

# GREAT DECISIONS 2020

## Topic 3 - Red Sea Region

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**With major nations like China, France, Italy, and the U.S. building large ports and bases in the region, what does the future of the region look like?**

The Red Sea has remained vital for global trade since the time of ancient Egypt. Once home to the spice trade, the Red Sea now sees millions of barrels of oil a day transported across its waters. With major nations like China, France, Italy, and the U.S. building large ports and bases in the region, what does the future of the region look like? How important is Red Sea security for global security? Can the region be a place of global cooperation?

### SUGGESTED BACKGROUND RESOURCES

1. Chapter 3 of the *GREAT DECISIONS 2020 Reader*.
2. [Glossary of Terms](#) for this topic. NOTE: This may be most useful for this overly complex topic with so many players. There is also a map in this glossary that may be useful if you do not have a reader.
3. If you are joining the Zoom discussion, we will view the [video](#) together.
4. If this topic particularly engages you, I might also suggest the following:
  - Zach Vertin, [Red Sea Geopolitics: Six Plotlines to Watch](#). Lawfare, December 15, 2019.
  - Ahmed Al-Jaj, [Fighting Sharply Rises in Yemen, Endangering Peace Efforts](#). Associated Press, January 26, 2020.
  - Alex de Waal, [Pax Africana or Middle East Security Alliance in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea?](#) World Peace Foundation, January 2019.

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