



Official Study Guide

2019-2020



WORLD
AFFAIRS
COUNCILS of
AMERICA

**2019-2020 Academic WorldQuest™
Introductory Packet and Official Study Guide**

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Welcome to the 2019-2020 Academic WorldQuest™!

This year, we host the 18th Annual Academic WorldQuest™, the flagship education program of the World Affairs Councils of America.

One of the greatest challenges facing our nation and our schools across the country is preparing our youth for the globally interconnected world of the 21st Century. America's ability to face economic and security challenges and seize new opportunities depends on an informed citizenry and a well-educated workforce. Academic WorldQuest™ is a unique, competitive educational program that exposes youth to the world outside our borders and prepares them for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century.

Founded in 2003, Academic WorldQuest™ is a team game testing high school students' knowledge of international affairs. In the game, four-person teams compete by answering questions divided into ten unique and engaging thematic categories. The winner is the team with the most correct answers.

Structure of Program

During the academic year preceding **The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2020 Academic WorldQuest National Competition** in the spring, over 4,000 students participate in local AWQ competitions hosted by some 50 World Affairs Councils across the United States.

This information packet includes the AWQ Study Guide, which provides detailed resources on each of 10 question categories to help students and teachers to prepare for the competition (with exception of the Current Events category). Questions for the competition are drawn from the resources in the AWQ Study Guide.

Winning teams are invited to represent their high school, city, and local World Affairs Council at The Carlos and Malú Alvarez Academic WorldQuest National Competition, held in the spring each year in our nation's capital, Washington, DC.

Common Core Standards

Academic WorldQuest™ contributes to the national Common Core State Standards Initiative by fostering reading comprehension skills for informational text.

To find a local competition in your area, contact the World Affairs Councils of America at 202-833-4557 or waca@worldaffairsCouncils.org.

Academic WorldQuest 2019-2020 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:

- 1. U.S.-Russia Relations**
- 2. Country in Focus: South Korea**
- 3. Preventing Extremism in Fragile States**
- 4. Oceans: The World's Garbage Dump**
- 5. Great Decisions**
- 6. Brexit and the EU**
- 7. China's Belt & Road Initiative**
- 8. Germany: 30 Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall**
- 9. Qatar and the Future of the Gulf Cooperation Council**
- 10. Current Events**

AWQ Study Guide

The Academic WorldQuest™ Study Guide (see page 8) has been prepared by the World Affairs Councils of America. Questions for all of the above categories, with the exception of Current Events, are drawn from the resources included in the AWQ Study Guide.

The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2020 Academic WorldQuest National Competition in Washington, D.C.

Event Details

The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2020 Academic WorldQuest National Competition honors the tremendous dedication and philanthropic support of WACA Board Member Carlos Alvarez and his wife Malú to our flagship program and the Academic WorldQuest Endowment Fund. (For information on making a gift to the AWQ Fund, please visit WACA's website: worldaffairsCouncils.org.) The national competition is attended by 200-250 of the nation's most promising high school students each year, along with their parents, teachers, and chaperones. The 4-hour AWQ competition is a unique opportunity for students to visit the nation's capital, perhaps for the first time.

Schedule (Subject to Change)

Friday, April 24

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Check-in and Registration at the **Washington Marriott Wardman Park**
2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, DC 20008

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Welcome Reception at TBA

Saturday, April 25

9:00am - 1:00pm

The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2020 Academic WorldQuest Competition
United States Institute of Peace

Hotel Block

WACA has arranged a special group hotel block for accommodations at:

The Washington Westin City Center

(1400 M Street NW, Washington DC 20005) Reservation link here:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1567544155232&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

You can also call the hotel to make reservations: 202-429-1700. Be sure to identify that you are booking under the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA)'s Academic WorldQuest group room block.

Qualifying for AWQ 2020 National Competition: Rules and

Regulations

All teams that compete in the Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2020 Academic WorldQuest National Competition must win a local AWQ competition sponsored by a Member Council of the World Affairs Councils of America.

Teams may compete in only one (1) local competition in order to qualify to compete in the National Competition.

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.

On the day of the event (Saturday, April 26, 2020), once The Carlos and Malú Alvarez Academic WorldQuest National Competition has officially started, no substitutions of Alternate Teammates may be made.

Teams of fewer than four students are allowed to compete, but this is strongly discouraged.

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.

How to Play

There are 10 rounds in the competition, each round having 10 questions. Teams will have 45 seconds to answer each question. **NOTE:** For the AWQ National Competition, all of the categories are multiple choice, except for the Current Events category and perhaps one other, at the discretion of WACA, which could feature fill-in-the-blank, true/false, or open-ended questions. For Local AWQ Competitions organized by Councils, you may use the multiple-choice format for the Current Events category.

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 100 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 audience, wireless devices, cell phones, other teams, books, or other written materials at any point during the competition. Any team found by World Affairs Councils of America judges, staff, or volunteers to be violating this rule will forfeit that round and a penalty of 20 points will automatically be deducted from that team's score.

If a team believes another team is cheating, a player may alert a World Affairs Councils of America representative.

However, if the other team is not found to be in violation of any rules, the accusing team will forfeit two (2) points. A team consists of four (4) players. Player substitutions are not allowed.

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

Parents, alternates, and other guests must remain in the reserved seating area, and "off the floor," at all times.

If a team wishes to challenge an answer, one (1) team member may bring the challenge calmly and politely to the judges within the time period allotted after answers are announced.

Teams are not allowed to discuss challenges with audience members. The decision of the head judge is final. If the challenge is unsuccessful, the team which brought it will forfeit one (1) point.

