

# BRIEFING BOOK 10-18-09

## THOMAS RICKS

### Thomas Ricks

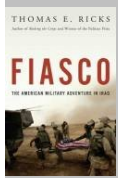
Thomas E. Ricks is a Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security ([CNAS](#)). Concurrently with his duties at CNAS, Ricks writes an online blog for ForeignPolicy.com called "[The Best Defense](#)," and serves as a contributing editor for *Foreign Policy*.



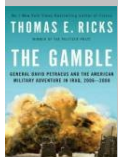
Prior to becoming a Senior Fellow, Ricks was affiliated with CNAS as a Senior Writer in Residence. Ricks covered the U.S. military for *The Washington Post* from 2000 through 2008. Until the end of 1999 he had the same beat at the *Wall Street Journal*, where he was a reporter for 17 years. He has reported on

U.S. military activities in Somalia, Haiti, Korea, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Kuwait, Turkey, Afghanistan and Iraq. He was part of a *Wall Street Journal* team that won the Pulitzer Prize for national reporting in 2000 for a series of articles on how the U.S. military might change to meet the new demands of the 21st century. Ricks also was part of a Washington Post team that won the 2002 Pulitzer prize for reporting about the beginning of the U.S. counteroffensive against terrorism.

He is a member of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, the Society for Military History, and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. [Biography from CNAS](#).



Ricks is the author of the bestselling [Fiasco: The American Military Adventure In Iraq](#) which was a national best seller and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2007. He also wrote [Making the Corps](#) and [A Soldier's Duty](#).



Most recently, he has written a follow-up to [Fiasco](#) entitled [The Gamble: General David Petraeus and the American Military Adventure in Iraq, 2006-2008](#).

### Articles and blogs:

Here is [Ricks' current blog at ForeignPolicy.com](#)

Recently, the *New York Times* [quoted](#) his blog "When was the last time Biden was right about anything?" "[The Best Defense | FOREIGN POLICY](#)

[Tom Ricks -- Why We Should Get Rid of West Point](#) *Washingtonpost.com*

[Thomas Ricks: Obama's Iraq War Will Be Long - Political Hotsheet ...](#) *CBS News*

[Eight questions for Thomas Ricks](#) *Democracy in America*

## BATTLE OF WANAT

The death of nine American soldiers in July 2008 during an attack by the Taliban on their outpost in the remote village of Wanat in Eastern Afghanistan is getting another look by the U.S. military. The battle of Wanat, described as the "Blackhawk Down" of the Afghan war, is seen as emblematic of the lack of clarity in the strategy in Afghanistan. Why were the soldiers there in the first place? Why weren't they supported by unmanned aerial vehicle flights? The battle is a microcosm of the current debate about whether America should withdraw or concentrate troops, and deal with some parts of Afghanistan only by aerial reconnaissance and bombing.



[Here is the U.S. military's own internal review](#) of the battle of Wanat, as released under the Freedom of Information Act

["The Battle of Wanat"](#) (interactive) *Washington Post*

["Almost a Lost Cause"](#) Greg Jaffe, *Washington Post*

["Battle of Wanat: Not 'Just Another Casualty' - A Son Killed in Battle and A Father Seeking Answers,"](#) *Washington Post*

["Inside an Afghan battle gone wrong: What happened at Wanat?"](#) Thomas Ricks, *Foreign Policy*

["US commanders 'incompetent' over nine soldiers killed in Afghan battle of Wanat,"](#) *Telegraph (UK)*

["Afghanistan assault points out U.S. vulnerabilities,"](#) *Los Angeles Times*

[A Army report on Wanat finds a major counterinsurgency failure ...](#) Thomas Ricks, *Foreign Policy*

[Battle of Wanat - Inside the Ambush](#) *CBS*

[What happened at Wanat?](#) *Small Wars Journal*

[Weapons failed US troops during Afghan firefight](#) *AP*

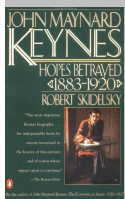
[Pentagon Opens New Inquiry on Wanat Battle](#) *NYT*

# PANEL

## Robert Skidelsky

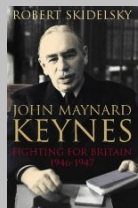
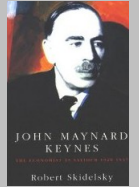
Lord Skidelsky is Emeritus Professor of Political Economy at the University of Warwick. His three volume biography of the economist John Maynard Keynes (1983, 1992, 2000) received numerous prizes, including the Lionel Gelber Prize for International Relations and the Council on Foreign Relations Prize for International Relations. He was made a life peer in 1991, and was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 1994.

