

# John Sitolides

**Geopolitical & Geo-Economic Strategist; Expert in Global Affairs and American Politics; Senior Fellow for National Security, Foreign Policy Research Institute**

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## Topics

- Current Events
- Energy Policy
- Foreign Policy and Geopolitics
- National Security / Terrorism
- Risk Management
- World Affairs

## About John Sitolides

John Sitolides is Principal at Trilogy Advisors LLC in Washington, D.C., specializing in U.S. government relations, geopolitical risk, and international affairs, and is a National Security Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Delivering exclusive geopolitical risk reports, webcasts, and related products and services to institutional capital market and retail clients, he is a professional speaker at corporate, investor, and industry conferences, and before government, military and intelligence community audiences, on geopolitical risk management and the business impacts of international security policies. He explores the complex geopolitical and geo-economic decisions that impact markets in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and worldwide, helping corporate executives, investment managers and civic audiences better understand, anticipate, and mitigate risk.

Under a U.S. government contract from 2006-2023, Sitolides was the Southern Europe Regional Coordinator at the Foreign Service Institute, the State Department's professional development and diplomacy academy for American foreign policy professionals. He was Board Chairman of the Woodrow Wilson Center Southeast Europe Project from 2005-2011, following seven years as Executive Director of the Western Policy Center, an international relations institute specializing in U.S., NATO and EU interests in Europe and the Middle East, until he negotiated its 2004 merger with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

He has testified before Congress and is a frequent national security commentator on U.S. and international media such as Bloomberg News, CNN, FOX News, CNN International, and NewsNation, and has been interviewed or cited in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times, The National Interest, Politico, National Public Radio, Asia Times, Institutional Investor, Tagesspiegel, South China Morning Post, and other leading print and digital media.

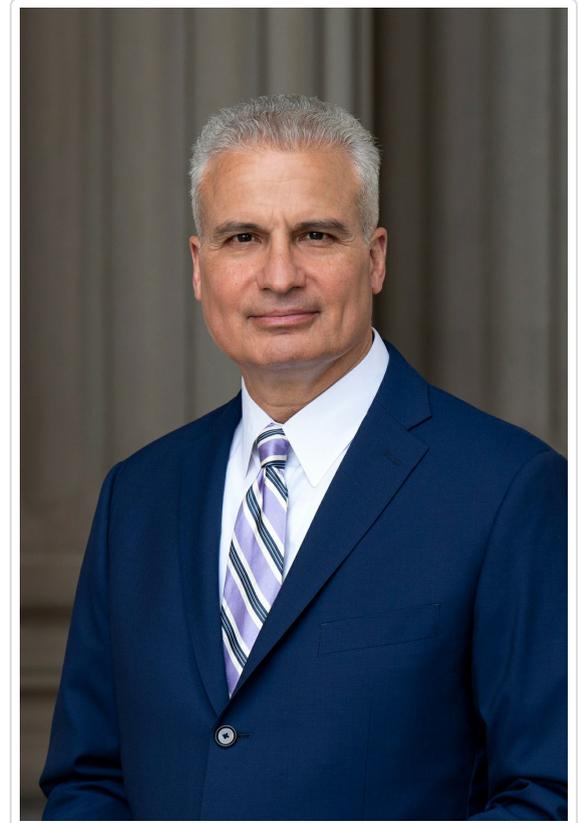
His domestic client portfolio includes industry leaders in real estate development, home construction and agribusiness, along with aviation and emerging technology companies, with a specialization in environmental regulatory reform and private property rights protection. He launched his career in the U.S. Senate and on a series of successful political campaigns.

Sitolides serves on the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of Leadership 100, a national Orthodox Christian foundation. He served on the Board of Directors of 3doo, Inc., a VR/AR media technology company, and of Biovest International, developing personalized cancer immunotherapies; the Board of Directors of International Orthodox Christian Charities, a global humanitarian organization; and the Board of Governors of the Advanced Imaging Society, promoting the global motion picture industry's arts and technologies.

He is a member of the Association of International Risk Intelligence Professionals, the Intelligence and National Security Alliance, the Columbia University Club of Washington, D.C., the Empire State Forum, and the Association of Former Senate Aides. Sitolides holds a Master's Degree in International and Public Affairs from Columbia University. His wife is an attorney and businesswoman, and they have four sons.

