



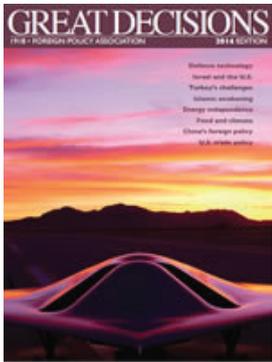
American Resource Center Newsletter U.S. Embassy Helsinki August 2014, Issue 7

Great Decisions - Discussion Program on World Affairs

Foreign Policy Association's discussion group "Great Decisions" is hosted by the American Resource Center for the first time in Finland. The group meets on **Tuesdays at 17:00-18:30** (October 7 - November 25) at Kaisa Library in Helsinki.

The space for the discussion group is limited. Fill in the online application form to reserve your seat at <http://ow.ly/AgHur>

Interested in joining the discussion on e.g., energy independence, food and climate, China's foreign policy, defense technology, and U.S. trade policy?



Course will be moderated by James Gardiner. Participants will receive free materials and a certificate upon completion of the course.

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs by the Foreign Policy Association. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today.

Each year, eight topics are chosen by a panel of experts. This year we tackle critical issues from the relationship between Israel and the U.S. to China's foreign policy.

The grassroots, face-to-face model adopted by Great Decisions more than 50 years ago continues today, with tens of thousands of participants taking part in discussions nationwide annually.

http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/

Be creative! Be innovative! Be visionary! Ambassador's Entrepreneurial Challenge

Do you have what it takes?

U.S. Ambassador Bruce Oreck, LEAD, and partners challenge students to address a real-life problem, issue or market gap. Students (grades 7-9 and upper secondary school) from all over the country are welcome to participate. There will be six regional competitions: Helsinki, Tampere, Jyväskylä, Kuopio, Oulu, and Turku. Regional winners will be hosted in Helsinki for a day of entrepreneurship-related workshops before competing in the national finals. Champions of the Challenge will travel to the United States!

Teams of 2-5 students will work with one teacher or advisor to create a business plan addressing a real-life challenge, social issue, or market gap. Entrepreneurship, creativity, critical thinking, language ability, math, and presentation skills are just a few essential skills needed to build a successful plan.

More information and competition rules coming soon at www.facebook.com/finland.usembassy.



AMBASSADOR'S ENTREPRENEURIAL CHALLENGE

WebPicks

collected by the ARC staff

Disclaimer: The views expressed on these websites are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. Government policies. These links are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or approval by the ARC or the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, nor can we bear any responsibility for the accuracy, legality, functionality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links.

American Life

Generation Why Not: Meet the 35 Under 35, Class of 2014 by Donna Fenn. Inc., July/August 2014.

Allow us to introduce the future. Meet a select group of Millennials who are transforming wildly original visions into the businesses of the next decade.

<http://www.inc.com/donna-fenn/35-under-35-2014.html>

The Heart of New Orleans by Nathaniel Rich. The New York Review of Books, July 10, 2014.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2014/jul/10/heart-new-orleans/>

I Saw the Best Minds of My Generation Destroyed by the Ivy League by William Deresiewicz. The New Republic, August 4, 2014.

Against the tyranny of elite education.

<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/118747/ivy-league-schools-are-overrated-send-your-kids-elsewhere>

The Post-Post-Apocalyptic Detroit by Ben Austen. The New York Times Magazine, July 13, 2014.

Black and white, young and old, billionaires and shop owners – a growing chorus of optimists in Detroit is saying that the time is right to invest. Is the post-post-apocalyptic city finally here?

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/13/magazine/the-post-post-apocalyptic-detroit.html?_r=0

Economy & Politics

Coke Confronts Its Big Fat Problem by Claire Suddath and Duane Stanford, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, July 31, 2014.

Americans may not have figured out the answer to the obesity epidemic, but for years they've pointed to Coca-Cola and other soda as one of the causes. Coke has tried fighting against this. It's tried ignoring it. Now it accepts this as a reality.

