may be unable to send Alternate Teammates to the National Competition.

Teams of fewer than four students are allowed to compete, but this is strongly discouraged. Teams at the National Competition must have 4 students.

If the winning team from a local competition is unable to compete in the National Competition and has no Alternate Teammates, the second place team may compete in its place.

The winning team of our local competition will be invited to compete at the flagship education program of the World Affairs Councils of America on April 16-17 in Washington D.C.!

How to Play

There are 8 rounds in the local competition, each round having 10 questions. Teams will have 45 seconds to answer each question. All questions are multiple choice.

Scoring

One (1) point is awarded for each correct answer. No penalty for incorrect answers or no answer.

The team with the most correct answers out of all 80 questions is declared AWQ Champion.

If, at the conclusion of the competition, there is a tie for 1st through 3rd place, tiebreaker rounds will be played.

Regulations

Teams are not allowed to consult with the any person, wireless devices, cell phones, books, or other written materials at any point during the competition. Any team found by an Academic WorldQuest of the Desert Monitor to be violating this rule will forfeit that round and a penalty of 10 points will automatically be deducted from that team's score.

During the competition, a player can only use the bathroom during the break or breaks. If a player leaves at any other point during the rounds, he or she cannot return until after the break.

Because of the spread locations of the teams, teams may not issue challenges to any question or answer.

Academic WorldQuest 2020-2021 Study Guide

All questions for this year's Academic WorldQuest program will be drawn from the sources in this Study Guide

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.

1. Global Protests

2019 and 2020 have seen protests that are historically unprecedented in their size and frequency. Protests have spanned over 114 countries, taking place on every continent. This trend of rising protests indicates a structural shift in civic participation. Each year, more people are taking to the streets as a form of expressing their political opinions and expectations. In the last two years, protests have often succeeded in pushing authoritarian governments out of power, fighting for equality in legislation, and creating greater awareness of the social and economic injustices that exist. However, many protests have not led to the outcome people had hoped for and have often led to greater political repression and violence. This topic explores the different kinds of protest movements around the world, highlighting some of the most prominent uprisings and discourses we have seen in 2019 and 2020. We see how racial injustice and police brutality, economic inequality, corruption, unemployment, gender inequality, violence against women, climate change, and political repression, amongst other things, have led to unrest around the world.

• Background and Overview

- o Read **"Introduction"** pg. 1-3, **"Global Protests by Region"** pg. 6-13, and **"Root Causes of Unrest and the Continued Increase in Global Uprisings"** pg. 15-21 – **"The Age of Mass Protests: Understanding an Escalating Global Trend"** – Center for Strategic and International Studies, March 2020
<https://www.csis.org/analysis/age-mass-protests-understanding-escalating-global-trend>
- o Read **"Global Protest Tracker"** – Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, October 30, 2020 <https://carnegieendowment.org/publications/interactive/protest-tracker>
- o Read: **"Protests Around the World Explained"** – Amnesty International, October 25, 2020 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/10/protests-around-the-world-explained/>
- o Read **"A World on Fire: Here Are All the Major Protests Happening Around the Globe Right Now"** – Business Insider, June 4, 2020
<https://www.businessinsider.com/all-the-protests-around-the-world-right-now#chileans-are- protesting-coronavirus-lockdowns-and-food-shortages-7>
<https://www.businessinsider.com/all- the-protests-around-the-world-right-now#chileans-are- protesting-coronavirus-lockdowns-and- food-shortages-7>
- o Read **"Political Risk Outlook 2020"** – Verisk Maplecroft, January 16, 2020
<https://www.maplecroft.com/insights/analysis/47-countries-witness-surge-in-civil-unrest/>

• Racial Injustice in the U.S.

- o Watch **"What Is Black Lives Matter? George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, All Lives Matter, Systemic Racism Explained"** – Behind the News, June 10, 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34qNFIH3vCE>
- o Read **"George Floyd: Five Pieces of Context to Understand the Protests"** – Alice Cuddy, BBC, June 4, 2020 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52904593>

- **Women’s Rights and the Fight for Equality**
 - Watch “**Protesters Hold "A Day Without Women" Strike in Mexico Following a Series of Murders**” – CBS News, March 9, 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v46iLy37Ak>
 - Read “**The Women Who Won't March: 'Silenced' Conservatives Vow to Stay Home**” – Rebecca Nelson, The Guardian, January 19, 2017
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/19/womens-march-washington-conservative-tomi-lahren>