Academic WorldQuest 2019-2020 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 Current Events category, which will be drawn mostly from WACA's Weekly World News Update). This is a primary source that contains articles from a variety of media organizations worldwide. Current Events questions, however, can come from everywhere.

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

1. U.S.-Russia Relations

The international community has a vested interest in stabilizing the tumultuous relationship between the two great powers United States and Russia. Diplomatic relations have been on a downward trend for the almost two decades with a steep deterioration following Russian aggression towards Ukraine. The threat of Russian expansionism fuels international cooperation to bring Russia in-line with the democratic ideals governing the international system. This topic will cover the history of U.S.-Russia relations; what led to today's rocky ties; American and Russian roles in major sectors affecting security; the nature of U.S.-Russia economic relations and how trade and sanctions affect this partnership; Russia's effect on the global order and international cooperation to maintain stability; and the future of relations.

• Overview

- Watch “**Introduction**” (Video); explore “**Timeline**,” read summary and watch “**Nuclear Security: Overview**” section of “**Military & Cyber**,” read summary and watch “**Cyber & Information Warfare: Overview**” section of “**Military & Cyber**,” and watch “**Seeking Stability**” (Video) – Carnegie Corporation of New York
<https://usrussiarelations.org/1/introduction>

• Historical Context

- Read “**A Guide to the United States’ History of Recognition, Diplomatic, and Consular Relations, by Country, Since 1776: Russia**” – Office of the Historian; U.S. Department of State
<https://history.state.gov/countries/russia> (If there is a prompt for credentials, please click “Ok” without inputting anything, and it should lead you to the page.)
- Read “**U.S. Relations With Russia**” – U.S. Department of State
<https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-russia/>
- Read “**How the U.S.-Russian Relationship Went Bad**” William Burns – The Atlantic, April 2019
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/04/william-j-burns-putin-russia/583255/>
- Read “**U.S.-Russian Relations, 1989-2019: Self-Awareness and History**” Bruce Jackson – Hudson Institute, December 7, 2018
<https://www.hudson.org/research/14726-u-s-russian-relations-1989-2019-self-awareness-and-history>

• Economics and Trade

- Read “**Russia**” – Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
<https://ustr.gov/Russia>
- Read “**Doing Business in Russia**” – International Trade Administration
<https://2016.export.gov/russia/doingbusinessinrussia/index.asp>
- Read “**1-3.2. U.S.-Russia Economic Relations: Current State and Prospects**” pg. 4-26 – “**Russia-U.S. Economic Cooperation in Turbulent Times**” – Russian-American Business Council, March 2019
<http://media.rspp.ru/document/1/2/7/277d6337f2f960383183dce936b1f277.pdf>
- Read “**Have Sanctions on Russia Changed Putin’s Calculus?**” Andrew Chatzky – Council on Foreign Relations, May 2, 2019
<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/have-sanctions-russia-changed-putins-calculus>

• International Cooperation

- Read “**Managing Global Disorder: Prospects for U.S.-Russian Cooperation**” – Council on Foreign Relations, August 23, 2017
<https://www.cfr.org/report/managing-global-disorder-prospects-us-russian-cooperation>

- Read **“The U.S. and Russia Have Plenty of Areas for Cooperation. Let’s Get to Work.”** Debra Decker – Defense One, July 24, 2019
<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2018/07/us-and-russia-have-plenty-areas-cooperation-lets-get-work/149996/>
 - Read **“Introduction”** and **“Conclusion,”** sections, the rest is **Optional “Cold, Dark, and Dangerous: International Cooperation in the Arctic and Space”** Michael Byers – Polar Record, March 20, 2019
https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/EA8CD98F80BBFF8F14447F3613F6E06A/S0032247419000160a.pdf/cold_dark_and_dangerous_international_cooperation_in_the_arctic_and_space.pdf
 - **Recent Developments**
 - Read **“The Reset That Wasn’t: The Permanent Crisis of U.S.-Russia Relations”** Robert Hamilton – Foreign Policy Research Institute, December 14, 2018
<https://www.fpri.org/article/2018/12/the-reset-that-wasnt-the-permanent-crisis-of-u-s-russia-relations/>
 - Read **“Permanent Divergence - The Evolution of U.S.-Russia Relations in the Trump Era”** Nikolas Gvosdev – Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development
<https://www.cirsd.org/en/horizons/horizons-summer-2018-issue-no-12/permanent-divergence-the-evolution-of-us-russia-relations-in-the-trump-era>
 - Read the **“Democracy and Human Rights”** pg. 5 and **“Security Issues”** pg. 9-10 – **“U.S.-Russia Relations: Reaching the Point of No Return”** – European Parliament
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/628230/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)628230_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/628230/EPRS_BRI(2018)628230_EN.pdf)
 - Read **“Introduction”** pg. 1-4, **“Summary”** pg. 30-40, and **“Conclusion”** pg. 41 – **“Thirty Years of U.S. Policy Toward Russia: Can the Vicious Circle Be Broken?”** Eugene Rumer and Richard Sokolsky – Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, June 20, 2019
https://carnegieendowment.org/files/RumerSokolsky_USRussia_final_web.pdf
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2. Country in Focus: South Korea

Following an intense period of aggression and animosity on the Korea Peninsula, the Korea War represented a pivotal moment for the development of South Korea, or Republic of Korea. Following the war, the Republic of Korea experienced a steep increase in its economy and moved away from authoritarian rule. Although tension and ideological polarization remains on the peninsula, South Korea is now a major player on the world stage. South Korea is one of the world's largest economies and most advanced democracies. This topic will focus on the history that shaped today's South Korea; an overview of U.S.-South Korea relations; the partnerships that categorized Korean diplomacy and foreign policy; the biggest regional conflicts that threaten the country today; and the Hallyu cultural phenomenon.

