

# COUNCIL *on* FOREIGN RELATIONS

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## Richard K. Betts

Richard K. Betts is adjunct senior fellow for national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). At Columbia University, Betts is the Arnold A. Saltzman professor of war and peace studies in the political science department, director of the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, and director of the international security policy program in the School of International and Public Affairs. His areas of expertise include international conflict, U.S. defense policy, military strategy, political and military intelligence, and terrorism.

Previously, Betts was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution until 1990 and adjunct lecturer at Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. He has also served at different times on the Harvard faculty as lecturer in government and as visiting professor of government. A former staff member of the original Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (the Church Committee), the National Security Council, and the Mondale Presidential Campaign, Betts has been an occasional consultant to the National Intelligence Council and Central Intelligence Agency, served for six years on the National Security Advisory Panel for the director of central intelligence, and was a member of the National Commission on Terrorism (the Bremer Commission). He lectures frequently at schools such as the National War College, Foreign Service Institute, and U.S. Military Academy. He was honorably discharged as a second lieutenant from the U.S. Army in 1971.

Betts's writings have earned five prizes, including the Woodrow Wilson Award of the American Political Science Association for the best book in political science. His first book, *Soldiers, Statesmen, and Cold War Crises*, published by Harvard University Press in 1977, was issued in a second edition by Columbia University Press in 1991. He is the author of three books published by the Brookings Institution: *Surprise Attack*, *Nuclear Blackmail and Nuclear Balance*, and *Military Readiness*; coauthor and editor of three other Brookings books: *The Irony of Vietnam*, *Nonproliferation and U.S. Foreign Policy*, and *Cruise Missiles: Technology, Strategy, Politics*; editor of *Conflict After the Cold War*, second edition; and coeditor of *Paradoxes of Strategic Intelligence*. Betts has published numerous articles on foreign policy, military strategy, intelligence, conventional forces, nuclear weapons, arms trade, collective security, and other subjects in journals such as *Foreign Affairs*, *International Security*, *World Politics*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Survival*, and *International Studies Quarterly*, among others.

Born in 1947, he received his BA, MA, and PhD in government from Harvard University. Betts is married to Adela M. Bolet, has three children, and lives in Teaneck, New Jersey.