



## 2021 Academic WorldQuest Study Guide

All questions for the 2021 Academic WorldQuest Competition will be drawn from the sources found in this document. We do not expect that students will memorize all of the facts and figures found within the study guide, rather questions will focus on overall trends, themes, and ideas presented, as well as graph outliers and surprising facts. This study guide is best viewed in a current version of Adobe Reader. If you are having trouble clicking on any of the links below, copy and paste them into your browser or try Googling the title or site. Please contact the Council if you are unable to access any of these sites.

NOTE: The study guide for the national competition includes additional material not found on this guide and can be found on the World Affairs Councils of America's website. The Montana competition will ONLY include questions from the resources found on the study guide below but feel free to review additional material.

### Category 1: Global Protests

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

#### Background and Overview

- Read "**Global Protest Tracker**" - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
<https://carnegieendowment.org/publications/interactive/protest-tracker>
- Read "**A World on Fire: Here Are All the Major Protests Happening Around the Globe Right Now**" – Business Insider, June 4, 2020  
<https://www.businessinsider.com/all-the-protests-around-the-world-right-now>
- Read "**Political Risk Outlook 2020**" – Verisk Maplecroft, January 16, 2020  
<https://www.maplecroft.com/insights/analysis/47-countries-witness-surge-in-civil-unrest/>

#### Women's Rights and the Fight for Equality

- Watch **"Protesters Hold "A Day Without Women" Strike in Mexico Following a Series of Murders"** – CBS News, March 9, 2020  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v46iLy37Ak>

#### Climate Change and the Environment

- Read **"Across the Globe, Millions Join Biggest Climate Protest Ever"** – Sandra Laville and Jonathan Watts, The Guardian, September 20, 2019  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/21/across-the-globe-millions-join-biggest-climate-protest-ever>

#### Economic Inequality

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

#### Political Freedom

- Read **"Hong Kong Protests, One Year Later"** – Austin Ramzy and Mike Ives, New York Times, July 24, 2020  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/09/world/asia/hong-kong-protests-one-year-later.html>
- Read **"What's Behind the China-Taiwan Divide?"** – BBC, September 28, 2020  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34729538>

## Category 2: Shifting Sands: The Arab Spring 10 Years On

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

### History, Overview, & Causes of the Arab Spring

- Read “**Arab Spring: Pro-Democracy Protests**” – Britannica  
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Spring>
- Watch (Video) “**Here's How the Arab Spring Started and How It Affected the World**” – History, May 8, 2018  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fgcd5ZcxDys>
- Read “**10 Reasons for the Arab Spring**” – Primoz Manfreda, ThoughtCo, April 27, 2019  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/the-reasons-for-the-arab-spring-2353041>

### Results and Aftermath of the Arab Spring

- Read “**Arab Spring Impact on the Middle East**” – Primoz Manfreda, ThoughtCo, July 1, 2019  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/arab-spring-impact-on-middle-east-2353038>

### Country Case Studies

- Read “**Tunisia: Socioeconomic Injustice Persists 8 Years After Uprising**” – Ramy Allahoum, Al Jazeera, January 14, 2019  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/1/14/tunisia-socioeconomic-injustice-persists-8-years-after-uprising>
- Read “**Nine Years After Arab Spring, Repression in Egypt Continues to Mount**” – Derek Ludovici, The Independent, Feb. 2020  
<https://independent.org/2020/02/nine-years-after-arab-spring-repression-in-egypt-continues-to-mount/>
- Read “**Yemen- Arab Spring and Civil War**” - Britannica, October 15, 2020  
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Yemen/Arab-Spring-and-civil-war>
- Watch “**The Syrian Civil War, Explained**” – Oxford Society for International Development, July 10, 2020  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WzH7OegzUw>
- Read “**Civil War in Syria**” including the slideshow – Council on Foreign Relations, November 3, 2020  
<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-syria>
- Read “**Moamar Gaddafi Has Been Dead Eight Years Yet Libya Is Still at War With Itself. What Went Wrong?**” – Tracey Shelton, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, October 19, 2019  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-20/libya-civil-war-gaddafi-eight-years-on/11210742>

## Category 3: International Labour Organization (ILO)

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Overall, this topic explores the history of the ILO; international labor standards and their benefits; the four fundamental principles and rights at work; and other key issues related to labor.