• Overview & History

- Read **"Economy," "Cultural Life," and "History"** sections of **"South Korea"** – Chan Lee; Hyug-Baeglm; Young Ick Lew; Woo-ik Yu; Bae-ho Hahn, Encyclopedia Britannica, October 3, 2019
<https://www.britannica.com/place/South-Korea>
- Read **"Korean History and Political Geography"** – Asia Society
<https://asiasociety.org/education/korean-history-and-political-geography>
- Read **"Korea Infographics"** – Korea Economic Institute of America
<http://www.keia.org/page/korea-infographics>
- **Optional** (but whole video is highly recommended): **"South Korea: The Silent Cultural Superpower"** (Video) – BBC Documentary on YouTube, December 11, 2016
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dGYVKt1zw4>
- Read **"Peace, A New Start; The 'Panmunjeom Declaration'"** section of the **"Inter-Korean Relations"** page, the **"South Korea – Summary"** section of the **"Korean Life"** page, and the **"Historical Heritage of Seoul"** and **"Recreation in Nature"** sections of the **"Tourism"** page on **"About Korea"** – Korea.net <http://www.korea.net/#>
- Take the **"How Much Do You Know About South Korea"** quiz – Michael Gonchar, New York Times, February 5, 2018
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/02/05/learning/05SouthKoreaGeographyQuizLN.html>

• History of U.S.-South Korea Relations

- Read **"U.S. Relations With the Republic of Korea"** – U.S. Department of State
<https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-the-republic-of-korea/>
- Read **"South Korea: Background and U.S. Relations"** – Congressional Research Service, August 1, 2019
<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/IF10165.pdf>
- Read **"Timeline of U.S.-South Korean Relations"** – Christopher Connell, Share America, April 12, 2019
<https://share.america.gov/timeline-u-s-south-korean-relations/>
- Read **"U.S. Enters the Korean Conflict"** – Social Education, U.S. National Archives
<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/korean-conflict>

• Partners in Foreign Affairs

- Read **"South Korea Is a Hesitant, but Friendly, U.S. Ally in the Indo-Pacific"** – Cheol Hee Park, Council on Foreign Relations, March 26, 2019
<https://www.cfr.org/blog/south-korea-hesitant-friendly-us-ally-indo-pacific>

- Read section **“South Korea’s Regional Relations”** through **“South Korea-China Relations”** from **“U.S.-South Korea Relations”** – Congressional Research Service Report
https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R41481.html#_Toc490059914
 - Read **“The U.S.-ROK Alliance and Policy Coordination Toward China”** – Scott Snyder, Council on Foreign Relations, March 19, 2019
<https://www.cfr.org/blog/us-rok-alliance-and-policy-coordination-toward-china>
 - **Regional Conflicts**
 - Read **“Japan and South Korea Can’t Get Along: Why America Needs to Help Its Allies Mend Fences”** – Celeste Arrington and Andrew Yeo, Foreign Affairs, July 31, 2019
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/japan/2019-07-31/japan-and-south-korea-cant-get-along>
 - Read **“Collateral Damage: What U.S.-China Competition Means for Korea”** – Victor Cha, Center for Strategic and International Studies, October 10, 2019
<https://www.csis.org/analysis/collateral-damage-what-us-china-competition-means-korea>
 - **Optional:** Listen to **“China-South Korea Relations Under Moon: A Conversation With John Delury”** – Bonnie Glaser, Center for Strategic and International Studies
<https://www.csis.org/podcasts/chinapower/china-south-korea-relations-under-moon-conversation-john-delury>
 - **Hallyu - The Korean Wave**
 - Read **“Hallyu (Korean Wave)”** – Korea.net
<http://www.korea.net/AboutKorea/Culture-and-the-Arts/Hallyu>
 - Watch **“South Korea: The Silent Cultural Superpower”** (Video) minutes 29:00-33:18 – BBC Documentary on YouTube, December 11, 2016
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dGYVkt1zw4>
 - Read **“The South Korean Government Actually Has a Department Dedicated to K-Pop”** – Emma Kelly, Metro, January 19, 2018
<https://metro.co.uk/2018/01/19/south-korean-government-actually-department-dedicated-k-pop-7242799/?ito=cbshare>
 - Read **“How Big Is K-Pop’s American Moment?”** – David Deal, Festival Peak, April 20, 2019
<https://festivalpeak.com/how-big-is-k-pops-american-moment-ec1ddde7a906>
 - Read **“How K-Pop Conquered the West”** – Amy Wang, Rolling Stone, August 21, 2018
<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/bts-kpop-albums-bands-global-takeover-707139/>
 - Read **“14 Most Important Moments That Made K-Pop History”** – Koreaboo, March 22, 2019
<https://www.koreaboo.com/lists/top-iconic-historic-important-moments-kpop-history/>
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3. Preventing Extremism in Fragile States

Extremism is something that appears in the news more and more these days. Around the world, extremist movements—such as ISIS, Boko Haram, and al-Shabab—fuel, and often stem from, instability and violent conflict and present a complex challenge to communities and countries, and to U.S. national security.

*Increasingly, efforts to address the underlying causes of violent extremism focus on ways to **transform fragility into resilience** – looking at how extremism can take root when the compact between society and the state has broken down, and at opportunities to empower fragile states to resist the threat of extremism. This strategy of prevention seeks to get ahead of future threats, break the cycle of crisis response, and help make peace possible even in the most difficult contexts.*

The resources included here, curated by the category’s sponsor, the United States Institute of Peace, provide a snapshot of the current approaches to address the threat of extremism in fragile states; introduce some tools used to bridge divides and prevent violence in conflict zones; and highlight examples of people, organizations, and communities that are making peace possible. Learn more at www.usip.org.