- **Climate Change and the Environment**
 - Read “**Across the Globe, Millions Join Biggest Climate Protest Ever**” – Sandra Laville and Jonathan Watts, The Guardian, September 20, 2019
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/21/across-the-globe-millions-join-biggest-climate-protest-ever>
 - Read “**Protesting Climate Change, Young People Take to Streets in a Global Strike**” – Somini Sengupta, New York Times, September 20, 2019
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/20/climate/global-climate-strike.html>

- **Economic Inequality**
 - Read “**Yellow Vests, Blue Vests and Red Scarves – Here’s Why the French Are Protesting**” – Holly Ellyatt, CNBC, February 1, 2019
<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/02/01/why-the-french-are-protesting.html>
 - Read “**Chileans Are About to Vote on Rewriting Their Whole Constitution. Will It Turn a 'Social Explosion' Into a New Plan for the Country?**” – Ciara Nugent, Time, October 25, 2020
<https://time.com/5900901/chile-constitution-referendum/>
 - Read “**Why Iranians Are Revolting Again**” – Ali Fathollah-Nejad, Brookings, November 19, 2019
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2019/11/19/why-iranians-are-revolting-again/>

- **Political Freedom**
 - Read “**Hong Kong Protests, One Year Later**” – Austin Ramzy and Mike Ives, New York Times, July 24, 2020
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/09/world/asia/hong-kong-protests-one-year-later.html>
 - Read “**What's Behind the China-Taiwan Divide?**” – BBC, September 28, 2020
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34729538>
 - Read “**What Is the Story of Catalan Independence – And What Happens Next?**” – Sam Jones, The Guardian, October 14, 2019
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/14/catalan-independence-what-is-the-story-what-happens-next>

2. Shifting Sands: The Arab Spring 10 Years On

The Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and rebellions that swept across the Arabic speaking countries in North Africa and the Middle East in the early 2010s. The unrest started in December 2010 in Tunisia after Mohamed Bouazizi, a Tunisian street vendor, set himself on fire in front of a government building to protest his treatment by local officials. People in Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Syria, Sudan, Yemen, Jordan, Kuwait, and Lebanon followed suit and took to the streets to showcase their anti- authoritarian and anti-government sentiments. The protests across these countries and others in the region came to be known as the Arab Spring. This topic explores the background, causes, results, and aftermath of the Arab Spring. 10 years on, we explore whether these protests resulted in real change or simply resulted in the loss of lives.

- **History, Overview, & Causes of the Arab Spring**
 - Read “**Arab Spring: Pro-Democracy Protests**” –Britannica <https://www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Spring>
 - Watch (Video) “**Here's How the Arab Spring Started and How It Affected the World**” – History, May 8, 2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fgcd5ZcxDys>
 - Read “**10 Reasons for the Arab Spring**” –Primoz Manfreda, Thought Co, April 27, 2019 <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-reasons-for-the-arab-spring-2353041>
 - Watch “**Special Report: The Arab Spring**” –The Economist, July 12, 2013 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5dkJqUwlls>
- **Results and Aftermath of the Arab Spring:**
 - Read “**Arab Spring Impact on the Middle East**” –Primoz Manfreda, Thought Co, July1, 2019 <https://www.thoughtco.com/arab-spring-impact-on-middle-east-2353038>
 - Read “**The Aftermath of the Arab Spring Protests: What a Public Opinion Survey Tells Us**” –A. Kadir Yildirim and Meredith McCain, Baker Institute for Public Policy, March 21, 2019 <https://www.bakerinstitute.org/media/files/files/463779a3/bi-brief-032119-cme-springprotests.pdf>
 - Read “**Beyond Syria: The Arab Spring’s Aftermath**” –Emma Graham-Harrison, The Guardian, December 30, 2018. (NOTE – a current edition will appear. In upper right is a search box. Type “beyond Syria” and the study material appears). <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/30/arab-spring-aftermath-syria-tunisia-egypt-yemen-libya>
- **Country Case Studies**
 - Read “**Tunisia: Socioeconomic Injustice Persists 8 Years After Uprising**” –Ramy Allahoum, Al Jazeera, January 14, 2019 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/1/14/tunisia-socioeconomic-injustice-persists-8-years-after-uprising>
 - Read “**Nine Years After Arab Spring, Repression in Egypt Continues to Mount**” –Derek Ludovici, The Independent, February 7, 2020 <https://independent.org/2020/02/nine-years-after-arab-spring-repression-in-egypt-continues-to-mount/>
 - Read “**Civil War in Syria**” including the slideshow –Council on Foreign Relations, November 3, 2020. (NOTE-Use only text down to the slide show. Ignore the many following background articles and other “Alerts”) <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-syria>
 - Read “**Moamar Gaddafi Has Been Dead Eight Years Yet Libya Is Still at War With Itself. What Went Wrong?**” – Tracey Shelton, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, October 19, 2019 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-20/libya-civil-war-gaddafi-eight-years-on/11210742>

Please see the map below for additional information on the Arab world.



