

P.W. Singer

Futurist, Cybersecurity, Technology and National Security Expert

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Business Growth / Strategy / Trends
- Current Events
- Cyber Security
- Foreign Policy and Geopolitics
- Futurists / Trends
- IT
- National Security / Terrorism
- Politics
- Technology / Alternate Technology
- TED-Talks
- Virtual
- World Affairs



About P.W. Singer

Peter Warren Singer is [Strategist at New America](#), a [Professor of Practice at Arizona State University](#), and Principal at [Useful Fiction LLC](#).

A *New York Times* Bestselling author, described in the *Wall Street Journal* as “the premier futurist in the national-security environment,” he has been named by the Smithsonian as one of the nation’s 100 leading innovators, by *Defense News* as one of the 100 most influential people in defense issues, by *Foreign Policy* to their Top 100 Global Thinkers List, and as an official “Mad Scientist” for the U.S. Army’s Training and Doctrine Command. No author, living or dead, has more books on the professional US military reading lists. His non-fiction books include *Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry*, *Children at War*, *Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century*, *Cybersecurity and Cyberwar: What Everyone Needs to Know* and most recently *LikeWar*, which explores how social media has changed war and politics. It was named an *Amazon* and *Foreign Affairs* book of the year and reviewed by *Booklist* as “LikeWar should be required reading for everyone living in a democracy and all who aspire to.” He is also the co-author of a new type of novel, using the format of a technothriller to communicate nonfiction research. *Ghost Fleet: A Novel of the Next World War* was both a top summer read and led to briefings everywhere from the White House to the Pentagon. His latest is *Burn-In: A Novel of the Real Robotic Revolution*. It has been described by the creator of *Lost* and *Watchmen* as “A visionary new form of storytelling—a rollercoaster ride of science fiction blended with science fact,” and by the head of Army Cyber Command as “I loved Burn-In so much that I’ve already read it twice.”

FULL BIOGRAPHY

Peter Warren Singer [Strategist at New America](#), a [Professor of Practice at Arizona State University](#), and Principal at [Useful Fiction LLC](#). A *New York Times* Bestselling author, described in the *Wall Street Journal* as “the premier futurist in the national-security environment,” Dr. Singer has been named by the Smithsonian as one of the nation’s 100 leading innovators, by *Defense News* as one of the 100 most influential people in defense issues, by *Foreign Policy* to their Top 100 Global Thinkers List, and as an official “Mad Scientist” for the U.S. Army’s Training and Doctrine Command. No author, living or dead, has more books on the professional US military reading lists.

Singer has served as a consultant for the US Military, Intelligence Community, and FBI. He was coordinator of the Obama campaign’s defense policy task force, named to the US Military’s Transformation Advisory Group, NATO’s Innovation Advisory Board (for unmanned maritime systems), the NSA’s Advisory Board, and is an Associate with the US Air Force’s China Aerospace Studies Institute. In addition to his work on conflict issues, Singer was a member of the State Department’s Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy, and an advisor to IDS and Signal. In the entertainment sector, he has advised a range of programs, including for Warner Brothers, Dreamworks, Universal, HBO, Discovery, History Channel, and the video game series *Call of Duty*, the best-selling entertainment project in history. He has received awards/ support from the Tribeca Film Institute, Sloan Filmmakers Fund, Film Independent, and FAST Track at the L.A. Film Festival.

His first book [Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry](#) pioneered the study of the new industry of private companies providing military services for hire, an issue that soon became important with the use and abuses of these companies in Iraq. It was named best book of the year by the American Political Science Association, among the top five international affairs books of the year by the Gelber Prize, and a “top ten

summer read” by Businessweek. Singer advised the Defense Department, CIA, and the European Union on the issue and helped bring to light the role of private contractors in the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal and the Halliburton controversies in Iraq.

[Children at War was the first to comprehensively explore the tragic rise of child soldier groups and was recognized by the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Book of the Year Award. Singer subsequently served as a consultant on the issue to the Marine Corps, and the recommendations in his book resulted in changes in the UN peacekeeping training program. An accompanying History Channel documentary, “Child Warriors,” won a CINE Golden Eagle Award for excellence in the production of film and television.](#)

[Wired for War examined the implications of robotics and other new technologies for war, politics, ethics, and law in the 21st century. Described as “awesome” by Jon Stewart of the Daily Show, Wired for War made the NY Times non-fiction bestseller list in its first week of release. It was named a non-fiction Book of the Year by The Financial Times and featured at venues as diverse as all three US military academies, The Festival of Dangerous Ideas, TED, and the royal court of the UAE.](#)

[Cybersecurity and Cyberwar: What Everyone Needs to Know explores the key questions we all face in the cyber age \(how it all works, why it all matters, and what we can do?\). It was described by the Chairman of Google as “an essential read” and by the former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO as “the most approachable and readable book ever written on the cyber world.” The book was featured at venues ranging from the Microsoft CEO Summit to the South by Southwest festival.](#)