- **Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States**

- Read “**Preventing Extremism in Fragile States**” pg. 3-25 – Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States, United States Institute of Peace, February 2019
<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/preventing-extremism-in-fragile-states-a-new-approach.pdf>
- Read “**Preventing Extremism in Fragile States: A New Approach**” – Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States, United States Institute of Peace, February 2019
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2019/02/three-recommendations-new-approach-preventing-extremism-fragile-states>
- Read “**The Complex Threat of Extremism – And a Pathway to Quashing It for Good**” – Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States, United States Institute of Peace, February 2019
<https://www.usip.org/blog/2019/02/complex-threat-extremism-and-pathway-quashing-it-good>
- Read “**Why Security Sector Governance Matters in Fragile States**” – Nathaniel Allen and Rachel Kleinfeld, United States Institute of Peace, June 2019
<https://www.usip.org/index.php/publications/2019/06/why-security-sector-governance-matters-fragile-states>
- Read “**How Civil Society Can Help Prevent Violence and Extremism**” – Leanne Erdberg and Bridget Moix, United States Institute of Peace, June 2019
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2019/06/how-civil-society-can-help-prevent-violence-and-extremism>
- Watch “**Briefly With Nancy Lindborg**” (Video) – USIP Staff, April 22, 2019
<https://youtu.be/EfqzUTs64gQ>
- Read “**18 Years After 9/11: Terrorism Needs to Be Prevented at the Source**” – Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton, USA Today, September 10, 2019
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2019/09/10/18-years-after-9-11-terrorism-needs-be-prevented-source-column/2202619001/>

- **USIP Resources**

- Read “**Reflecting on 9/11: It Is Time for a Policy of Prevention**” – Nancy Lindborg, Olive Branch Blog, September 2019
<https://www.usip.org/blog/2019/09/reflecting-911-its-time-policy-prevention>
- Read “**Injecting Humanity: Community-Focused Responses for People Exiting Violent Extremist Conflict**” – Chris Bosley, August 2019
https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/20190822-sr_452-sr.pdf
- Read “**Introduction**” section of “**Violent Extremism and Community Policing in Tanzania**” – Lillian Dang, United States Institute of Peace, March 2019
https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2019-03/violent-extremism-and-community-policing-in-tanzania-sr_442.pdf
- Read “**Nigeria’s Worst Violence is Not Boko Haram**” – Ena Dion and Isioma Kemakolam, United States Institute of Peace, November 2018
<https://www.usip.org/index.php/publications/2018/11/nigerias-worst-violence-not-boko-haram>
- Read “**To Defeat Terrorism, Use ‘People Power’**” – Maria Stephan and Leanne Erdberg, United States Institute of Peace, March 2018
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/03/defeat-terrorism-use-people-power>

- **Other Resources**

- Read “**Global Peace Index 2019**” pg. 2-12 – Institute for Economics and Peace, 2019
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GPI-2019-web003.pdf>
 - Read “**Global Peace Index 2019 Briefing**” – Institute for Economics and Peace
<http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2019/06/GPI-2019-Briefingweb-2.pdf>
 - Read “**Analysis on Yemen, Nicaragua, Arab Spring, Somalia, and Ethiopia**” pg. 17-26 – “Understanding the Fragile State Index and Indicators” pg. 33-41 – “**Fragile States Index**” – The Fund for Peace, 2019
<https://fundforpeace.org/2019/04/10/fragile-states-index-2019/>
 - Read “**Global Terrorism Index 2018**” pg. 65-75 – Vision of Humanity, 2018
<http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2018/12/Global-Terrorism-Index-2018-1.pdf>
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4. Oceans: The World's Garbage Dump

Climate change is an increasingly contentious and unavoidable issue impacting the international community. Environmental protection is a shared responsibility requiring high levels of international cooperation and agreement. Marine pollution is a major threat against environmental stability. Chemicals, industrial and agricultural waste, domestic garbage, air debris, and other toxic materials are dumped into oceans at an alarming rate harming thousands of species of marine life and endangering entire ecosystems. This topic will explore the many facets of marine pollution; the sources and types of ocean garbage and their negative impact; why marine pollution is a major international threat and what can be done to combat it; and the future of the environment if marine pollution continues at the current rate.

- **Overview**

- Read **“Dimensions of Pollution: Marine”** – UN Environment Assembly
<https://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/marine>
- Read **“Trash Pollution”** – Ocean Health Index
<http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/methodology/components/trash-pollution>
- Read **“What Is Marine Debris?”** – Debris Free Oceans
<https://debrisfreeoceans.org/marine-debris>
- Read **“Ocean Trash Plaguing Our Sea”** – Maggy Hunter Benson, Smithsonian, May 31, 2015
<https://ocean.si.edu/planet-ocean/tides-currents/ocean-trash-plaguing-our-sea>
- Read **“Learn About Ocean Dumping”** – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/learn-about-ocean-dumping#MPRSA>

- **Sources of Ocean Garbage**

- Read **“Where Did the Trash in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch Come From? How Do We Stop It?”** – Doyle Rice, USA Today, September 7, 2018
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/science/2018/09/07/great-pacific-garbage-patch-where-did-all-trash-come/1133838002/>
- Read **“90% of Plastic Polluting Our Oceans Comes From Just 10 Rivers”** – Alex Gray, World Economic Forum, June 8, 2018
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/06/90-of-plastic-polluting-our-oceans-comes-from-just-10-rivers/>
- Read **“Here’s Where the Ocean’s Trash Comes From”** – Catherine Zuckerman, National Geographic, July 3, 2019
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/news/heres-where-oceans-trash-comes/>

