

# COUNCIL *on* FOREIGN RELATIONS

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

New York Hybrid Hauser Symposium

## *The Axis of Autocracies*

**Thursday, March 27, 2025**

12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (EDT)

### **In-Person Lunch Reception**

1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. (EDT)

#### **Session One: The Rise of the Axis of Autocracies**

Panelists will discuss the expanding ties among China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea and the rising concerns over a potential “Axis of Autocracies” challenging U.S. global leadership. This session will explore the depth and durability of this partnership, evaluating whether it is a temporary alignment of convenience or a lasting coalition with the power to reshape global politics.

[Christopher Chivvis](#), Senior Fellow and Director, American Statecraft Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
[Jennifer Kavanagh](#), Senior Fellow and Director of Military Analysis, Defense Priorities

[Thomas Graham](#), Distinguished Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

*Presider and Introductory Remarks:* [James Lindsay](#), Mary and David Boies Distinguished Senior Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy and Director of Fellowship Affairs, Council on Foreign Relations

2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (EDT)

### **In-Person Coffee Break**

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (EDT)

#### **Session Two: The Axis of Autocracies and the Global South**

Panelists will examine how China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea aim to weaken U.S. global influence by engaging the Global South, promoting alternative institutions like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and challenging the dollar’s dominance. This session will evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts, particularly in shaping the positions of key global swing states such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa.

[Tanvi Madan](#), Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy, Center for Asia Policy Studies; Brookings Institution

[Ebenezer Obadare](#), Douglas Dillon Senior Fellow for Africa Studies, Council on Foreign Relations

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[Feliciano de Sá Guimarães](#), Academic Director, Brazilian Center for International Relations; Professor, Institute of International Relations, University of São Paulo

*Presider:* [Laura Trevelyan](#), Journalist; Chancellor, Cardiff University; Former Anchor, BBC News; CFR Member

3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. (EDT)

## **In-Person Coffee Break**

3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. (EDT)

## **Session Three: The Four-Power Problem—How Should the U.S. Respond to the Rise of the Axis of Autocracies?**

Panelists will discuss how increased cooperation between China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea poses a potentially unprecedented threat to U.S. national security and how the U.S. should respond.

[Heather Conley](#), Senior Advisor, Evenflow Macro, LLC; Former President, German Marshall Fund; CFR Member

[Ivo Daalder](#), Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Council on Global Affairs; CFR Member

*Presider:* **Suzanne Nossel**, Board Member, Meta Oversight Board; Former Chief Executive Officer, PEN America; CFR Member

4:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (EDT)

## **In-Person Reception**

*This symposium is on the record.*

*This [Hauser Symposium](#) is made possible by the generous support of the Hauser Foundation.*

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