[Ghost Fleet: A Novel of the Next World War melds nonfiction style research on emerging trends and technology with a fictional exploration of what the future of war at sea, on land, in the air, space, and cyberspace will be like in the future. Described as “a modern-day successor to tomes such as The Hunt For Red October from the late Tom Clancy.” \(USA Today\) and “A Wild Ride” \(The Economist\), it went through 6 print runs in its first 6 weeks of release. Its new model of “useful fiction” has been endorsed by a unique group that ranges from the head of the US Navy to the writer of HBO Game of Thrones and the producer of Hunger Games.](#)

[LikeWar](#) explores how social media has changed war and politics, and war and politics has changed social media. It was named an Amazon book of the year, a NY Times “new and notable,” and reviewed by Booklist as “LikeWar should be required reading for everyone living in a democracy and all who aspire to.”

His latest book is [Burn-In: A Novel of the Real Robotic Revolution](#). Out on May 26, 2020, it has been described by the creator of *Lost* and *Watchmen* as “A visionary new form of storytelling—a rollercoaster ride of science fiction blended with science fact.” and by the head of Army Cyber Command as “I loved Burn-In so much that I’ve already read it twice.” The authors have been invited to share the project’s lessons with leaders who ranged from multiple heads of state, including the US president-elect, to Cabinet members, 4-star generals, US Senators, Fortune 100 C-suites and leading venture capitalists.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Singer was the founding Director of the Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence at the Brookings Institution. He was the youngest scholar named Senior Fellow in Brookings’ 102-year history. Prior to that, he was the founding Director of the Project on US Policy Towards the Islamic World, where he was the organizer of the *US-Islamic World Forum*, a global leaders conference. He has also worked for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, as a contributing editor at *Popular Science*, and at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard. Singer received his Ph.D. in Government from Harvard and a BA from the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton.

Select Keynotes

- NextTech: The Future of Technology and Geopolitics

Robots, Artificial Intelligence,, Cyberwar, 3D printing, bio-enhancements, and a new geopolitical competition; the 21st century is being shaped by a range of exciting, and scary, new trends and technologies. A best selling author described by the Wall Street Journal as “one of Washington’s pre-eminent futurists,” and a consultant for groups that range from the CIA and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs to Hollywood and the Call of Duty video game series, Singer uses an exciting speaking style to explore for an audience the key trends emerging today that will shape the world of technology and security tomorrow.

- LikeWar: How Social Media became weaponized, and what we can do about it

Terrorists livestream their attacks, Presidents win elections over social media, and viral misinformation alters not just the result of battles, but share prices, public health, and even the very fate of nations. The result is that the Internet had blurred into a new kind of battlespace that plays out on our smartphones. P. W. Singer is the author of “LikeWar,” a new book that was named an Amazon book of the year and has been lauded by figures as diverse as the creator of the Internet, the director of the CIA, and the producer of The Purge movies. For five years, he researched how social media works and what was its effect on the world, crossing examples that ranged from how ISIS copies the Instagram tactics of Taylor Swift, a former World of Warcraft addict foils war crimes thousands of miles away, internet trolls shape elections, and China uses a smartphone app to police the thoughts of 1.4 billion citizens. Described in the Wall Street Journal as “the premier futurist in the national- security environment,” Singer uses an exciting and entertaining speaking style to explain how and why things go viral, the new rules of power in the age of social media, and exactly what can we all do to navigate our way through a world increasingly shaped by “likes” and lies.

- **The CyberThreatscape: What are the Key Trends in Cybersecurity?**

From ransomware to the collapse of cyber deterrence, a series of new threats are changing the cybersecurity landscape. A best selling author described by the Wall Street Journal as “one of Washington’s pre-eminent futurists,” and a consultant for groups that range from the CIA and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs to Hollywood, Singer uses an exciting speaking style to explore for an audience the key trends emerging today that will shape the world of cybersecurity tomorrow.

- **“Useful Fiction”: How to Use The Power of a Story Well Told**

How do we better understand and prepare for the future? How do we comprehend new trends and technologies? How do we better share new ideas and influence target audiences? One answer may be the concept known as “useful fiction” or FICINT (Fictional Intelligence), which enlists the power of the oldest communication technology of all –story– and applies it to real world needs and research. P.W. Singer is a best-selling author, whose work at the intersection of strategic foresight, discovery, and narrative has been featured in media like *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, and *Wired* and lauded by figures who range from the heads of the CIA and US Navy to Silicon Valley’s most successful investors. Having run useful fiction projects for organizations that range from the US military to the world’s leading companies, he will explain how to implement this new methodology to envision, innovate, and communicate.