- **Types of Ocean Garbage**

- Explore **“Plastic in the Ocean Facts”** – The World Counts
https://www.theworldcounts.com/counters/waste_pollution_facts/plastic_in_the_ocean_facts
- Read **“Top 10 Trash Items Found Littering Our Beaches and Waterways – and the Weirdest”** – David Carrig, USA Today, June 27, 2018
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/06/27/ocean-beach-pollution-plastic-trash/738173002/>
- Read **“Oil Pollution of Marine Habitats”** all 3 pages – World Ocean Review, 2010
<https://worldoceanreview.com/en/wor-1/pollution/oil/>

- **How to Combat This Problem & Looking Ahead**
 - Read “**Plastic Pollution in The Ocean Set to Triple by 2025**” – Tom Hale, Iflscience, March 21, 2018
<https://www.iflscience.com/environment/plastic-pollution-in-the-ocean-set-to-triple-by-2025/>
 - Read “**Garbage Patches: How Gyres Take Our Trash Out to Sea**” – National Ocean Service
<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/podcast/mar18/nop14-ocean-garbage-patches.html>
 - Watch “**The Ocean Cleanup Launches to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch**” (Video) – CNET on YouTube, September 10, 2018
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYC4Q-0wcAc>
 - Read “**‘Great Pacific Garbage Patch’ Clean-Up Project Launches Trial Run: UN Environment**” – UN News, September 10, 2018
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/09/1018862>
 - Read “**UN Clinches Deal to Stop Plastic Waste Ending Up in the Sea**” – Tom Miles, Reuters, May 10, 2019
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-environment-plastic/u-n-clinches-deal-to-stop-plastic-waste-ending-up-in-the-sea-idUSKCN1SG19S>
 - Read “**The Future of Our Plastic Oceans**” – Steve Roman, Wartsila, August 7, 2018
<https://www.wartsila.com/twentyfour7/environment/the-future-of-our-plastic-oceans>
 - Read “**Where Mismanaged Plastic Waste Is Generated and Possible Paths of Change**” – Laurent Lebreton, The Ocean Clean Up, January 28, 2019
<https://theoceancleanup.com/updates/where-mismanaged-plastic-waste-is-generated-and-possible-paths-of-change/>
 - **Optional:** Read “**A Grand Plan to Clean the Great Pacific Garbage Patch Carolyn**” – Carolyn Kormann, New Yorker, January 28, 2019
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/02/04/a-grand-plan-to-clean-the-great-pacific-garbage-patch>
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5. Great Decisions

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

- ***Refugees and Global Migration***
- ***The Middle East: Regional Disorder***
- ***Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?***
- ***The Rise of Populism in Europe***
- ***Decoding U.S.-China Trade***
- ***Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics***
- ***United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested***
- ***State of the State Department and Diplomacy***

The Great Decisions 2019 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 the online resources outlined below. The Briefing Book will be made available through the World Affairs Councils of America to the member Councils. Please study the following online information for both the local and national competition:

Foreign Policy Association https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_topics

(For 2019 topics, please choose "Past Topics" at the bottom of the page and select "2019")

- Under each topic's page, read the Glossary and all available updates
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6. Brexit and the EU

Brexit (Britain's exit) is the scheduled withdrawal of the UK from the European Union following a June 2016 referendum. In March 2017, the UK government began the exit process, which was scheduled to end on March 29, 2019. Without the UK parliament consistently voting against the withdrawal agreement, the deadline has been extended twice with a current deadline of October 31, 2019. Brexit is a complex and heated issue dividing the British population on how closely the UK will be entangled with the EU – influencing some to push for a no-deal Brexit. This topic explores the events that lead the UK to Brexit; the developments since the 2016 referendum; the various efforts of multiple Prime Ministers to work with UK Parliament; the Irish role in the conversation; and the economic impact of Brexit on the U.S. and EU.

• Overview & Background

- Read **"The History Behind Brexit"** – Sarah Pruitt, History.com, June 20, 2019
<https://www.history.com/news/the-history-behind-brexit>
- Read **"The Roots of Brexit"** – Bloomberg, March 20, 2019
<https://www.bloomberg.com/quicktake/will-uk-leave-eu>
- Download and read the full report on **"Brexit Timeline: Events Leading to the UK's Exit from the European Union"** – Nigel Walker, House of Commons Library, September 25, 2019
<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7960>
- Read **"Brexit: Why Britain Left the EU, Explained With a Simple Cartoon"** – Alvin Chang, VOX, June 24, 2016
<https://www.vox.com/2016/6/24/12025514/brexit-cartoon>
- Read **"Brexit: All You Need to Know About the UK Leaving the EU"** – BBC, September 16, 2019
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887>
- Read **"Brexit"** – Will Kenton, Investopedia, October 2, 2019
<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/brexit.asp#uk-eu-trade-after-brexit>

• The UK Prime Minister and Brexit

- Read **"Brexit Failure Forces British Prime Minister Theresa May to Announce Resignation"** – Eliza Mackintosh and Tara John, CNN, May 24, 2019
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/24/europe/theresa-may-resigns-brexit-gbr-intl/index.html>
- Read **"Boris Johnson Suffers Two Major Losses in Parliament, Leaving His Governing Authority and the Terms of Brexit in Doubt"** – Kevin Sullivan and Karla Adam, The Washington Post, September 4, 2019
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/uk-parliament-brexit-vote/2019/09/04/cc934b1c-cb6d-11e9-9615-8f1a32962e04_story.html
- Read **"The UK Parliament Just Voted to Delay Brexit – For the Third Time"** – Adam Rasmi and Max de Haldevang, Quartz, September 4, 2019
<https://qz.com/1701770/the-uk-parliament-just-voted-to-delay-brexit-for-third-time/>
- Watch **"David Cameron Finally Breaks His Silence on Brexit Referendum"** (Video) – BBC, September 24, 2019
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJb-4mlAKas>

