

## **GREAT DECISIONS TOPICS FOR 2008-2009**

### **10/14 Iraq: Strategies for Dealing with Uncertainty**

#### **Iraq end-game**

A recurring question found in most public opinion polls and on the 2008 presidential campaign trail: What will be the end-game for the U.S. in Iraq? How will U.S. decisions about continued engagement affect Iraq itself, and the Middle East?

### **11/11 European Integration: Looking Ahead**

#### **European Union at 50**

Having reached the 50th anniversary of the great experiment in European integration, it is time to take stock of the united Europe. Has the integration of new members been successful? What does the debate on Turkey's membership say about the future of EU integration and its changing demographics?

### **12/09 Blacklisting the Enemy**

#### **Talking to our enemies**

How the U.S. deals with international challenges often depends on how it engages with allies, as well as enemies. How should the U.S. deal with countries like Cuba, North Korea and Iran? What approach should the U.S. take with groups like Hamas and Hezbollah?

### **01/13 Russia and 'Putinism'**

#### **Russia**

During his two terms as president, Vladimir Putin has attempted to remake Russia into a major, independent world power. Some of his recent policies have provoked concern in the U.S. and Europe. With a 2008 Russian presidential election expected, what course will Russia take?

### **02/10 U.S. Defense Policy**

#### **U.S. defense & security policy**

The U.S. military is adopting new policies and methods for defending the U.S. and its interests abroad. What should U.S. priorities be? How should its forces be structured and deployed to meet new security challenges?

03/17 Latin America: The Next U.S. President's Agenda

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**Latin America: shift to the left?** What factors have prevented the U.S. and Latin American countries from forging a strong relationship? What challenges confront U.S. policy in Latin America? Can the U.S. offer an alternative to the influence of left-leaning leaders like Venezuela's Hugo Chavez?

### **04/14 U.S. – China Economic Relations: Evolving Rivalry**

#### **U.S.-China trade policy**

Recent product safety scares have thrown the spotlight on the enormous role China plays in supplying products to the U.S. Could the large and growing trade imbalance with China have an adverse effect on the U.S. economy? What role does the undervalued Chinese currency play?

### **05/12 Foreign Aid: New Players, New goals?**

#### **Private philanthropy**

Billionaire Warren Buffet's June 2007 pledge to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation prompted headlines about the size of the gift and the impact it could have on global education and health initiatives. Can private donors be more effective than governments in tackling world problems?