

Great Decisions 2023 Topic 1: Energy Geopolitics

Discussion Questions (FPA, page 16)

1. Much of the current discourse on energy security is trending away from nuclear power towards renewable forms of energy like solar. In the article, we read that while we are trending away from hydrocarbons, they may always account for a portion of our energy production. **Do you agree that nuclear power may have a similar future?**
2. The article argues that climate mitigation requires energy shifting and a change in our primary sources of energy to cleaner forms. **Do you believe that there is still hope in mitigation strategies, or should we move on and instead learn to adapt to climate change effects?**
3. The war in Ukraine has exposed Europe's intense energy dependence on Russia. **What do you believe is Europe's best option to gain energy security and move away from dependence on Russia?**
4. China is increasingly the world manufacturing leader in green energy production. Given recent efforts by the Trump administration to decouple from China and create more independence in US manufacturing, **what do you believe is the best option moving forward? Should the US attempt to cooperate with China in green energy manufacturing and production, or should we develop our own manufacturing capabilities independent from China?**
5. While EVs are a helpful and popular step towards decarbonization of our lifestyles, the article argues that the REES that are crucial for the production of EVs are also harmful to the environment and create many energy security issues. **What are some alternative options to EVs that are less harmful and more effective in decarbonization?**
6. China has considerable leverage over the world's progress in reducing carbon emissions given its extreme manufacturing power and REES processing capabilities. **What sort of leverage does the US have? How can this leverage be used effectively to gradually move towards decarbonization?**