



# **ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST™ 2021-2022**

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**STUDY GUIDE**

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# ABOUT US

The [World Affairs Councils of America](#) is an independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to engaging the public and leading global voices to better understand the world, America's international role, and the policy choices that impact our daily lives and our future.

Established in 1986 as a nonprofit membership organization in Washington, DC, the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) carries out its mission by:

- **Supporting more than 90 World Affairs Councils across the United States** and promoting their programs and educational initiatives for diverse, multi-generational audiences. We bring the world to classrooms, C-suites, and conferences in the nation's capital and town hall-style forums in your community.
- **Developing Councils' convening power nationwide** by providing face-to-face connections and dialogue with global leaders, business executives, policy experts, social innovators, and distinguished opinion makers.
- **Exploring new ideas in dozens of dynamic Council events each week** that shape public discourse on a range of critical issues, including: national security; the economy and international trade; global health; energy and the environment; immigration; human rights; education; and culture.
- **Challenging the next generation to develop leadership skills and global acumen** so that our communities can better compete, collaborate, and make informed decisions.
- **Partnering with organizations** that seek to reach out to "grassroots" and "grasstops" citizens, disseminate research, mutually expand networks, and transform how people, enterprises, and governments think about the world.
- **Expanding informed, respectful public discourse about international relations and current events** through WACA conference calls, podcasts, information services, and social media. We are digitally accessible from anywhere in the world.

The World Affairs Councils of America takes no institutional positions on matters of policy. Any opinions expressed in the resources are the views of the authors.

# ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST™



## INTRODUCTION

This year, we host the 20th Annual Academic WorldQuest™ (AWQ), 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 2021 Academic WorldQuest™ National Competition in the spring, 4,000 to 5,000 students participated 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. Three 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 – with last year's 2021 Competition held virtually.

## 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, look on the [World Affairs Councils of America website](#) to locate your local World Affairs Council.

# ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST™



## AWQ 2021-2022 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. Where Climate and Migration Meet
2. Afghanistan: End of the 20-Year U.S.-Led Intervention
3. Human-Centered Agenda to the Future of Work
4. CDC and the Global Health Agenda
5. Technology and Democracy: Threat or Promise
6. Great Decisions
7. 21st Century Money: Dollars to Digital Currencies
8. Working for Peace through Legacies of War: The Case of Vietnam
9. Insecurity in China's Neighborhood
10. Current Events

## STUDY GUIDE OVERVIEW

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

## EVENT DETAILS

The Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2022 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: [www.worldaffairscouncils.org/Support](http://www.worldaffairscouncils.org/Support).)

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.

# ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST™



## QUALIFYING FOR AWQ 2021-2022 NATIONAL COMPETITION: RULES AND REGULATIONS

All teams that compete in the Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2022 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 of fewer than four students are allowed to compete, but this is strongly discouraged.

### HOW TO PLAY

There are 10 rounds in the competition, each round having 10 questions. Teams will have 45 seconds at the local competition and 30 seconds at the National Competition to answer each question. NOTE: For the AWQ National Competition, all of the categories are multiple choice. 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

A team consists of four (4) players. Player substitutions are not allowed.

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 be automatically disqualified and ejected from the Competition. 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.

# ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST™



## 2021-2022 STUDY GUIDE

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



# WHERE CLIMATE & MIGRATION MEET



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

## SOURCES

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



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## Region Specific Analysis

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

# AFGHANISTAN: END OF THE 20-YEAR U.S.-LED INTERVENTION



The United States led a NATO coalition into Afghanistan after 9/11 to pursue Al Qaeda terrorists and topple the Taliban government that hosted them. The twenty-year investment of blood and treasure -- over 2,400 American military deaths and \$300 million a day, about \$2.5 trillion overall -- brought a democratic government, organized and trained national military and police forces, and combatted the insurgent Taliban militants. The August 2021 withdrawal of American and allied troops saw a collapse of Afghan security forces and the government. The Taliban swept to power. What will be the future of the Islamic Caliphate of Afghanistan? This topic will focus on an introduction to Afghanistan and its history; the origins and rise of the Taliban; the prospects for a return of the country to a terrorist haven for Al Qaeda and ISIS; and the new regional geopolitical situation that has now been created in the wake of the Taliban victory.