### Overview and History

- Read “**The ILO: Laying the Foundations of Social Justice**” – ILO, December 2015  
<https://www.ilo.org/infostories/en-GB/Stories/The-ILO/Laying-the-Foundations-of-Social-Justice>  
*Note: You do not need to read the tabs.*
- Read “**How the ILO Works**” – ILO, 1996  
<https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/lang--en/index.htm>

### International Labor Standards

- Read “**The Benefits of International Labor Standards**” – ILO  
<https://www.ilo.org/global/standards/introduction-to-international-labour-standards/the-benefits-of-international-labour-standards/lang--en/index.htm>

### Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

- Read “**Global Estimates of Child Labor**” – ILO, 2017  
[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_575541.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575541.pdf)
- Watch “**Combatting Forced Labor in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry**” – ILO, January 2020  
[https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/video/institutional/videos/WCMS\\_733780/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/video/institutional/videos/WCMS_733780/lang--en/index.htm)

### Connecting Labor to Other Key Issues

- Read “**Safety and Health for All**” – ILO, 2015  
[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_dialogue/---lab\\_admin/documents/publication/wcms\\_732088.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---lab_admin/documents/publication/wcms_732088.pdf)
- Read “**Work for a Brighter Future**” – “**ILO Infostories**” – ILO, January 2019  
<https://www.ilo.org/infostories/en-GB/Campaigns/future-work/global-commission#intro>  
*Note: Please read tabs.*
- Watch “**The Future of Gender Equality at Work**”  
<https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/video/institutional>

[videos/WCMS\\_558508/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.state.gov/videos/WCMS_558508/lang--en/index.htm)

## Category 4: U.S. Foreign Service in the 21st Century

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

### Overview and History

- Read and watch “**United States Department of State Professional Ethos**” – U.S. Department of State, 2019  
<https://www.state.gov/about/professional-ethos>
- Read “**The US Department of State in Montana**” - U.S. Department of State  
<https://www.state.gov/states/montana/>
- Read “**Duties of the Secretary of State**” - US Department of State  
<https://www.state.gov/duties-of-the-secretary-of-state/>
- Review “**Proposed Department Organization Chart**” - US Department of State  
<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Dept-Org-Chart-Feb-2020-508.pdf>

### Challenges, Opinions, and Solutions

- Read “**Venezuela: A Democratic Crisis**” - U.S. Department of State  
<https://www.state.gov/a-democratic-crisis-in-venezuela>
- Read “U.S. Support for a Return to Democracy in Nicaragua” - U.S. Department of State  
<https://www.state.gov/u-s-support-for-a-return-to-democracy-in-nicaragua/>
- Read “**How to Remake the Foreign Service and Embassies for Today's World**”  
– Richard Grennell, The Hill, August 28, 2020  
<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/513810-how-to-remake-the-foreign-service-and-embassies-for-todays-world>
- Read “**What Makes a Good Foreign Service Officer or Ambassador?**” – John O’Keefe, The Hill, September 4, 2020  
<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/514949-what-makes-a-good-foreign-service-officer-or-ambassador>
- Read “**The U.S. Foreign Service Isn’t Suited for the 21st Century**” – Philip Zelickow, Foreign Policy, October 26, 2020  
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/26/state-department-foreign-service-reform/>

## Category 5: Great Decisions

Great Decisions is an annual program that focuses on critical international issues provided by the Foreign Policy Association, a member of the World Affairs Councils of America. This year's Great Decisions topics for the 2020-2021 Academic WorldQuest competitions are:

- **Climate Change and the Global Order**  
<https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Climate%20Glossary%20.pdf>
- **India and Pakistan**  
[https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/2\\_Ind\\_Pak%202020.pdf](https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/2_Ind_Pak%202020.pdf)
- **Rea Sea Security**  
[https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/3\\_Red%20Sea%202020.pdf](https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/3_Red%20Sea%202020.pdf)
- **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**  
[https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/4\\_Trafficking%202020.pdf](https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/4_Trafficking%202020.pdf)
- **U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle**  
[https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/5\\_N\\_Triangle%202020\(1\).pdf](https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/5_N_Triangle%202020(1).pdf)
- **China's Road into Latin America**  
[https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/6\\_China%20in%20LA%202020.pdf](https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/6_China%20in%20LA%202020.pdf)
- **The Philippines and the U.S.**  
[https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/7\\_The%20Philippines%202020.pdf](https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/7_The%20Philippines%202020.pdf)
- **Artificial Intelligence and Data**  
[https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/8\\_AI%202020.pdf](https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/8_AI%202020.pdf)

**The Montana Academic WorldQuest Competition will only have questions regarding the topic's glossary.**

Foreign Policy Association: [https://www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions/?act=gd\\_topics](https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_topics)  
(For 2020 topics, please choose "Past Topics" at the bottom of the page and select "2020")

## Category 6: Country in Focus: Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan, formally known as the Republic of Uzbekistan, is a landlocked country in Central Asia which emerged as an independent state with the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991. Following independence, Uzbekistan was governed by the authoritarian President Islam Karimov until his death in 2016 and was succeeded by Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Strategically located in the heart of Central Asia, Uzbekistan connected China to the Middle East through the Silk Road trade route in ancient times. Uzbekistan is currently undergoing subtle yet noteworthy reform both domestically and internationally, and plays an important role in the geopolitical developments of Central Asia. This topic will focus on an overview of the state; an introduction to U.S.-Uzbekistan relations; the regional conflicts and friendships that have shaped the country's foreign policy; and recent developments in politics and trade.