Middle East and some North African countries. Muslims in these countries are majority Sunni and minority Shite(Shia). A tabulation of the distribution of sects is below. Very tiny minorities of Christian and other minorities are not shown.

| | Sunni | Shia | | Sunni | Shia |
|---------|-------|------|--------------|-------|------|
| | % | % | | % | % |
| Bahrain | 70 | 30 | Qatar | 14 | 86 |
| Egypt | | 90 | Saudi Arabia | 5 | 95 |
| Iran | 90 | 9 | Syria | 13 | 74 |
| Iraq | 63 | 34 | Turkey | 15 | 85 |
| Jordan | 2 | 92 | | | |
| Lebanon | 36 | 22 | | | |

Source: Bing Images

3. U.S. Foreign Service in the 21st Century

Established in 1789, the Department of State upholds international relations and foreign policy of the United States. Officers in the U.S. Foreign Service serve in diplomatic missions around the globe, representing the U.S. in foreign countries. While the nature of the Department of State is in a constant state of evolution, Foreign Service officers continue to help advance U.S. interests, as well as assist and protect citizens abroad. Valued for their diplomatic capabilities, language skills, and communication expertise, officers are tasked with the important mission of peacefully promoting the foreign policy strategy of the United States. Over the last few decades, however, the responsibilities of the U.S. Foreign Service have been delegated to the U.S. Military, and consequently, there has been a steady degradation of the diplomacy effort. This topic introduces the U.S. Foreign Service; the challenges that it faces in the 21st century; and offers different perspectives on the present and future of diplomacy by career diplomats.

- **Overview and History**

- Read and watch “**United States Department of State Professional Ethos**” – U.S. Department of State, 2019
<https://www.state.gov/about/professional-ethos>
- Read “**Chapter 1 - What is the Foreign Service?**” and “**Chapter 2 - History**” – “**Career Diplomacy: Life and Work in the US Foreign Service**” – Harry Kopp and John Naland, Georgetown University Press, 2017 <https://a.co/21KNVlz>
- Read “**Prologue: Diplomacy 101 - Why the State Department Matters**” pg. 7-11 – U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, July 28, 2020
<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Diplomacy%20in%20Crisis%20--%20SFRC%20Democratic%20Staff%20Report.pdf>

- **Outstanding Challenges**

- Read “**Executive Summary**” pg. 9-12 and “**Background: Changing American Diplomacy in the New International Environment**” pg. 16-21 – “**Forging a 21st-Century Diplomatic Service for the United States through Professional Education and Training**” – The American Academy of Diplomacy and the Stimson Center, February 2011 <https://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/publication/forging-a-21st-century-diplomatic-service-for-the-united-states-through-professional-education-and-training/>
- Read “**The American Way of Diplomacy**” – Robert Hutchings, American Foreign Service Association, May 2014
<https://www.afsa.org/american-way-diplomacy>
- Read “**Chapter 1 – Vacant Posts and Frequent Turnover: An America Less Present and Less Effective,**” and “**Chapter 5 – Conclusion and Recommendations: The Challenges Ahead**” – “**Diplomacy in Crisis**” – Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, July 28, 2020
<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Diplomacy%20in%20Crisis%20--%20SFRC%20Democratic%20Staff%20Report.pdf>

- **Diplomats and Their Differing Opinions**

- Read “**The Transformation of Diplomacy**” – William Burns and Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Foreign Affairs, September 23, 2020 <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-09-23/diplomacy-transformation>
- Read “**Trump Has Changed the Face America Presents to the World**” – Helene Cooper, New York Times, September 12, 2020
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/12/us/politics/trump-race-state-department.html>
- Read “**Being a Foreign Service Officer Became Much, Much Harder after 9/11**” – Olga Khazan, The Atlantic, April 9, 2013
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/04/being-a-foreign-service->

