



**MONTANA WORLD  
AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

## **2024 Academic WorldQuest Study Guide**

Sunday, March 3rd - Tuesday, March 5th

University of Montana, Missoula



The Montana World Affairs Council is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering global understanding and awareness in Montana's communities and classrooms.

The Montana Academic WorldQuest program is widely recognized as one of the nation's best: being the largest in the country, the only multi-day conference, and completely free to all schools- offering scholarships to schools to help cover the cost of transportation, lodging, and substitute teachers.

The winning team in the competition will travel to Washington D.C. to represent Montana at the National AWQ Competition. While in Washington, teams are exposed to a variety of unique global experiences, such as being hosted at an embassy or receiving a tour of the State Department. This exciting program is generously sponsored and supported by The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.

All questions for the 2024 Academic WorldQuest Montana Competition will be drawn from the sources found in this document. The Academic WorldQuest Conference schedule will be posted on our website by February 1st. **For questions, contact Nikki Geiszler at [ngeiszler@montanaworldaffairs.org](mailto:ngeiszler@montanaworldaffairs.org).**

## 2024 Academic WorldQuest Categories

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): Alliance and Collective Defense in a Changing World
- Demographic Dividends - Population Shift in Africa
- The Global South
- Sports and Diplomacy
- Country in Focus: South Korea
- Promoting a Green Europe Women's Contributions to Track II Diplomacy
- Navigating AI: The Global Workforce
- Great Decisions
- Current Events



## Category One:

# The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): Alliance and Collective Defense in a Changing World

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded with the signing of the Washington Treaty. This security alliance consists of 30 member countries spanning North America to Europe, and its primary mission is to ensure the protection of its members' freedom and security through political and military means. As NATO approaches its momentous 75th anniversary, explore its foundational principles, objectives, and its pivotal role in fostering collective defense and security cooperation among nations in North America and Europe. This topic will also delve into the evolving challenges and opportunities confronting NATO in the ever-changing global landscape of the 21st century, providing you with a comprehensive perspective on this enduring alliance's past, present, and future.

## Sources:

- ["What is NATO?"](#) NATO
- ["How Secretary Albright Advocated to Expand NATO"](#) National Museum of American Diplomacy
- ["NATO and the Invasion, One Year On"](#) Center for Strategic and International Studies
- ["NATO's Sub-strategic Role in the Middle East and North Africa"](#) German Marshall Fund
- ["What Happened at NATO's Vilnius Summit?"](#) Center for Strategic and International Studies
- ["The Future of NATO in an Order Transformed"](#) Brookings



## Category Two:

# Demographic Dividends - Population Shift in Africa

Africa is currently undergoing a significant demographic shift, characterized by a rapidly growing and predominantly young population, with 70% of sub-Saharan Africa under the age of 30. This demographic transition holds the promise of demographic dividends, where a large working-age population can fuel economic growth and innovation. However, alongside this potential, Africa faces various challenges, including the necessity for job creation, improved education and healthcare systems, and infrastructure development. This topic will explore how Africa's demographic transformation presents a dual opportunity and challenge, with the potential for significant economic advancement contingent upon strategic planning and proactive development efforts.

## Sources:

- ["Africa's Youthful Population: Risk or Opportunity"](#) Population Reference Bureau
- ["Generation 2030 | Africa 2.0"](#) UNICEF | Executive Summary, 2-13
- ["Demographic Change in North Africa: A Case Study by Country"](#) Center for Strategic and International Studies | Pg. 1-5, 21-25
- ["How Will Africa's Population Boom Change the World?"](#) Council on Foreign Relations
- ["What Tanzania tells us about Africa's population explosion as the world hits 8bn people"](#) The Guardian
- ["Africa 2050: Demographic Truth and Consequences"](#) Hoover Institution



# Category Three: The Global South

The term "Global South" encompasses less economically developed regions primarily found in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Oceania. It serves as a lens to underscore the profound disparities in wealth, influence, and progress when compared to the more affluent and developed Global North, consisting of North America, Europe, and select parts of East Asia. This division can be traced back to historical factors such as colonization and the processes of globalization. Within the Global South, numerous challenges persist, including poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, and environmental concerns. Nonetheless, it is essential to recognize the considerable cultural, economic, and political potential inherent in these regions. As our world continues to grow more interconnected, this topic will delve into the ever evolving role of the Global South in international affairs, politics, and development.