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2. "[A Historical Timeline of Afghanistan](#)" PBS News Hour, August 30, 2021
3. "[What We Need to Learn: Lessons from Twenty Years of Afghanistan Reconstruction](#)" SIGAR, August 2021 (Read Executive Summary, VII to XIII)
4. "[Why Did State-Building Efforts in Afghanistan Fail?](#)" David Dollar and Jennifer Murtazashvili -- Brookings Institute, August 30, 2021
5. "[Who are the Taliban? | Start Here](#)" Al Jazeera, May 30, 2021 (Watch 0:45-5:30)
6. "[The Taliban in Afghanistan](#)" Lindsay Maizland -- Council on Foreign Relations, September 15, 2021

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## The Future of Afghanistan

1. "[How Will China Seek to Profit from the Taliban's Takeover in Afghanistan](#)" Ryan Hass -- The Brookings Institution, August 18, 2021
2. "[After Decades of Instability, What Does the Future Hold for Afghan Migration?](#)" Mohib Iqbal and Marie McAuliffe -- World Economics Forum, September 28, 2021
3. "[The India-Pakistan Rivalry in Afghanistan](#)" Zachary Constantino -- USIP, January 29, 2020
4. "[How the Region is Reacting to the Taliban Takeover](#)" Garrett Nada; Donald N. Jensen.; Gavin Helf; Andrew Scobell; Tamanna Salikuddin -- USIP, August 19, 2021
5. "[Robert Gates on the Future of Afghanistan](#)" 60 Minutes, October 17, 2021 (Watch 0:25-2:12)
6. "[What Does the Future Hold for Afghanistan?](#)" Al Jazeera's The Stream, August 18, 2021 (Watch 8:32-15:10)
7. "[The Collapse of Afghanistan Could Mean Trouble for America's Enemies](#)" Mark Katz -- The National Interest, August 14, 2021
8. "[What Does IS-K's Resurgence Mean for Afghanistan and Beyond?](#)" Asfandiyar Mir -- United States Institute of Peace, September 21, 2021

# HUMAN-CENTERED AGENDA TO THE FUTURE OF WORK



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

## SOURCES

### Overview and History

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2. "[ILO at Work \(Extended Version\)](#)" International Labour Organization, March 2, 2017

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## Rights at Work

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2. "[Labour Provisions in Trade Agreements Do Not Harm Businesses and Ease Labour Market Access](#)" International Labour Organization, July 15, 2016
3. "[Inequalities and the World of Work](#)" International Labour Organization, 2021 (Read pages 9-19)
4. "[The ILO General Principles for Fair Recruitment - The Role of Enterprises](#)" International Labour Organization, March 19, 2018
5. "[End Gender-Based Violence and Harassment in the World of Work](#)" International Labour Organization, March 30, 2021
6. "[Decent Work in Global Supply Chains](#)" International Labour Organization, 2016 (Read "Introduction," pages 1-4)

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2. "[Work in the Time of COVID](#)" International Labour Organization, May 20, 2021 (Read pages 29-34)
3. "[Lost in COVID-19 Limbo-Land: Pandemic Hits Youth Employment Hard](#)" International Labour Organization, July 2021

## ILO Working Together With Social Partners

1. "[Annual Report 2020](#)" Solidarity Center, 2021 (Read pages 3-8)
2. "[The Workers First Agenda: 5 Priorities for 2021](#)" American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), 2021
3. "[Worker Rights Provisions in U.S. Trade Policy](#)" Congressional Research Service, July 16, 2021
4. "[COVID-19, Inequalities, and Building Back Better](#)" United Nations HCLP Inequalities Task Team
5. "[2020 List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#)" U.S. Department of Labor, September 2020 (Read pages 1-15)
6. "[The Work of the Future: Building Better Jobs in an Age of Intelligent Machines](#)" David Autor, David Mindell, and Elisabeth Reynolds -- Massachusetts Institute of Technology Task Force on the Work of the Future, 2020 (Read pages 1-6)