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-07-31/coca-cola-sales-decline-health-concerns-spur-relaunch>

Kissinger's Counsel by Jacob Heilbrunn. The National Interest, August 26, 2014.

In his new book World Order, the former Secretary of State offers a sweeping guide to the rise of the modern state system, and warns that a stable balance of power remains as crucial now as in the era of Westphalia.

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/kissingers-counsel-11132>

No Jobs but Crappy Jobs: The Next Big Political Issue? by Robert Kuttner. The American Prospect, August 19, 2014.

The mass frustration is surely there. What's missing is a mainstream national leader who will make this cause a prime election issue.

<http://prospect.org/article/no-jobs-crappy-jobs-next-big-political-issue>

Self-Segregation: Why It's So Hard for Whites to Understand Ferguson by Robert P. Jones, The Atlantic, August 21, 2014.

One reason for the racial divide over Michael Brown's death is that white Americans tend to talk mostly to other white people.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/08/self-segregation-why-its-hard-for-whites-to-understand-ferguson/378928/>

Surprise: The Economy Isn't as Bad as You Think by Roger Altman. Time, July 17, 2014.

7 signs America has turned the corner.

<http://time.com/author/roger-altman/>

Global Challenges

California's Record Drought Is Making Earth's Surface Rise by Sarah Zielinski. Smithsonian.com, August 21, 2014.

Lifting land shows that the U.S. West is now missing some 62 trillion gallons of water.

[http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/californias-record-drought-making-earths-surface-rise-](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/californias-record-drought-making-earths-surface-rise-180952429/#GY4ijLd7oTMcXKwC.99)

[180952429/#GY4ijLd7oTMcXKwC.99](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/californias-record-drought-making-earths-surface-rise-180952429/#GY4ijLd7oTMcXKwC.99)

Ebolanomics by James Surowiecki. The New Yorker, August 25, 2014.

What will persuade drug companies to develop unprofitable treatments?

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/08/25/ebolanomics>

Can Trees and Humans Survive Together? by David Bengston and Michael J. Dockry. *The Futurist*, July/August 2014. Threats to forests range from mega-fires to urban encroachment. Two futurists for the U.S. National Forest Service provide insights on the major issues and potential game changers for the world's woodlands.

<http://www.wfs.org/futurist/2014-issues-futurist/july-august-2014-vol-48-no-4/forest-futures-anthropocene-can-trees-and>

Climate Change Policies Pay for Themselves, Study Says by Jared Gilmour. *The Christian Science Monitor*, August 25, 2014. An MIT climate change study released Sunday indicates the cost of slashing coal-fired carbon emissions would be offset by reduced spending on public health. The EPA-funded study examined climate change policies similar to those proposed by the Obama administration in June.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0825/Climate-change-policies-pay-for-themselves-study-says>

Humans Now the Major Cause of Alpine Glacier Melt, Researchers Say by Pete Spotts. *The Christian Science Monitor*, August 15, 2014. The researchers estimate that between 1990 and 2010, some 69 percent of the mass lost by the world's alpine glaciers can be traced to human influence – basically global warming.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2014/0815/Humans-now-the-major-cause-of-alpine-glacier-melt-researchers-say>

Old Car Batteries Could Make Cheaper, More Efficient Solar Panels by Rachel Feltman. *The Washington Post*, August 18, 2014. Lead-acid car batteries have the potential to cause a whole host of environmental issues, but their continued use – which allows manufacturers to recycle the dangerous lead from one battery to another – keeps the pollutants out of the environment. As those batteries are retired in favor of newer, more efficient types (like lithium-ion batteries), however, we'll stop having somewhere for all that lead to go. According to engineers at MIT, we can recycle them to make long-lasting, low-cost solar panels.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2014/08/18/old-car-batteries-could-make-cheaper-more-efficient-solar-panels/?tid=pm_pop

International Relations

Five Myths about the Islamic State by William McCants. *Brookings Institution Blog*, August 26, 2014. pm

As the United States widens its battle in Iraq against the Islamic State and contemplates strikes against it in Syria, the policy debate at home surrounding the intervention is heating up. Here are five myths circulating in the media that are clouding the discussion.