- [officer- became-much-much-harder-after-9-11/274822/](https://www.economist.com/international/2020/08/13/the-dereliction-of-american-diplomacy)
- Read **“The Dereliction of American Diplomacy”** – The Economist, August 13, 2020
<https://www.economist.com/international/2020/08/13/the-dereliction-of-american-diplomacy>
- Read **“Why Donald Trump Needs a Supportive State Department”** – James Carafano; Kiron Skinner, The National Interest, August 28, 2020
<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/why-donald-trump-needs-supportive-state-department-167960>
- Read **“Trump Administration Diplomacy: The Untold Story”** – Michael Pompeo, U.S. Department of State, October 22, 2019
<https://www.state.gov/trump-administration-diplomacy-the-untold-story/>
- **Solutions or More Problems?**
 - Read **“How to Remake the Foreign Service and Embassies for Today's World”** – Richard Grenell, The Hill, August 28, 2020
<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/513810-how-to-remake-the-foreign-service-and-embassies-for-todays-world>
 - Read **“What Makes a Good Foreign Service Officer or Ambassador?”** – John O’Keefe, The Hill, September 4, 2020
<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/514949-what-makes-a-good-foreign-service-officer-or-ambassador>
 - Read **“U.S. Foreign Policy Architecture for the 21st Century”** – Joseph Cassidy, Wilson Center, December 9, 2016
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/us-foreign-policy-architecture-for-the-21st-century>
 - **“The U.S. Foreign Service Isn’t Suited for the 21st Century”** – Philip Zelikow, Foreign Policy, October 26, 2020
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/26/state-department-foreign-service-reform/>

4. 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 for the 2020-2021 Academic WorldQuest competitions are:

- a. Climate Change and the Global Order***
- b. India and Pakistan***
- c. Rea Sea Security***
- d. Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking***
- e. U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle***
- f. China's Road into Latin America***
- g. The Philippines and the U.S.***
- h. Artificial Intelligence and Data***

The Great Decisions 2020 Briefing Book is required study material for the National Competition. However, the Briefing Book will NOT be required reading for local competitions. In order to prepare for local competitions, students should study each of the topics, and the accompanying Glossary and all updates (if available), provided in the below link. The Briefing Book will be made available at a later date through the World Affairs Councils of America to the member Councils participating in the National Competition. Please study the following online information for your local competition:

Foreign Policy Association

https://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=450

5. Exploring Peace in a World of Conflict

It can sometimes seem like violent, or negative, conflict is all around us. It is often what is featured in the news and focused on in history class. The United States Institute of Peace (USIP), sponsor of this category and host of the 2021 Academic WorldQuest National Competition event, focuses on two key points in its work around the world: (1) conflict can be managed without violence, and can even be a force for positive transformation; and (2) even when negative conflict is happening, there are almost always examples of people and organizations doing important work to build peace. This category will explore what peace means in practical terms, and how peacebuilding can still happen in a world full of challenges and conflict.

USIP is a national, nonpartisan, independent institute, founded by Congress in 1984, and dedicated to the proposition that a world without violent conflict is possible, practical, and essential for U.S. and global security. Learn more at www.usip.org.

• Background and Overview

- o Watch “**About the U.S. Institute of Peace**” – U.S. Institute of Peace, June 25, 2020 <https://youtu.be/wNvR3bGEcUs>
- o Read “**SNAP Action Guide, Primer on Strategic Nonviolent Action and Peacebuilding Processes**” – Nadine Bloch; Lisa Schirch, U.S. Institute of Peace, 2018 [https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SNAP-Primer-Strategic-Nonviolent-Action- Peacebuilding-Processes.pdf](https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SNAP-Primer-Strategic-Nonviolent-Action-Peacebuilding-Processes.pdf)