### Overview and History

- Read "**People**," "**Economy**," "**History**," and "**Cultural Life**" sections of "**Uzbekistan**" – C Allworth; Gavin Hambly; David Smith; Denis Sinor, Encyclopedia Britannica, March 27, 2020  
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Uzbekistan>
- Watch 7:20 minutes of "**Geopolitics of Uzbekistan**" – Caspian Report  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RpmswEpMTk>

### U.S.- Uzbekistan Relations

- Read "**U.S. Relations with Uzbekistan**" – U.S. Department of State, July 27, 2020  
<https://bit.ly/34w26Pi>
- Read "**A Guide to the United States' History of Recognition, Diplomatic, and Consular Relations, by Country, since 1776: Uzbekistan**" - Office of the Historian  
<https://history.state.gov/countries/uzbekistan>

### Regional Conflicts and Alliances

- Read "**Signs of Hope (And Conflict) On Central Asia's Borders**" – Bruce Pannier, RadioFree Europe/Radio Free Liberty, May 16, 2020  
<https://www.rferl.org/a/qishloq-ovozi-central-asian-borders-cooperation-conflict-uzbekistan-tajikistan-kyrgyzstan/30615663.html>  
*Note: Watch videos*
- Read "**Uzbekistan: The Suddenly Good Neighbor**" – Bruce Pannier, Radio Free Europe/Radio Free Liberty, October 4, 2016  
<https://www.rferl.org/a/uzbekistan-suddenly-good-neighbor/28031740.html>

### Recent Developments

- Read "**Reformed or Just Retouched? Uzbekistan's New Regime**" – Yuriy Sarukhanyan, Carnegie Moscow Center, October 1, 2020  
<https://carnegie.ru/commentary/82839>
- Read "**We Must Pay Attention to Uzbekistan, The Big Hope for Stability in Central Asia**" – Melik Kaylan, Forbes, September 30, 2020  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/melikkaylan/2020/09/30/we-must-paattention-to-uzbekistan-the-big-hope-for-stability-in-central-asia/#15ced31b1fb6>

- Read “**Uzbekistan’s COVID-19 Response Exposes Tashkent’s Reform Successes and Failures**” – Benjamin Godwin, The Diplomat, September 25, 2020  
<https://thediplomat.com/2020/09/uzbekistans-covid-19-response-exposes-tashkents-reform-successes-and-failures/>
- Read “**Uzbekistan at Twenty-Five: What Next?**” – Paul Stronski, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 21, 2016  
<https://carnegieendowment.org/2016/03/21/uzbekistan-at-twenty-five-what-next-pub-63083>



## Category 7: Exploring Peace in a World of Conflict

It can sometimes seem like violent, or negative, conflict is all around us. It is often what is featured in the news and focused on in history class. The United States Institute of Peace (USIP), sponsor of this category and host of the 2021 Academic WorldQuest National Competition event, focuses on two key points in its work around the world: (1) conflict can be managed without violence, and can even be a force for positive transformation; and (2) even when negative conflict is happening, there are almost always examples of people and organizations doing important work to build peace. This category will explore what peace means in practical terms, and how peacebuilding can still happen in a world full of challenges and conflict. USIP is a national, nonpartisan, independent institute, founded by Congress in 1984, and dedicated to the proposition that a world without violent conflict is possible, practical, and essential for U.S. and global security. Learn more at [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org).

### Background and Overview

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

### Country Studies – Efforts in Peacebuilding

- Read “**Preventing Conflict During the Pandemic in Southern Tunisia**” – Rima Daoud; Sabine Laribi, U.S. Institute of Peace, July 16, 2020  
<https://www.usip.org/blog/2020/07/preventing-conflict-during-pandemic-southern-tunisia>
- Read “**Discovering Peace Through Art in Afghanistan**” – Anthony Navone, U.S. Institute of Peace, February 25, 2020  
<https://www.usip.org/blog/2020/02/discovering-peace-through-art-afghanistan>
- Read “**2020 Women Building Peace Award Recipient: Rita Lopidia**” – U.S. Institute of Peace, 2020  
<https://www.usip.org/2020-women-building-peace-award-recipient-rita-lopidia>
- Read “**In Casamance, Dialogue Helps Battle Coronavirus and Build Trust**” – U.S. Institute of Peace, June 9, 2020  
<https://www.usip.org/index.php/blog/2020/06/casamance-dialogue-helps-battle-coronavirus-and-build-trust>
- Watch “**Briefly: Preventing Election Violence Through Diplomacy With Debra Liang-Fenton**” – U.S. Institute of Peace, January 28, 2020  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AICf7\\_39tWE&list=PLmbn6hUaez4Mpg\\_k3X1\\_owo0h\\_c7O\\_AUJ&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AICf7_39tWE&list=PLmbn6hUaez4Mpg_k3X1_owo0h_c7O_AUJ&index=2)