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2014/08/26-myths-about-islamic-state-mccants>

Imagine a Russia Without Putin: It Would Be Almost Exactly the Same by Julia Ioffe. *The New Republic*, August 9, 2014.

In July, the United States and the European Union finally bridged their differences and slammed Russia with severe sanctions in the wake of the shutdown of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17. The pincers and scalpels of the previous rounds were discarded; this time, it was whole industries -- defense, finance, and energy -- that were targeted, including Sberbank, Russia's largest commercial bank.

<http://www.ueexpress.com/new-republic/2014/8/9/imagine-a-russia-without-putin-it>

More Faith, Less Fear: Islam, Islamism, and the Future of the West by Ronald J. Granieri. *FPRI*, August 2014.

These are difficult times for anyone who wants to believe in a free and pluralist society. The brutal ethnic and religious cleansing perpetrated by ISIS in Iraq, combined with the stories of young men from Western countries traveling to Syria to join the jihad in the Middle East, has sown fear and suspicion about Islam. Such fears have been further stoked by a disturbing rise in anti-Semitic demonstrations and violence in Europe, fed in part by reactions to the ongoing conflict in Gaza. For many observers, the two developments go together, an indication of a permanent and fundamental clash of cultures in which Muslims both abroad and at home threaten the peace and security of the liberal West.

<http://www.fpri.org/articles/2014/08/more-faith-less-fear-islam-islamism-and-future-west>

Ukraine and the Future of NATO: Redefining Old Notions of Warfare and Conflict by Janine Davidson and Amy Schafer.

Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, August 18, 2014.

The ongoing crisis in Ukraine has refocused the international spotlight on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as the alliance approaches a critical juncture. Depending on the degree of further escalation in the region, this crisis could lead to resurgence in NATO's strength and global respect—or it could vastly undermine NATO's credibility.

<http://journal.georgetown.edu/ukraine-and-the-future-of-nato-redefining-old-notions-of-warfare-and-conflict/>

Welcome, Jeanie & Maria!

Two new members have recently joined the Public Affairs team at U.S. Embassy Helsinki. You will be meeting these ladies at various ARC events – do come and say hi!

Jeanie Duwan (seen on the left in the photo) is the new Assistant Public Affairs Officer in the Embassy's Public Affairs Section, which handles culture affairs and press. Jeanie and her tandem foreign service officer husband Gottlieb arrived at post at the beginning of August, along with their two little girls and the family pet, Layla the cat. Jeanie is passionate about the Nordic countries, and can't believe her good luck to serve here in Finland! The Duwan family has also lived and worked in Sweden, Mexico, Washington DC, and Israel.



Maria Kivelä is the new Exchanges Coordinator. Born in Kuorevesi, Maria has a degree of MA in Politics (Graduate) from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2014) and degree of MA in Politics and International Relations (Undergraduate) from the Aberdeen University (2007). Her work as the Exchanges Coordinator (2007-2009; 2014-) involves developing and administering the Post's various exchange programs, with special emphasis on the International Visitor Leadership Program, and educational programs such as Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Program and Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars and Secondary School Educators. She joined the PAS staff for almost two years in 2007-2009 as a maternity leave replacement Exchanges coordinator, and returned to the job in the summer 2014. She lives in Helsinki with her guardian angel dog Suerte.



Did You Know?

Labor Day, September 1, 2014

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

The U.S. Embassy Helsinki is closed in observance of Labor Day but the ARC remains open. Welcome!

(Source: U.S. Department of Labor)

Coming Up: Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated on September 15 - October 15. This month recognizes the traditions and cultures of all Americans who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. *Más en la edición de septiembre* - or, more to come!



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