• Country Studies – Efforts in Peacebuilding

- o Read “**Preventing Conflict During the Pandemic in Southern Tunisia**” – Rima Daoud; Sabine Laribi, U.S. Institute of Peace, July 16, 2020 <https://www.usip.org/blog/2020/07/preventing-conflict-during-pandemic-southern-tunisia>
- o Read “**Discovering Peace Through Art in Afghanistan**” – Anthony Navone, U.S. Institute of Peace, February 25, 2020 <https://www.usip.org/blog/2020/02/discovering-peace-through-art-afghanistan>
- o Read “**2020 Women Building Peace Award Recipient: Rita Lopidia**” – U.S. Institute of Peace, 2020 <https://www.usip.org/2020-women-building-peace-award-recipient-rita-lopidia>
- o Read “**In Casamance, Dialogue Helps Battle Coronavirus and Build Trust**” – U.S. Institute of Peace, June 9, 2020 <https://www.usip.org/index.php/blog/2020/06/casamance-dialogue-helps-battle-coronavirus- and-build-trust>
- o Read “**Nonviolent Action in Myanmar: Challenges and Lessons for Civil Society and Donors**” – La Ring; Khin Sandar Nyunt; Nist Pianchupat; Shaazka Beyerle, U.S. Institute of Peace, September 2020 https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/20200918-sr_483-nonviolent_action_in_myanmar_challenges_and_lessons_for_civil_society_and_donors-sr.pdf
- o Read “**Violent Extremist Disengagement and Reconciliation: A Peacebuilding Approach**” – Chris Bosley, U.S. Institute of Peace, July 29, 2020 <https://www.usip.org/publications/2020/07/violent-extremist-disengagement-and-reconciliation-peacebuilding-approach>
- o Read “**Measuring Collective Impact: Creating a Framework for Assessing Multiple Peacebuilding Projects in Colombia**” – Diego Benitez, U.S. Institute of Peace, July 2020 https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/20200730-sr_472-measuring_collective_impact_creating_a_framework_for_assessing_multiple_peacebuilding

[_projects_in_colombia-sr.pdf](#)

- o Watch “**Briefly: Preventing Election Violence Through Diplomacy With Debra Liang-Fenton**” – U.S. Institute of Peace, January 28, 2020
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AICf7_39tWE&list=PLmbn6hUaaez4Mpg_k3X1_owo0hc7O_AUJ&index=2
- o Read “**Press Release: The Successful Return of 1000 Families to Al-Ayadhiya, Tal Afar Following Reconciliation Efforts by Sanad for Peacebuilding**” – Sanad for Peacebuilding, September 2020
https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Al_Ayadhiya_Press_Release.pdf
- **Additional Resources**
 - o Refer to “**Academic WorldQuest Resources**” – U.S. Institute of Peace, 2020 <https://www.usip.org/public-education/AcademicWorldQuest>
 - o Read “**Global Peace Index 2020 Briefing**” – Institute for Economics and Peace, 2020
https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/GPI_2020_Briefing_Web.pdf
 - o Read “**Executive Summary and Key Findings**” pg. 2-4, “**Section 1: The Results**” pg. 5-23, and “**Section 4: Positive Peace**” pg. 53-56, 67-69 – “**Global Peace Index 2020**” – Institute for Economics and Peace, 2020 https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/GPI_2020_web.pdf
 - o Read “**Implementing the Global Fragility Act**” – Mercy Corps, April 2020
https://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/202004/Implementing_the_Global_Fragility_Act_April2020.pdf
 - o Read “**Global Peace Index 2020 Briefing**” – Institute for Economics and Peace, 2020
https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/GPI_2020_web.pdf
 - o Read ““**Women of Sudan: Bring a Glimmer of Hope,**” **Fifteen Years On, Cote D’Ivoire Comes Back from the Brink,**” and “**Iraq’s Improving Trajectory**” pg. 33-38 – “**2020 Fragile States Index**”
– Fund for Peace, 2020
<https://fundforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/fsi2020-report.pdf>

6. Fraying Alliances

A global pandemic, rising border tensions, increasing security threats, re-emergence of unilateralism, the popularity of populism, and a deterioration of diplomacy have all resulted in frayed alliances between countries that have been previously aligned. While every day is a new challenge for international cooperation, this topic focuses on a few noteworthy foreign policy developments between nations within the last few years. Read on to learn more about the uncertainty afflicting East Asia; the changing dynamics in the Middle East; the steady collapse of Transatlantic relations; and the rise of strongman politics.

• East Asia – Foes or Friends?