## Select Keynotes

- **Washington & the World: The New Geopolitics of Great Power Competition**



The global economy, long based upon a U.S.-led trading system, is undergoing profound and fundamentally transformative shifts, from new hot wars and potential cold wars, as well as challenging energy security debates. Iran and Israel are in direct conflict, as Tehran-sponsored terror against Israel, regional Gulf states, and global shipping in the Red Sea is destabilizing the Middle East and its global oil and gas supply network. Russia's war against Ukraine is upending Europe's security architecture and global energy and food supply chains, as the EU escapes hydrocarbon dependence on Moscow, NATO seeks to prevent alliance fracturing, and Germany and the United Kingdom plan for energy rationing and deindustrialization. U.S.-China relations are more tense than ever over Taiwan, technology, trade, and human rights, as Beijing seeks to dominate Asia, manage its commercial relations, and challenge U.S. global leadership, and Washington pursues closer ties with India, Japan, and Indo-Pacific powers for regional counterbalance. Re-globalization, food shortages, energy scarcity, cybersecurity, and climate policy dependent on rare earths processing increasingly impact C-suite decision-making. Amid the most complex international security landscape since the end of the Cold War, geopolitical strategist John Sittlides delivers valuable insights and thoughtful understanding of international security trends in the near-term and toward the horizon. Using open-source intelligence, he explores the key geopolitical risks across the international trade, security, technology, and diplomacy landscapes that will dominate global and regional investment strategies and provide both serious challenges and long-term opportunities, to help corporate and investment leaders better understand, anticipate, and mitigate geopolitical risk in today's disrupted financial, commercial, and political landscapes.

## Select Articles

- [An External Agenda for the NATO Summit](#)

July 2024: With NATO leaders along with Indo-Pacific dialogue partners in Washington set to begin their consultations on July 9, they will have the opportunity to frame strategic responses to the shifting geopolitics of great power competition. Here are a few "action items" that should be on the NATO summit agenda.

- [NATO Needs to Get Serious at 75](#)

February 2024: NATO's seventy-fifth anniversary celebration in Washington, DC must offer a strategic vision for transatlantic security amid the most challenging geopolitical landscape since the end of the Cold War. Potential conflicts throughout the alliance's European and Eurasian periphery also threaten to draw NATO or its respective members into new hot wars. Magnified geopolitical disruption at the nexus of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East portends a more challenging future for NATO than US and other Western political leaders seem prepared to confront.

- ["Geopolitics & Supply Chains"](#)

January 2024 report on the geopolitics of global supply chains, including the growing Middle East shipping disruptions, for the industry journal "The Purchaser," examining the trends and technologies impacting procurement and supply chain executives across all major industry sectors.

- ["Geopolitical Risk & Energy: International Security Upheavals Impacting Strategic Planning"](#)

January 2024 report on the geopolitics of global energy markets published in NAPE Magazine for its energy industry decision-maker audience.

- [Robert O'Brien's task as Trump's new national security adviser begins Charting the demanding geopolitical agenda](#)

The appointment of Robert O'Brien, a skilled negotiator and non-ideological foreign policy professional, to succeed John Bolton as national security adviser marks a significant turning point in the White House's national security strategy to confront and prevail against robust adversaries, especially China and Iran, in an increasingly complex and dangerous international landscape.

- [Guarding maritime chokepoints against worldwide disruption](#)

The Trump administration's National Security Strategy recognizes Moscow's newfound regional power status, buttressed by 49-year leases to maintain and expand Russian naval and air bases on Syria's Mediterranean coast. Moscow is now positioned to project greater military power and diplomatic influence throughout southeastern Europe and the Middle East than at any time since it was expelled from Egypt in the early 1970s.

- [The national infrastructure dilemma It may fail spectacularly if environmental regulations aren't reformed first](#)

President-elect Donald Trump has proposed as one of his legislative priorities a \$1 trillion national infrastructure program ("Trump's infrastructure program," Nov. 28). His goal of upgrading and modernizing America's highways, airports, harbors, inland waterways, railways, electric transmission lines and water pipes and treatment plants – creating two million jobs in the process – is receiving broad bipartisan support.

- [How global risks will test the new administration Donald Trump must craft a geopolitical strategy that advances national security](#)

New Delhi's independent foreign policy includes close commercial relations with Russia and Iran, and a strategic naval bulwark against Chinese power. Pakistan is integral to Beijing's colossal infrastructure network to European, Indian Ocean and African ports. Its nuclear arsenal could be overtaken by radical Islamists, the major reason U.S. forces remain engaged in neighboring Afghanistan. Balancing relations with both India and Pakistan is a constant White House priority.