## Sources:

- ["Everyone's talking about the Global South. But what is it?"](#) Associated Press
- ["The Realities of Current Urbanization in the Global South"](#) World Resources Institute
- ["The race for the Global South"](#) International Political Sociology Journal
- ["China-Global South Relations"](#) Atlantic Council
- ["BRICS: Emerging counterweight in a multipolar world?"](#) Deutsche Welle News
- ["A \[new\] world order: What, why, and how?"](#) Stimson Center



## Category Four: Sports and Diplomacy

Sports have played a pivotal role in diplomacy, fostering international relations and goodwill for many decades. While the term "sports diplomacy" is relatively new, it describes an ancient practice dating back to early civilizations, where competitions were used to resolve conflicts and forge alliances. The significance of sports diplomacy resurged during the Cold War when both the United States and the Soviet Union leveraged it to showcase their ideologies and project soft power globally. Notable events like the "Ping Pong Diplomacy" between the United States and China in the 1970s and the utilization of sports to promote peace in conflict zones highlight the enduring role of sports in diplomatic efforts. This topic will explore how sports continue to act as a bridge between nations, fostering cultural exchange, nurturing relationships, and promoting diplomacy on a global scale.

### Sources:

- ["What is Sports Diplomacy?"](#) TeachMideast
- ["The Mixed Record of Sports Diplomacy"](#) Council on Foreign Relations
- ["Diplomacy After Hours: The Power of Olympians, Paralympians, and Sports Diplomacy"](#) National Museum of American Diplomacy | 0:00-33:20
- ["In Sport, Politicians Can Go Much Further Than In The World Of Politics: An interview about Sport Diplomacy"](#) Warsaw Institute
- ["How rugby, ping-pong and other sports have mended political rifts"](#) CNN
- ["Sports and Soft Power: Qatar Diplomacy in light of Football World Cup"](#) Nickerled & Dimed



# Category Five:

## Country in Focus: South Korea

South Korea, officially known as the Republic of Korea, is a vibrant and rapidly evolving nation located on the Korean Peninsula in East Asia. With a rich history spanning millennia, South Korea has transformed itself into a global economic powerhouse and a hub of pop culture. In recent decades, South Korea has made a global impact through its cultural exports. The "Korean Wave," or Hallyu, represents the global popularity of South Korean music (K-pop), television dramas, films, fashion, and cuisine. This surge in popularity has not only brought South Korean culture to the forefront but has also contributed significantly to the nation's soft power and global influence. South Korea is a nation characterized by its remarkable transformation, strong international partnerships, and its remarkable ascent in the world of pop culture. With a blend of tradition and modernity, it continues to captivate the world's attention as a dynamic and influential player on the global stage. This topic will focus on an overview of the state; an introduction to U.S.-South Korea relations; and the rise of South Korea in pop culture.

### Sources:

- ["South Korea"](#) Britannica | Introduction, Geography, People, Culture
- ["The Growth of South Korean Soft Power and Its Geopolitical Implications"](#) Air University
- ["South Korea Beyond Northeast Asia: How Seoul Is Deepening Ties with India and ASEAN"](#) Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- ["South Korean Policy in the Indo-Pacific Era"](#) Brookings
- ["Can South Korea Trust the United States"](#) George Washington University | Pg. 109-119



## Category Six:

# Promoting a Green Europe

The issue of climate change first gained international recognition in June 1972 during the UN Scientific Conference held in Stockholm, Sweden, also referred to as the First Earth Summit. Over the subsequent 25 years, global concern for the environment and the planet's climate slowly garnered increased attention and led to action. In December 1997, a significant milestone was achieved with the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol, marking a pivotal moment in addressing climate change. This protocol aimed to curtail overall emissions from industrialized nations. Since then Europe has taken on a central role in the global endeavor to combat climate change. With flagship initiatives such as the European Green Deal launched by the European Union, active participation in international agreements like the Paris Agreement, and proactive efforts to promote green finance and innovation, Europe has emphasized the importance of creating a greener and more sustainable future. This topic explores Europe's comprehensive efforts to combat climate change and promote a more environmentally conscious Europe.

## Sources:

- ["The EU Green Deal – a roadmap to sustainable economies"](#) Switch2Green
- ["The European Green Deal: How the 27 EU countries are preparing for 2050"](#) Enel
- ["Making the European Green Deal Work for People: The Role of Human Development in the Green Transition"](#) World Bank | Pg. 19-29, 93-101
- ["A breakdown of EU countries' post-pandemic green spending plans"](#) Bruegel
- ["How Putin made Europe go green faster"](#) Deutsche Welle
- ["Why Europe Is Looking to Nuclear Power to Fuel a Green Future"](#) Carnegie Endowment for International Peace