- o Read **“Keep an Eye on Taiwan”** – Michael Schuman, The Atlantic, October 10, 2020 <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/10/taiwan-us-china-donald-trump/616657/>
- o Read **“Japan's New Leader Has Narrow Window to Advance South Korea Ties”** – Kathryn Botto, Nikkei Asia, September 23, 2020 <https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/Japan-s-new-leader-has-narrow-window-to-advance-South-Korea-ties>
- o Read **“The Unraveling of the U.S.-South Korean Alliance”** – Sue Mi Terry, Foreign Affairs, July 3, 2020 (It’s free but requires registration) <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/north-korea/2020-07-03/unraveling-us-south-korean-alliance>
- o Read **“Democracy in Hong Kong”** – Eleanor Albert; Lindsay Maizland, Council on Foreign Relations, June 30, 2020 <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/democracy-hong-kong>
- o Read **“Back to Square One for Inter-Korean Relations”** – Scott Synder, Council on Foreign Relations, June 26, 2020 <https://www.cfr.org/blog/back-square-one-inter-korean-relations>
- o Read **“Two Years After Trump-Kim Meeting, Little to Show for Personal Diplomacy”** – David Sanger; Choe Sang-Hun, New York Times, June 12, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/12/world/asia/korea-nuclear-trump-kim.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article>

• Muddle of the Middle East

- o Read **“After UAE Deal, How Can Arab States Impact Israeli-Palestinian Peace?”** – Claire Harrison; Robert Barron, United States Institute of Peace, September 3, 2020 <https://www.usip.org/index.php/publications/2020/09/after-uae-deal-how-can-arab-states-impact-israeli-palestinian-peace>
- o Read **“Without the Palestinians, Israeli Normalization Is Still Beyond Reach”** – H.A. Hellyer, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, September 15, 2020 <https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/09/15/without-palestinians-israeli-normalization-is-still-beyond-reach-pub-82702>
- o Read **“Why France is Wary of Turkey in Libya”** – Ali Demirdas, Responsible Statecraft, July 8, 2020 <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2020/07/08/why-france-is-wary-of-turkey-in-libya/>
- o Watch **“The Middle East’s New Battlelines”** – European Council on Foreign Relations, May 3, 2019 <https://ecfr.eu/video/the-middle-east-s-new-battlelines/>

• Trans-Atlanticism in Trouble

- o Read **“Embattled at Home, Trump Finds Himself Isolated Abroad, Too”** – Steven Erlanger, New York Times, June 2, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/world/europe/trump-merkel-allies.html> (It’s free but requires registration)

- o Read **“The Pandemic and the Toll of Transatlantic Discord”** – Karen Donfried; Wolfgang Ischinger, Foreign Affairs, April 18, 2020
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-04-18/pandemic-and-toll-transatlantic-discord>
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- o Read **“NATO Is Struggling Under Trans-Atlantic Tensions”** – Jim Townsend; Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Foreign Policy, December 5, 2019
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/12/05/nato-is-struggling-under-transatlantic-tensions-trump/> Read **“The EU-U.S. Relationship Is in Crisis”** – Julianne Smith, German Times, March 2019
<http://www.german-times.com/the-eu-us-relationship-is-in-crisis/>
- **China and Russia: Allies No More?**
 - o Read **“China, Russia Deepen Their Ties Amid Pandemic, Conflicts With The West”** – Reid Standish, Radio Free Europe/Radio Europe/Radio Free Liberty, September 1, 2020 <https://www.rferl.org/a/china-russia-deepen-their-ties-amid-pandemic-conflicts-with-west/30814684.html>
 - o Read **“The Enemy of My Enemy is My Friend: Russia-China Relations in the Face of U.S.-China Tensions”** – Kseniya Kirillova, Institute for Security and Development Policy, August 17, 2020 <https://isdp.eu/the-enemy-of-my-enemy-is-my-friend-russia-china-relations-in-the-face-of-u-s-china-tensions/>
 - o Read **“Could Russia Side With the U.S. and India Against China?”** – Maria Siow, South China Morning Post, August 22, 2020
<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3098398/could-russia-side-us-and-india-against-china>

7. Looking to a Post-Pandemic Economy

Covid-19 has disrupted economies around the world. Social distancing and lockdowns across nations have resulted in loss of productivity, business closures, trade disruption, and mass unemployment. As a result, we are on the road to what may end up being the worst recession since the Great Depression. This topic explores the impact the pandemic has had on economies around the world, and in particular the U.S. economy; how major sectors such as the agriculture, tourism, retail, and aviation industries have dealt with the crisis; what these industries will look like going forward; and how the global economy can recover in a post-pandemic world.