- [Vortex of turmoil, vacuum of power](#)

Washington Times, June 5, 2016

## Select Testimonials

"Your passion for and understanding of the strategic geopolitical challenges facing the United States and global community are inspiring. Your presentation was excellent."

— *Al Checchi, Checchi Capital Advisers LLC*

"May be the most fascinating presentation I have ever seen at an event. Global geopolitics and the impact on trade, economies, and business. This is brilliant."

— *Christopher Barger, Senior Communications Director, Society of Manufacturing Engineers*

"Your presentation was absolutely fascinating and one of the most interesting presentations I have ever attended."

— *Christopher Gimson, Director, Aon Risk Solutions/Global Broking Centre*

"John Sitalides gave our keynote talk on geo-political risks at the GAIM Ops Cayman event in April 2017, a 500+ person event for COO/CCO/CFOs in the alternative investment industry. I've been working in conferences for 5 years and I can honestly say it was one of the best talks I've seen. John provided fascinating insights on geo-political issues including Russia, China, the Middle East, North Korea and Europe – using simple techniques like turning maps on their side to really bring a new perspective to understanding the issues and appreciating their significance on a whole new level. Mixed with cutting edge and up-to-date knowledge of the topics and latest political developments, and the fact John is an excellent and engaging speaker, made for a fascinating presentation. Our audience loved it. The room was packed and it's been rated as a favorite session by many of the attendees. John is top of my list for any geo-political analysis in the future."

— *Cosimo Montagu, Director & Editor-in-Chief, GAIM Ops & GAIM | KNect365*

"Consistently rated your sessions as the very best - your expertise ... is unequalled."

— *Department of Military Strategy and Operations, National War College*

"Your U.S. Naval War College presentation on "The Grand Arc of Economic Geography: Shaping the 21st Century" was very well received by our students and faculty. The audience appreciated the length and breadth of your analysis, and the presentation both of a compelling "big picture" as to where the world is heading in both geopolitical and geo-economic terms, and the ways in which you connected "dots" in East and South Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe together. It was a masterful performance and one that has provoked ongoing discussion and debate."

— *Dr. Nikolas K. Gvosdev, Captain Jerome E. Levy Chair of Economic Geography and National Security, U.S. Naval War College*

"You did a great job explaining all of the very significant issues facing us from all over the world."

— *Greg Kushner, LIDO Consulting*

"I thought your presentation at GAIM Ops London was brilliant. As an enthusiastic observer of world events, I found your presentation to be the most concisely informative and interesting presentation I have probably ever heard on the world's current and future trouble zones."

— *Hugh Craigie Halkett, Financial Risk Mitigation, Inc.*

"You were clearly the best presenter...You have a unique gift to succinctly wrap geopolitical issues into a coherent methodology of whom, why and how."

— *Jan Ager Karel, Ager Consulting*

"The thoughtful, comprehensive, understandable and practical view you brought to the complex problems and issues revolving around geopolitics truly enlightened and engaged the audience at P&I's Global Future of Retirement conference. Setting the tone on the second day of the event kept people talking, and your presentation was referred to numerous times by other speakers throughout the day."

– *Michael Ocran, Director of Conference Programming, Pensions & Investments Inc.*

"Your talk was easily the best received one of the Family Office Wealth Management Forum."

– *Randy Conone, Chief Investment Officer, MTrust*

"Very much enjoyed your presentation - excellent poise, diction, delivery, substance, coordinated use of effective visuals, and audience connection - exemplary!"

– *Richard A. Bird, President, Bird Capital Group*

"Our participants were greatly impressed and satisfied with the way you guided us through the political landscape of the contemporary United States. Your insights provided us with a clear and solid background to understand the current changes in America."

– *Telenor ASA (Norwegian Telecommunications Corporation)*

"You exhibit a rare ability to process difficult and complicated questions yet maneuvering skillfully down unexpected avenues, all the while substantively addressing virtually every issue presented to you, no matter how off-beat or unexpected."

– *U.S. Department of State*

"Thank you again for a spectacular presentation. You were superbly forceful, articulate, and persuasive, and I have heard nothing but compliments from our participants."

– *Wofford College*