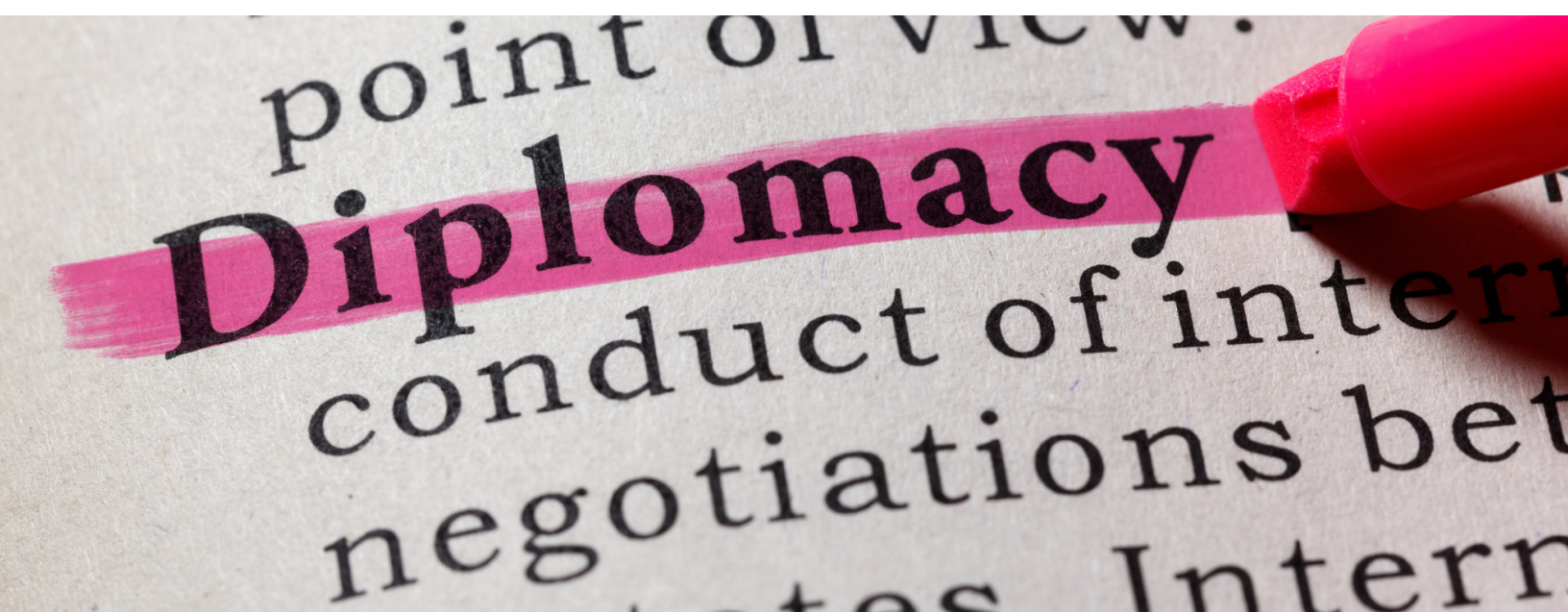
## Category Seven:

# Women's Contributions to Track II Diplomacy

Diplomacy encompasses a myriad of forms, each serving a distinct purpose in international relations. Scholars have classified these forms into different "tracks." Track I diplomacy centers around official government-to-government negotiations and interactions, while Track II diplomacy operates on unofficial channels, engaging non-state actors like civil society groups, academics, and individuals to address complex global issues. Within the sphere of Track II diplomacy, women have emerged as integral contributors. This topic will spotlight the profound influence of women's contributions in Track II diplomacy, underscoring how their diverse perspectives and collaborative endeavors enrich the effectiveness of diplomatic efforts and contribute to the advancement of a more harmonious global landscape.

## Sources:

- "Reframing Women's Roles in Peace Processes: Beyond the Negotiating Table" Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security
- "Advancing Women's Participation in Track II Peace Processes: Good and emerging practices" Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security
- "Women's informal peace efforts: Grassroots activism in South Sudan" Chr. Michelsen Institute
- "Tajikistan's Peace Process: The Role of Track 2 Diplomacy and Lessons for Afghanistan" United States Institute of Peace " Pg. 9-13, 20-28
- "'Not a noisy gun': The women peacebuilders of Liberia" Al Jazeera



