

George Friedman



Dr. George Friedman is Founder and Chairman of Geopolitical Futures, a company dedicated to forecasting the course of the international system (www.geopoliticalfutures.com). He is an internationally recognized strategist on global affairs who has been called “the creator of the field of geopolitical forecasting.”

Friedman is the author of numerous *New York Times* bestselling books. The most prescient among them is *The Next 100 Years: A Forecast for the 21st Century* (2009), that predicts the geopolitical changes shaping the 21st century and was published in over 20 languages. Friedman’s other best sellers include *Flashpoints: The Emerging Crisis in Europe*, *The Next Decade*, *America’s Secret War*, *The Future of War* and *The Intelligence Edge*.

A very popular keynote speaker on international geopolitics, Friedman’s experience in military modeling, philosophy, intelligence and international affairs places him in high demand at numerous conferences and industry-specific events. He has briefed for numerous major military and government organizations and is frequently invited to speak internationally.

Prior to founding Geopolitical Futures, Friedman was Chairman of Stratfor, the geopolitical intelligence publishing and consulting firm he founded in 1996. He left Stratfor in 2015.

Friedman received his bachelor’s degree from the City College of the City University of New York and holds a Ph.D. in government from Cornell University. He lives in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Friedman is available for interviews on all areas of global geopolitics.

Jacob Shapiro



Jacob Shapiro is the Director of Analysis for Geopolitical Futures, a position he has held since the company's founding in 2015. He is a geopolitical analyst who explains and predicts global trends. He oversees a team of analysts, the company's forecasting process and the day-to-day analysis of important geopolitical developments.

Mr. Shapiro is a regular speaker at international conferences and has appeared both in print and on television as an expert on international affairs in such places as MSNBC, CNBC, the New York Times and Fox News.

Prior to Geopolitical Futures, Mr. Shapiro worked at Stratfor as an analyst and the director of the operations center.

Mr. Shapiro holds a Master's Degree from Oxford University, where he won an award for his dissertation on the link between philosophy and mysticism in 20th century Jewish thought. He also holds a Bachelor's degree from Cornell University in Near Eastern Studies. He resides in Austin, Texas.

Mr. Shapiro's area of expertise is global geopolitics. A sample of current issues includes:

- US-Russia relations and US-China relations
- Brexit and EU
- Eastern European economic and political developments
- Turkish and Iranian geopolitics
- Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- Sunni Islamism

Allison Fedirka



Allison Fedirka is Director of Analyst Operations for Geopolitical Futures. In addition to writing analyses, she helps train new analysts, oversees the intellectual quality of analyst work and guides the forecasting process.

Prior to joining Geopolitical Futures, Ms. Fedirka worked for Stratfor as a Latin America specialist and subsequently as the Latin America regional director. She lived in South America – primarily Argentina and Brazil – for more than seven years and, in addition to English, fluently speaks Spanish and Portuguese.

Ms. Fedirka has a bachelor's degree in Spanish and international studies from Washington University in St. Louis and a master's degree in international relations and affairs from the University of Belgrano, Argentina. Her thesis was on Brazil and Angola and south-south cooperation. She lives in the Washington, DC area.

A sample of topics in Allison's area of expertise:

- Crisis in Venezuela
- Brazil's political and economic recoveries
- Mexico's foreign policy and US relations
- Argentina's economic reform/recovery efforts
- Re-emergence of the Monroe Doctrine
- Western hemisphere trade blocs (USMCA, Mercosur, Pacific Alliance)

Ekaterina Zolotova



Ekaterina Zolotova is an analyst for Geopolitical Futures covering Eurasia. She has a particular focus on the geopolitics of Russia, its economy and its impact on regional and global strategy. She writes about the trends in the region including political implications in Ukraine and other former Soviet Union states.

Prior to Geopolitical Futures, Ms. Zolotova participated in several research projects devoted to problems and prospects of Russia's integration into the world economy. Ms. Zolotova has a specialist degree in international economic relations from Plekhanov Russian University of Economics.

In addition, Ms. Zolotova studied international trade and international integration processes. Her thesis was on features of economic development of Venezuela. She speaks native Russian and is fluent in English. She lives and works in Moscow.

A sample of topics in Ekaterina's area of expertise:

- Resource dependency of the Russian economy
- Weaknesses of Russian social sector
- Relations between Russia and Ukraine
- Union State of Belarus and Russia.
- Multilateral cooperation with Central Asian states

Phillip Orchard



Phillip Orchard is an analyst at Geopolitical Futures. His focus is on the geopolitics of Southeast Asia and Latin America. Mr. Orchard spent more than six years working and writing from abroad where he's had formative, immersive experiences with the problems arising from mass political upheaval, civil conflict and human migration. He joined Geopolitical Futures in 2017.

Prior to joining the company, Mr. Orchard spent nearly six years at Stratfor, working as an editor and writing about East Asian geopolitics.

Mr. Orchard holds a master's degree in Security, Law and Diplomacy from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, where he focused on energy and national security, Chinese foreign policy, intelligence analysis, and institutional pathologies. He also earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Texas. He speaks Spanish and some Thai and Lao.

A sample of topics in Phillip's area of expertise:

- U.S.-China trade war
- Chinese politics and economic reform
- China's expansion into the South and East China Seas
- The U.S.-North Korea nuclear standoff
- Southeast Asia's balancing act between China and the U.S.
- Japanese, Indian and Australian roles in Indo-Pacific competition

Ryan Bridges



Ryan Bridges is a geopolitical analyst whose area of expertise is Europe and issues surrounding the European Union. He tracks and forecasts the impact of the EU and the interaction of nations within Europe on global trends. He joined Geopolitical Futures in 2017.

Prior to Geopolitical Futures Mr. Bridges worked for seven years as an editor at Stratfor. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas, where he studied political science with a minor in philosophy.

Mr. Bridges lives and works from Germany and also travels extensively in the region. He speaks some German.

A sample of the topics in Ryan's area of expertise:

- Brexit and the Irish border
- Germany's economic vulnerability
- German politics
- EU political, economic and military integration
- French political unrest and the yellow vest protests

Xander Snyder



Xander Snyder is an analyst at Geopolitical Futures tracking global trends and developing geopolitical forecasts. He has a diverse theoretical and practical background in economics, finance and entrepreneurship. As an investment banker, Mr. Snyder worked in corporate debt origination and later in a consumer-retail industry group at Guggenheim Securities, in mergers and acquisitions, equity and debt capital raises.

Mr. Snyder subsequently co-founded and served as CFO for Persistent Efficiency, an energy efficiency company that used cutting-edge technology to create a new type of electricity sensor for circuit breakers and related data services. He raised over \$1.5 million in seed capital, signed four Fortune 500 companies as customers, and helped grow the company to a 12-person team.

As an independent financial consultant, Mr. Snyder wrote an economics publication sent to over 10,000 individuals and assisted in deal sourcing for a real estate private equity fund.

Mr. Snyder received his bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, in economics and classical music composition from Cornell University.

A sample of topics in Xander's area of expertise:

- The Syrian civil war
- Turkish foreign relations (including US, Russia, regional)
- Military competition in Djibouti
- Saudi relations with the region and with US
- Indian-Pakistan nuclear issues
- Black Sea conflict
- US strategy towards Iran & related topic
- Chinese economy/financial system