Select Book Titles

- **2020: Burn-In: A Novel of the REAL Robotic Revolution**
- **2018: LikeWar: The Weaponization of Social Media**
- **2015: Ghost Fleet: A Novel of the Next World War**
- **2014: Cybersecurity and Cyberwar: What Everyone Needs to Know**
- **2009: Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and 21st Century Conflict**
- **2005: Children at War**
- **2003: Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry**

Select Articles

- [Full List of Singer articles](#)

Select Testimonials

A noted public speaker, Singer has given keynote speeches and briefings at a diverse range of venues, including: The White House Situation Room, Pentagon, NSA, CIA, DIA, FBI, US Congress, the Royal Court of the UAE, Australian Parliament, TED, South by SouthWest, Microsoft Leadership Summit, Google, “Geek Week”, the “Mad Scientist” conference, Sydney Opera House, and the Festival of Dangerous Ideas. Comments from Previous Speaking Events “Dr. P. W. Singer is considered widely to be the premier scholar on all things futuristic” US Naval War College “Peter W. Singer was a wonderful addition to our university lecture series. His presentation was engaging, thought provoking and a perfect fit to our conference theme of “Leading Today, Inspiring Tomorrow.” Our university leadership, trustees and fellows, graduate students, faculty and guests all found his lecture riveting.” Event Planner, University “Peter was excellent, well received and extremely easy to work with...slightly terrifying – clearly brilliant and extremely knowledgeable and insightful” Business Leaders conference organizer “Singer’s presentation, titled NextTech: The Future of Technology, Security, and Threats, was engaging, energetic, and most importantly, thought provoking. The feedback from our audience was overwhelming. Peter received an average rating of 4.6/5 – the highest rated presentation of the conference....PW’s visual presentation materials were well planned and aesthetically pleasing. His speech posed difficult questions while still entertaining the crowd. PW’s demeanor and presentation style were an ideal kick-off to our event.” Convention organizer for non-profit association Audience evaluation report from RSA (pdf) “Singer really showed us that we were only scratching the surface of what we should be thinking about in the future. After listening to him, we have never been able to look at the world the same way again.” Head of Game Developer Studio “You were awesome. I only worry that the students will expect this high quality in all my events. A good problem to worry about.” University speaker series organizer “Okay, I’m just going to be honest with you. I didn’t have much interest toward your presentation. I skimmed through one of your articles 10 minutes before you spoke to us. My plan was to secretly watch the March Madness while you talked to us, but with in the first three minutes I shut my MacBook because I was hooked. I learned a lot about the growth of technology over time, it was very interesting. And I have to give you props for keeping 200 high school students focused for more than an hour. After your presentation, I

immediately started reading more of your articles. So thank you." High School Student "Given the midshipmen's dense schedules and technological bent, required weekday lectures on ethics are sometimes a tough sell, but the response has been unprecedented! Best lecture ever has been the consistent feedback from students faculty, and staff alike." Director, US Naval Academy Center for Ethical Leadership "Simply outstanding...One of our best sessions in recent memory. Both right and left seemed more than satisfied (could be a first!)." Foreign affairs committee organizer Your thoughts on changes in 21st century warfare and shifts in power bases were thought provoking and a key aspect in a very successful Summit! You helped facilitate important discussions that lasted throughout the week. US Air Force Major General "Outstanding feedback across the board—students, staff, faculty. Heard "best lecture ever" several times today from my students. Great job!" Conference Organizer "Over the past several years, Dr. Singer has become a frequent and welcome guest here in our senior professional military education community. His unique insights bring great value to the thinking of our future senior leaders in the national security establishment, in what is invariably a highly rewarding learning experience." Commandant, National Defense University "The group really enjoyed your talk and wished they could have spent more time with you (always a good sign for the program planner!). They were truly honored that an individual of your stature would share leadership insights with them. And, the real world experiences you shared reinforced the learning objectives of the course. Your presentation was a highlight of the course, and I hope you might continue to speak at our programs." Executive Education course organizer "The comments I've received so far are all positive, if not entirely enthusiastic. You left a real impact. In fact, don't be surprised if we look for you again next year." University Conference organizer "Thank you for giving our group the best presentation we have ever had on a very timely topic." US Army Colonel "Your talk was a big hit – and a week later the students are still wrestling with your comments." Commandant of Air Force Institute of Technology You were one of their favorite speakers by far – they were very interested in the information you presented, which was all new to them and got them energized for everything they would learn at the program. I couldn't have asked for a better first speaker. National High School Student Leader Conference Organizer Testimony to House Oversight Committee on Cybersecurity (Video) Strategist and Senior Fellow Peter W. Singer testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Joint IT and National Security Subcommittee hearing on "Digital Acts of War", sharing thoughts on cybersecurity and deterrence. [Click here for Potential Speaking Topics](#)

– *List of Testimonials*