• Impact of Brexit

- View **"The Economics of Brexit: A Lose-Lose Proposition?"** infographic – Ana Sofia Oliveira Goncalves, GED Bertelsmann Stiftung, December 8, 2015
<https://ged-project.de/videos/international-trade/european-trade/infographic-on-the-economics-of-brexit-a-lose-lose-proposition/?cn-reloaded=1>

- View “**Making Sense of the Issues**” infographic – NHS Confederation EU, February 3, 2017
<https://www.nhsconfed.org/-/media/Confederation/Files/EU-Office/Making-sense-of-the-issues-infographic.pdf>

 - **Irish Backstop**
 - Read “**What Is the Brexit Backstop and Why Is It Important?**” – Heather Conley and Donatienne Ruy, Center for Strategic and International Studies, August 22, 2019
https://www.csis.org/analysis/what-brexit-backstop-and-why-it-important?gclid=EAlaIqObChMIj8TSjOr95AIVx5-zCh17iwvrEAAyAAEgLVYfD_BwE
 - **Optional:** Read “**Brexit’s Irish Border Problem, Explained**” – Jen Kirbyjen, VOX, February 18, 2019
<https://www.vox.com/world/2019/2/18/18204269/brexit-irish-border-backstop-explained>

 - **No-Deal Brexit**
 - Read “**What Is Brexit? What Does ‘No-Deal’ Mean?**” – Benjamin Mueller, New York Times September 8, 2019
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/world/europe/what-is-brexit.html>
 - Read “**What Is a ‘No-Deal Brexit’?**” – BBC, September 13, 2019
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48511379>

 - **How Does Brexit Affect the U.S.?**
 - Read “**5 Reasons Americans Ought to Care About Brexit**” – Taylor Rockhill, PRI, January 21, 2019
<https://www.pri.org/stories/2019-01-21/5-reasons-americans-ought-care-about-brexit>
 - Watch “**How Does Brexit Affect the United States? – Explaining Brexit**” (Video) – TLDR News on YouTube, November 28, 2018
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2rKpHH4LZM>
 - Read “**Why Brexit Really Is a Big Deal for the U.S. Economy**” – Rana Foroohar, TIME, June 27, 2016
<https://time.com/4383202/brexit-america-fallout-economy-fed/>
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7. China's Belt & Road Initiative

The Belt and Road Initiative is a Chinese global infrastructure and investment development strategy introduced by President Xi Jinping in 2013. With routes in the Silk Road, the Belt refers to the aboveground economic road and rail transportation routes, and the Road refers to the maritime economic routes. This topic covers the background behind the initiative and the historical, cultural ties to the Chinese Silk Road; the effects on the U.S., the EU, and the global marketplace; the regional impact on large Eastern powers and smaller Pacific nations; and the environmental implications of the construction and operation of these economic routes.

• Overview & Background

- Read “**What Is China's Belt and Road Initiative?**” – Lily Kuo and Niko Kommenda, The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/ng-interactive/2018/jul/30/what-china-belt-road-initiative-silk-road-explainer>
- Read “**The New Silk Road – The Belt and Road Initiative**” – China Highlights, January 23, 2019 <https://www.chinahighlights.com/silkroad/new-silk-road.htm>
- Read “**China's Maritime Silk Road Initiative: Economic Drivers and Challenges**” – Matthew Funaiolo and Jonathan Hillman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 2, 2018 https://www.csis.org/analysis/chinas-maritime-silk-road-initiative-economic-drivers-and-challenges?gclid=EAlaIqobChMIjbXck9OA5QIV8IFaBR0sCQ6vEAAyAAEgLyJvD_BwE

• U.S. and the Belt & Road

- Read “**Belt & Road Full of Opportunities for U.S. Companies in Third Markets**” – Belt & Road News, April 25, 2019 <https://www.beltandroad.news/2019/04/25/belt-road-full-of-opportunities-for-u-s-companies-in-third-markets/>
- Read “**United States Under Donald Trump Is Veering Away from China's Belt & Road**” Nectar Gan and Robert Delaney, South China Morning Post, April 25, 2019 <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/3007504/united-states-under-trump-veering-away-chinas-belt-and-road>

• India and the Belt & Road

- Read “**China's Belt and Road Fuels India's Fears of Encirclement**” – Stratfor, April 19, 2019 <https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/chinas-belt-and-road-fuels-indias-fears-encirclement-cpec-saarc-bri>
- Watch “**Manish Tewari, Foreign Policy Spokesman for the Indian Congress Party, on China's Intentions With the BRI**” (Video) – International Politics and Society <https://www.ips-journal.eu/videos/show/article/show/indias-perspective-on-chinas-belt-and-road-initiative-3103/>
- Read “**What Are India's Stakes in China's Belt and Road Plan**” – Bruno Maçães, Quartz India, February 11, 2019 <https://qz.com/india/1547154/what-are-indias-stakes-in-chinas-belt-and-road-plan/>

• Pacific Island Nations

- Read “**China's Belt and Road Initiative in the Pacific Islands**” – Chris Devonshire-Ellis, Silk Road Briefing, May 23, 2019 <https://www.silkroadbriefing.com/news/2019/05/23/chinas-belt-road-initiative-pacific-islands/>
- Explore “**Chinese Aid in the Pacific**” – Lowy Institute for International Policy <https://chineseaidmap.lowyinstitute.org/>