#### Additional Resources

- Read pages 2-4 “**Global Peace Index 2020**” – Institute for Economics and Peace, 2020  
[https://visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/GPI\\_2020\\_web.pdf](https://visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/GPI_2020_web.pdf)
- Watch “**Briefly: Five Ingredients for Lasting Peace Agreements with Aly Verjee**” - U.S. Institute of Peace, November 9, 2020  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oluA8gApEYg&list=PLmbn6hUaaez4Mpg\\_k3X1\\_owo0h\\_c7OAUJ&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oluA8gApEYg&list=PLmbn6hUaaez4Mpg_k3X1_owo0h_c7OAUJ&index=1)

## Category 8: Fraying Alliances

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

### East Asia – Foes or Friends?

- Read “**Japan's New Leader Has Narrow Window to Advance South Korea Ties**” – Kathryn Botto, Nikkei Asia, September 23, 2020  
<https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/Japan-s-new-leader-has-narrow-window-to-advance-South-Korea-ties>
- Read “**Democracy in Hong Kong**” – Eleanor Albert; Lindsay Maizland, Council on Foreign Relations, June 30, 2020  
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/democracy-hong-kong>
- Read “**Back to Square One for Inter-Korean Relations**” – Scott Synder, Council on Foreign Relations, June 26, 2020  
<https://www.cfr.org/blog/back-square-one-inter-korean-relations>

### Muddle of the Middle East

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

### China and Russia: Allies No More?

- Read “**China, Russia Deepen Their Ties Amid Pandemic, Conflicts With The West**” – Reid Standish, Radio Free Europe/Radio Europe/Radio Free Liberty, September 1, 2020  
<https://www.rferl.org/a/china-russia-deepen-their-ties-amid-pandemic-conflicts-with-west/30814684.html>
- Read “**The Enemy of My Enemy is My Friend: Russia-China Relations in the Face of U.S.-China Tensions**” – Kseniya Kirillova, Institute for Security

and Development Policy, August 17, 2020 <https://isdpeu.org/the-enemy-of-my-enemy-is-my-friend-russia-china-relations-in-the-face-of-u-s-china-tensions/>

- Read “**Could Russia Side With the U.S. and India Against China?**” – Maria Siow, South China Morning Post, August 22, 2020 <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3098398/could-russia-side-us-and-india-against-china>

## Category 9: Looking to a Post-Pandemic Economy

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

### Economic Impact of COVID-19

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

### Major Sectors

- Watch “**Stock Market v Economy: The Impact of Covid-19**” – The Economist, July 24, 2020  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TImic4N1ko>
- Watch “**Covid-19: Why Travel Will Never Be the Same**” – The Economist, July 10, 2020  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAs0gw1zluQ>
- Watch “**How the Covid -19 Pandemic is Sending American Agriculture into Chaos**” 0:00-7:10 – PBS, April 20, 2020  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zlpx2UARByo>
- Read “**7 Predictions for How Covid -19 Will Change Retail in The Future**” – Michelle Evans, Forbes, May 19, 2020  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michelleevans/2020/05/19/7-predictions-for-how-covid-19-will-change-retail-in-the-future/#400f69e35be3>
- Read “**Covid-19 Era Serves Up Big Changes for U.S. Restaurants**” – Morgan Stanley, July 17, 2020  
<https://www.morganstanley.com/ideas/coronavirus-restaurant-trends>
- Read “**How Restaurants Can Thrive in the Next Normal**” – McKinsey & Company, May 19, 2020 <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/retail/our-insights/how-restaurants-can-thrive-in-the-next-normal>
- Read “**U.S. Freight After Covid -19: What's Next?**” - McKinsey & Company, June 2, 2020  
<https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/travel-logistics-and-transport->

[infrastructure/our insights/us-freight-after-covid-19-whats-next](#)

Recovery Programs and Post-Pandemic Economy

- Read “**What the Post-Pandemic Economy Will Look Like**” – Gad Levanon, Forbes, August 17, 2020  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/gadlevanon/2020/08/17/what-the-post-pandemic-economy-will look-like/#56f6f3c87835>

## **Category 10: Current Events**

This round will consist of questions on world news and events. The emphasis will be from October 2020- February 2021.

In general, we recommend reading a variety of reputable national and international news sources. Most news sources (Wall Street Journal, BBC, CNN, PBS, NPR, FOX, Al Jazeera, Washington Post, United Nations, New York Times, etc.) can be obtained free online.