- **Economic Impact of COVID-19**

- Read **“Covid-19 Dealt a Shock to the World's Top Economies. Here's Who Has Fared the Worst”** – Julia Horowitz, CNN, August 28, 2020
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/28/economy/global-recession-g7-countries/index.html>
- Read **“The Impact of Covid-19 On U.S. Economy and Financial Markets”** – Mike Patton, Forbes, October 12, 2020
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikepatton/2020/10/12/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-us-economy-and-financial-markets/#80a3aaf2d206>
- Read **“Economic Fallout from Covid -19 Continues to Hit Lower-Income Americans the Hardest”** – Pew Research Center, September 24, 2020
<https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2020/09/24/economic-fallout-from-covid-19-continues-to-hit-lower-income-americans-the-hardest/>
- Read **“Ten Facts about Covid -19 and the U.S. Economy”** pg. 7-19 – The Hamilton Project, Brookings, September 2020
https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FutureShutdowns_Facts_LO_Final.pdf

- **Major Sectors**

- Read **“Stock Market v Economy: The Impact of Covid-19”** – The Economist, July 24, 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TImic4N1ko>
- Read **“Reimagining the \$9 Trillion Tourism Economy – What Will It Take?”** – McKinsey & Company, August 5, 2020
<https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/travel-logistics-and-transport-infrastructure/our-insights/reimagining-the-9-trillion-tourism-economy-what-will-it-take>
- Watch **“Covid-19: Why Travel Will Never Be the Same”** – The Economist, July 10, 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA50gw1zluQ>
- Read **“The Future of Travel After the Coronavirus Pandemic”** – Foreign Policy, June 13, 2020 <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/06/13/travel-tourism-coronavirus-pandemic-future/>
- Watch **“How the Covid -19 Pandemic is Sending American Agriculture into Chaos”** 0:00-7:10 – PBS, April 20, 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zlpx2UARByo>
- Read **“Covid -19 and the Food and Agriculture Sector: Issues and Policy Responses”** – OECD, April 29, 2020
<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/covid-19-and-the-food-and-agriculture-sector-issues-and-policy-responses-a23f764b/>
- Read **“Covid -19 Outlook for the U.S. Media and Entertainment Industry”** pg. 4-14 – Deloitte, May 2020 <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/technology-media-and-telecommunications/articles/covid-19-outlook-on-media-industry.html>
- Read **“Culture Shock: Eight Voices on the Future of Entertainment, Culture, and Sports.”** – Foreign Policy, August 15, 2020

- <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/08/15/covid-19-pandemic-culture-sports-entertainment/>
- o Read “**Covid -19 and the Retail Sector: Impact and Policy Responses**” – OECD, June 16, 2020 <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/covid-19-and-the-retail-sector-impact-and-policy-responses-371d7599/>
- o Read “**7 Predictions for How Covid -19 Will Change Retail in The Future**” – Michelle Evans, Forbes, May 19, 2020 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/michelleevans1/2020/05/19/7-predictions-for-how-covid-19-will-change-retail-in-the-future/#400f69e35be3>
- o Read “**Covid-19 Era Serves Up Big Changes for U.S. Restaurants**” – Morgan Stanley, July 17, 2020 <https://www.morganstanley.com/ideas/coronavirus-restaurant-trends>
- o Read “**How Restaurants Can Thrive in the Next Normal**” – McKinsey & Company, May 19, 2020 <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/retail/our-insights/how-restaurants-can-thrive-in-the-next-normal>
- o Read “**Aviation’s Recovery Flight Plan**” – Deloitte <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/ca/Documents/public-sector/ca-en-aviation%27s-recovery-flight-plan-aoda.pdf>
- o Read “**U.S. Freight After Covid -19: What’s Next?**” – McKinsey & Company, June 2, 2020 <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/travel-logistics-and-transport-infrastructure/our-insights/us-freight-after-covid-19-whats-next>
- **Recovery Programs and Post-Pandemic Economy**
 - o Read “**Reimagining the Post Pandemic Economic Future**” – McKinsey & Company <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-and-social-sector/our-insights/reimagining-the-postpandemic-economic-future>
 - o Read “**What the Post-Pandemic Economy Will Look Like**” – Gad Levanon, Forbes, August 17, 2020 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/gadlevanon/2020/08/17/what-the-post-pandemic-economy-will-look-like/#56f6f3c87835>

8. Current Events

- Material in the current events category will be drawn events beginning January 1, 2021 to February 15, 2021. For the local competition, current events will be multiple choice along with the rest of the categories. Before the start of the new year, AWQ of the Desert will suggest podcasts as potential study tools for students.