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## Findings of World of Work Reports

1. "[World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021](#)" International Labour Organization, June 2, 2021
2. "[World Social Protection Report 2020-2022](#)" International Labour Organization
3. "[The Role of Digital Labour Platforms in Transforming the World of Work](#)" International Labour Organization, February 2021 (Read the website only--not the external links)
4. "[ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers](#)" International Labour Organization
5. "[Ensuring Fair Recruitment: What the ILO Has Achieved](#)" International Labour Organization, April 2021 (Read the website only--not the external links)

# CDC & THE GLOBAL HEALTH AGENDA



The COVID-19 pandemic exposed critical vulnerabilities in our present global health response system. The threat posed by the virus was underestimated, resulting in the deaths of millions alongside disastrous economic and social consequences. Though safe and effective vaccines have been developed the question of equitable vaccine distribution has become an obstacle in global recovery efforts. The many consequences of the pandemic will be long-lasting, some permanent. This topic will cover the current CDC protocols and operations. We will also explore the vaccine alliance COVAX, vaccine diplomacy, and the pandemic's impacts on mental health.

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1. "[What Does the CDC Do?](#)" Claire Felter -- Council on Foreign Relations, May 18, 2021
2. "[What Does the World Health Organization Do?](#)" Council on Foreign Relations, January 29, 2021
3. "[What Will Be the Contours of the Biden Administration's Global Health Agenda?](#)" Jennifer Kates and Josh Michaud -- KFF, February 9, 2021
4. "[The Cost of Not Preparing for Infectious Diseases](#)" Wellcome, September 12, 2021
5. "[COVAX: Ensuring Global Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines](#)" Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, July 24, 2020



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2. "[The U.S. Is Trying to Improve Relations With Southeast Asia — Using Western Vaccines](#)" Michael Sullivan -- NPR, August 19, 2021
3. "[Russia's Vaccine Diplomacy Is Mostly Smoke and Mirrors](#)" Grace Kier; Paul Stronski -- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, August 3, 2021
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5. "[Preparing for the Next Pandemic: Early Lessons from COVID-19](#)" Dante Disparte -- Brookings Institution, February 16, 2021
6. "[COVID-19 and the Future of International Politics](#)" Chatham House, October 5, 2021
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  - b. Watch 49:07-52:05 with Thomas Wright, Director, Center on the United States and Europe, Brookings Institution
7. "[The Pandemic Is Not Under Control Anywhere Unless It Is Controlled Everywhere](#)" Chad Brown, Monica de Bolle, and Maurice Obstfeld -- PIIE Briefing, April 2021 (Read 14-15 and 19)

# TECHNOLOGY & DEMOCRACY: THREAT OR PROMISE?



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

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

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## Data Privacy

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

## Cyber

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

# GREAT DECISIONS



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

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

The [Great Decisions 2021 Briefing Book](#) is required study material for the 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.

# 21ST CENTURY MONEY: DOLLARS TO DIGITAL CURRENCIES



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

## SOURCES

### Cryptocurrencies

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

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2. "[Can Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain Help Fight Corruption?](#)" Enrique Aldaz-Carroll and Eduardo Aldaz-Carroll -- The World Bank, February 20, 2018

## CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currencies)

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

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



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

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

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4. [“A Primer on Multi-track Diplomacy: How Does it Work?”](#) Jennifer Staats, Johnny Walsh, and Rosarie Tucci – USIP, July 31, 2019
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7. [“To Walk the Earth in Safety”](#) U.S. Department of State, January-December 2020
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18. "[U.S. Relationship With Vietnam Blossoms as Former Foe Opens Up Economically](#)" Anthony Kim and Gavin Zhao -- The Heritage Foundation, June 11, 2021
19. "[U.S.-Vietnam Post-War Reconciliation: A Work in Process](#)" Ivan Small -- The University of Melbourne, June 4, 2021

# INSECURITY IN CHINA'S NEIGHBORHOOD



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

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### General Overview

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