- **Europe and the Belt and Road**
 - Read “**European Pragmatism at the Belt and Road Forum**” – Erik Brattberg, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, April 30, 2019
<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/04/30/european-pragmatism-at-belt-and-road-forum-pub-79037>
 - Read “**China’s Belt and Road Gets a Win in Italy**” – Andrew Chatzky, Council on Foreign Relations, March 27, 2019
<https://www.cfr.org/article/chinas-belt-and-road-gets-win-italy>
 - Read “**The Western Balkans With Chinese Characteristics**” – Heather Conley; Jonathan Hillman; Mathew Melino, Center for Strategic and International Studies, July 30, 2019
<https://www.csis.org/analysis/western-balkans-chinese-characteristics>

 - **The Green Belt and Road**
 - Listen to “**China’s One Belt, One Road Plan Carries Environmental Risks**” (Soundcloud) – Duke University, May 10, 2019
<https://www.futurity.org/one-belt-one-road-china-environmental-impact-2058742/>
 - Read “**Is a Green Belt and Road Feasible? How to Mitigate the Environmental Risk of BRI Infrastructure Project**” – World Bank Blogs, January 29, 2019
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/trade/green-belt-and-road-feasible-how-mitigate-environmental-risk-bri-infrastructure-project>

 - **Debt Trap Diplomacy**
 - Read “**It’s a (Debt) Trap! Managing China-IMF Cooperation Across the Belt and Road**” – Dylan Gerstel, Center for Strategic and International Studies
https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/181017_DebtTrap.pdf?MKq76IYIBpiOgyPZ9EyK2VUD7on_2rIV
 - Read “**Unequal Sequel: China’s Belt and Road Initiative**” – Felix Chang, Foreign Policy Research Institute, August 6, 2019
<https://www.fpri.org/article/2019/08/unequal-sequel-chinas-belt-and-road-initiative/>
 - Read “**Examining the Debt Implications of the Belt and Road Initiative from a Policy Perspective**” pg. 16-25 – Center for Global Development
<https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/examining-debt-implications-belt-and-road-initiative-policy-perspective.pdf>
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8. Germany: 30 Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall

The Berlin wall physically and ideologically divided East and West Germany for over 20 years at the heart of the Cold War. Years of oppression, turmoil, and struggle culminated in a series of revolutions in and around East Germany resulting in the fall of the wall in 1989. Thirty years later, Germany has risen to a major political, economic, and democratic force in the EU and the world, taking the lead on many international issues. This topic explores the historical progression of Germany during the Cold War; evolving narrative of the Berlin Wall in Germany and how it affects national identity; the rise of the Right and the shifting domestic ideologies; Germany's transatlantic relations; German leadership in the EU; and the German role in the global refugee crisis.

• Historical Timeline

- Explore the “**Germany 1945-1990**” photo series – The Federal Republic of Germany, November 7, 2014
<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/europe/germany-1945-1990-414054>
- Read “**From Shame to Pride: The Fall of the Berlin Wall**” – The Wilson Quarterly, Fall 2014
<https://wilsonquarterly.com/quarterly/summer-2014-1989-and-the-making-of-our-modern-world/from-shame-pride-fall-berlin-wall-through-german-eyes/>

• Culture & Society

- Read the “**Cultural Milieu**” and “**Daily Life and Social Customs**” sections of “**Germany**” – Encyclopedia Britannica
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Cultural-life>
- Read “**The Triumph of German Democracy**” – The Atlantic, May 8, 2019
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/05/its-70th-anniversary-germany-democracy-alive/588955/>
- Read “**How United Is Germany 28 Years After the Berlin Wall’s Fall?**” – The Local, November 9, 2017
<https://www.thelocal.de/20171109/how-united-is-germany-28-years-after-the-berlin-walls-fall>
- Read “**The German Culture**” – Expatrio, June 24, 2019
<https://www.expatrio.com/living-germany/german-culture>

• Germany and the Refugee Crisis

- Explore “**The Flow Towards Europe**” – Ville Saarinen and Juho Ojala, Lucify, November 12, 2018
<https://www.lucify.com/the-flow-towards-europe/>
- Read “**Germany’s Triple Asylum Roulette**” – Gerald Schneider, German Marshall Fund, March 1, 2019
<http://www.gmfus.org/blog/2019/03/01/germanys-triple-asylum-roulette>

• Germany & Foreign Affairs

- Read “**Germany and Europe**” – The Federal Government of Germany
<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/europe/germany-and-europe-228936>
- Read “**Ten Facts About Germany in Europe**” – Deutschland, September 5, 2018
<https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/germanys-role-in-the-eu-ten-facts-and-figures>
- Read “**Germany Has Powered Europe’s Economy. What Happens When Its Engine Stalls?**” – Jack Ewing, New York Times, August 16, 2019
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/16/business/eu-economy-germany-recession.html>
- Read “**German-U.S. Ties Are Breaking Down**” – Matthias Gebauer; Christine Hoffmann; René Pfister; Gerald Traufetter, Spiegel Online, August 21, 2019

<https://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/inside-the-breakdown-of-ties-between-germany-and-the-u-s-a-1282295.html>

- Read “**Germany and the Crisis of Atlanticism**” – Josef Janning, European Council on Foreign Relations, June 11, 2019

https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_germany_and_the_crisis_of_atlanticism

- **Shifting Ideologies**

- Read “**Europe: The Psychological Gap Between East and West**” – Koert Debeuf, Carnegie Europe, November 6, 2018

