

GREAT DECISIONS 2020

Topic 7 - The Philippines and the U.S.

The Philippines has had a special relationship with the United States since the islands were ceded by Spain to the United States after the Spanish-American War at the end of the 19th century.

However, since the election of Rodrigo Duterte, the country has pivoted more toward China, and away from the U.S. Duterte has also launched a largescale war on drugs that many criticize for its brutality. What does the future hold for U.S, relations with the Philippines?

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

1. Chapter 7 of the *GREAT DECISIONS 2020 Reader*.
2. [Glossary of Terms](#) for this topic. It includes a useful map for those who do not have the GD 2020 Reader.
3. Watch the [video](#) for this topic. Because of the Covid-19 virus, the Foreign Policy Association has made all the videos available free online.
NOTE - The Wednesday QUUF seminar participants have chosen to view this video independently before the Zoom conference. The Thursday JC Library participants have chosen to watch it together the first half-hour, but of course you are welcome to view it independently, then join us on Zoom at ~6:30.
4. If this topic particularly engages you, I might also suggest the following readings:
 - Richard E. Carroll, [America at a Crossroads](#). *International Policy Digest*, August 7, 2019. This author argues that the U.S. must honor its commitments to the Philippines under the Mutual Defense Treaty to eject China from its EEZ, by military force, if necessary.
 - Richard Heydarian, [Why Duterte Will Never Visit Trump's White House](#). *Asia Times*, January 3, 2020. Heydarian explains the recent thawing of the previous "Trump-Duterte Bromance."
 - David G. Timberman, [Philippine Politics under Duterte: A Mid-Term Assessment](#). Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, January, 2019. This is long but thorough and deserves a scan.

Further resources are available at the Great Decisions website under Topic Resources - [Philippines](#).