

COUNCIL *on* FOREIGN RELATIONS

58 East 68th Street, New York, New York 10065
tel 212.434.9400 fax 212.434.9800 www.cfr.org

James M. Lindsay

James M. Lindsay is the [Mary and David Boies Distinguished Senior Fellow](#) and [director of Fellowship Affairs](#) at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). His work at the Council focuses on U.S. national security policy, the U.S. foreign policymaking process, the domestic politics of U.S. foreign policy.

From 2009 to 2024, Lindsay was senior vice president, director of studies, and [Maurice R. Greenberg chair](#) at CFR, where he oversaw the work of the more than six dozen fellows in the David Rockefeller Studies Program as well as CFR's fourteen fellowship programs. Before returning to CFR in 2009, Lindsay was the inaugural director of the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas at Austin, where he held the Tom Slick chair for international affairs at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. From 2003 to 2006, he was vice president, director of studies, and Maurice R. Greenberg chair at CFR. He previously served as deputy director and senior fellow in the foreign policy studies program at the Brookings Institution. From 1987 until 1999, he was a professor of political science at the University of Iowa.

From 1996 to 1997, Lindsay served as director for global issues and multilateral affairs on the staff of the National Security Council. He has also served as a consultant to the United States Commission on National Security/21st Century (Hart-Rudman Commission) and as a staff expert for the United States Institute of Peace's congressionally mandated Task Force on the United Nations.

Lindsay has written widely on various aspects of American foreign policy and international relations. His most recent book, co-authored with Ivo H. Daalder, is [The Empty Throne: America's Abdication of Global Leadership](#). His previous book with Ambassador Daalder, [America Unbound: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy](#), was awarded the 2003 Lionel Gelber Prize, named a finalist for the Arthur S. Ross Book Award, and selected as a top book of 2003 by *The Economist*. Lindsay's other books include [Agenda for the Nation](#) (with Henry J. Aaron and Pietro S. Nivola), which was named an "Outstanding Academic Book of 2004" by *Choice Magazine*, and [Congress and the Politics of U.S. Foreign Policy](#). He has also contributed articles to many major newspapers and magazines, including *Foreign Affairs*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. He writes the blog [The Water's Edge](#), which discusses the politics of American foreign policy and the domestic underpinnings of American global power. He also hosts the weekly podcast [The President's Inbox](#).

Lindsay holds an AB in economics and political science with highest distinction and highest honors from the University of Michigan and an MA, MPhil, and PhD from Yale University. He has been a fellow at the Center for International Affairs and the Center for Science and International Affairs, both at Harvard University. He is a recipient of the Pew Faculty Fellowship in International Affairs and CFR International Affairs Fellowship. He is a member of CFR.

Lindsay was born and raised in Massachusetts and lives in Washington, DC.

Communications and Marketing

NY: +1.212.434.9888 DC: +1.202.509.8525