<https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/77648>

- Read “**The Changing Political Party Landscape in Germany**” – Andreas Kluth, American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, May 9, 2019

<https://www.aicgs.org/2019/05/the-changing-political-party-landscape-in-germany/>

- Read “**Berlin’s Neglects East-Central-Europe at Its Own Peril**” – Daniel Hegedüs, German Marshall Fund, July 10, 2019

<http://www.gmfus.org/blog/2019/07/10/berlins-neglects-east-central-europe-its-own-peril>

- **The Rise of the Right**

- Read “**Decades Under the Influence: How Europe’s Parties Have Been Shifting Right**” – Markus Wagner and Thomas Meyer, Foreign Affairs, April 4, 2018

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/western-europe/2018-04-04/decades-under-influence>

- Watch “**The AfD: The Rise to Power of Germany’s Far-Right**” (Video) – Euronews on YouTube, September 22, 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70K1bw0k8V0>

- Read the “**Right-Wing Populism in Germany: Muslims and Minorities After the 2015 Refugee Crisis**” – Jeffrey Gedmin, Brookings Institution, July 24, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/right-wing-populism-in-germany-muslims-and-minorities-after-the-2015-refugee-crisis/#rise>

9. Qatar and the Future of the Gulf Cooperation Council

The Gulf Cooperation Council is an intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of six Arab states on the Persian Gulf. The GCC promotes economics, security, cultural, and social cooperation in regional affairs. Recent tensions between Qatar and the other GCC members has put the future direction of the Council into question. This topic discusses the history, structure, and purpose of the Gulf Cooperation Council; how the Qatar embargo is affecting economic relations and the future of economic policies; and how the Gulf crisis is shaping the future of the GCC.

• History & Overview

- Read “What Is the GCC?” – Al Jazeera, December 4, 2017
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/12/gcc-171204094537378.html>
- Read “Member States,” “The Charter,” “Organizational Structure,” and “Objectives” sections of “About GCC” – Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, 2019
<https://www.gcc-sg.org/en-us/Pages/default.aspx>
- Read “Gulf Cooperation Council” – Adam Zeidan, Britannica, June 15, 2019
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Gulf-Cooperation-Council>

• Economics

- Read “Gulf Cooperation Council Home – Overview” – The World Bank, September 1, 2018
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/gcc/overview>
- Read “World Bank Gulf Economic Monitor” – The World Bank, April 29, 2019
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/gcc/publication/gulf-economic-monitor>
- Read “The Monetary Union and the Single Currency – Concept and Outset,” “The Monetary Union and the Single Currency – Requirements,” “Future Steps for Fulfillment of Economic Nationality,” “Cooperation in Trade – Objectives,” and “Cooperation in Trade – Achievements” sections of “Economic Cooperation” – Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, 2019
<https://www.gcc-sg.org/en-us/CooperationAndAchievements/Achievements/EconomicCooperation/Pages/main.aspx>
- **Optional:** Read & Watch “Economic Diversification in the GCC: Past Lessons and New Challenges” (Video) in its entirety – Brookings Institution, September 10, 2018
<https://www.brookings.edu/events/economic-diversification-in-the-gcc-prospects-and-challenges/>

• GCC Qatar Embargo and the Gulf Crisis

- Read “Qatar Spokesperson: Blockade an ‘Existential Threat’ to GCC” – Al-Monitor, September 28, 2019
<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/09/interview-united-nations-lolwah-al-khater-qatar-gulf.html>
- Read “Qatar Blockade: Five Things to Know About the Gulf Crisis” – Al Jazeera, June 5, 2019
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/qatar-blockade-gulf-crisis-190604220901644.html>
- Read “Measures of Stalemate in the GCC Crisis” pg. 13 -19, “A Difficult Position: U.S. Mediation in the Gulf Dispute” pg. 31-38, “Missed Opportunities and Failed Integration in the GCC” pg. 49-56, and “The International Implications of the GCC Stalemate” pg. 109-115 – “The GCC Crisis at One Year” – Imad Harb; Charles Dunne; Kristian Coates Ulrichsen; Abdullah Baabood, Arab Center Washington DC, 2018
<http://arabcenterdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/The-GCC-Crisis-at-One-Year.pdf>
- Watch “The Role of Media in the GCC Crisis: Hacking, Free Press, and Their Implications” – Arab Center Washington DC, July 19, 2017

- <http://arabcenterdc.org/events/gcc-crisis-targeting-media/>
- Read **“Shaping Effective Strategic Partnerships in the MENA Region”** – Anthony Cordesman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 9, 2019
<https://www.csis.org/analysis/shaping-effective-strategic-partnerships-mena-region>
 - Read **“Gulf Security: Looking Beyond the Gulf Cooperation Council”** – Anthony Cordesman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, December 12, 2017
https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/171213_GCC.pdf?hm10rj5lnKMJtrpQ_yY_GJr8lmubYoxk
 - Read **“GCC Countries Miss Chance to Grant Women Full Citizenship Rights”** – Sebastian Castelier, Al-Monitor, September 21, 2019
<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/09/gcc-missed-opportunity-women-pass-citizenship-qatar.html>
 - Read **“Is Time Running Out for the Gulf Cooperation Council?”** – Dominic Dudley, Forbes, July 25, 2019
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dominicdudley/2018/07/25/is-time-running-out-for-the-gulf-cooperation-council/#1130a4d856b8>
 - Read **“What Will 2019 Have in Store for Dysfunctional GCC?”** – Giorgio Cafiero, Al-Monitor, December 13, 2018
<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/12/gcc-gulf-saudi-arabia-summit-qatar-egypt.html>
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