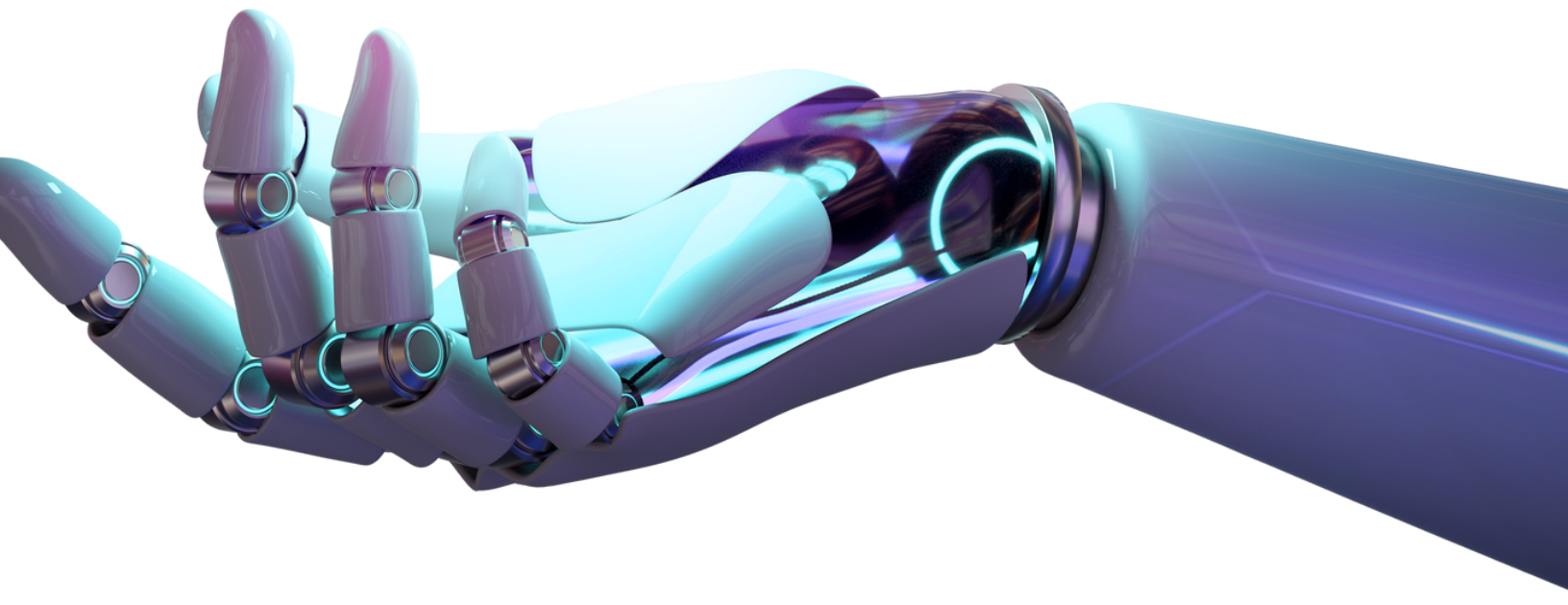
## Category Eight:

# Navigating AI: The Global Workforce

In the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI), one of the most critical challenges we face is the transformation of the global workforce. As AI technologies continue to advance and reshape industries worldwide, questions about employment, skills, and the broader socio-economic impact become increasingly pertinent. This topic delves into the multifaceted dimensions of how AI is impacting jobs, industries, and the workforce on a global scale. It seeks to shed light on the opportunities and challenges posed by AI, the need for reskilling and upskilling, and the strategies required to ensure a future where humans and AI can coexist and thrive.

## Sources:

- ["The Future of AI: How Artificial Intelligence Will Change the World"](#) Built In, videos are optional
- ["Here's how artificial intelligence is changing the job market"](#) CNN
- ["Workforce ecosystems and AI"](#) Brookings
- ["The three challenges of AI regulation"](#) Brookings
- ["Why would we employ people? Experts on five ways AI will change work"](#) The Guardian



# Category Nine: 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 (WACA).

NOTE: In the 2023-2024 AWQ Competition, WACA has changed the way they present Great Decisions as a topic. In previous years, they used all 8 topics in the AWQ Competition and recommended the same for local AWQ Competitions. This year, they will focus on two topics from Great Decisions 2024. These topics will be used for both the local and national competition. The categories are currently not available yet but will be soon.

## Sources:

“Mideast Realignment” by Marc Lynch

- The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads. In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U.S. still has significant national interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement, or should it recommit to a leading role in the region?

“High Seas Treaty” by FPA editors

- Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise the high seas, which are facing a degradation of ecosystems due to climate change and the increase in human activities, such as shipping, overfishing, pollution, and deep-sea mining. The recently negotiated High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty, will attempt to address these issues. How difficult will it be to convince nations to participate?



# Category Ten: Current Events

This round will consist of questions on world news and events. The emphasis will be from October 2022- February 2023. 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.

## Thank you to our generous sponsors!

DENNIS & PHYLLIS  
WASHINGTON  
FOUNDATION



The Council offers high school and college students internship opportunities. Please consider joining our team!

Questions?

Please contact Nikki Geiszler at  
[ngeiszler@montanaworldaffairs.org](mailto:ngeiszler@montanaworldaffairs.org)