In 1978, he was appointed Professor of International Studies at the University of Warwick, where he has since remained, though joining the Economics Department as Professor Political Economy in 1990.



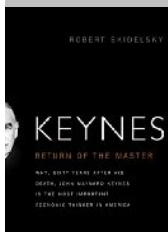
The first volume of his biography of John Maynard Keynes, [Hopes Betrayed, 1883-1920](#), was published in 1983.

The second volume, [The Economist as Saviour, 1920-1937](#) won the Wolfson Prize for History.



The third volume, [Fighting for Britain, 1937-1946](#) won the Duff Cooper Prize, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Biography, the Lionel Gelber Prize for International Relations and the Arthur Ross Council on Foreign Relations Prize for International Relations.

Since 2003, he has been a non-executive director of the mutual fund manager, [Janus Capital](#). In 2008, he was made a non-executive director of [Sistema](#), the Russian telecommunications giant. He is a director of the Moscow School of Political Studies and founder and executive secretary of the UK/Russia Round Table. Since 2002, he has been chairman of the Centre for Global Studies. He is also a trustee of the Manhattan Institute.



He writes a monthly column for [Project Syndicate](#), "Against the Current", which is syndicated in newspapers all over the world. His most recent book is an account of the current economic crisis, [Keynes: The Return of the Master](#).

Read more from his biography at his [website](#).

[Robert Skidelsky: 'Boom and bust' theories are no guide to today's economic turbulence](#) Guardian (UK)

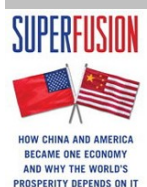
[Robert Skidelsky on Niall Ferguson](#)



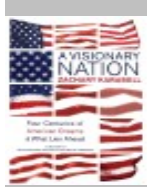
## Zachary Karabell

Zachary Karabell is President of [River Twice Research](#), where he analyzes economic and political trends. He is also a Senior Advisor for Business for Social Responsibility. Previously, he was Executive Vice President, Head of Marketing and Chief Economist at Fred Alger Management, a New York-based investment firm, and President of Fred Alger and Company, as well as Portfolio Manager of the China-US Growth Fund, which won both a Lipper Award for top performance and a 5-star designation from Morningstar. He was also Executive Vice President of Alger's Spectra Funds, a no-load family of mutual funds

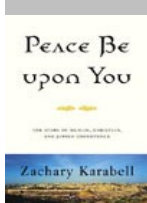
that launched the \$30 million Spectra Green Fund, where he oversaw the creation, launch and marketing of several funds, led corporate strategy for acquisitions, and represented the firm at public forums and in the media.



He is the author of several books, including [Superfusion: How China and America Became One Economy and Why the World's Prosperity Depends on It](#), and previous books such as



[A Visionary Nation: Four Centuries of American Dreams and What Lies Ahead, The Last Campaign: How Harry Truman Won the 1948 Election](#) (which won the Chicago Tribune Heartland Award for best non-fiction book of the year),



and [Peace Be Upon You: The Story of Muslim, Christian and Jewish Coexistence](#), which examined the forgotten legacy of peace among the three faiths. In 2003, the World Economic Forum designated Zachary a "Global Leader for Tomorrow."

He sits on the board of the World Policy Institute and the New America Foundation, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a regular commentator on national news programs, and a contributor to such publications as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*.

[Zachary Karabell Blog](#)

["Deficits and the Chinese Challenge,"](#) by Zachary Karabell, *Wall Street Journal* (The article Fareed refers to on the show this week)

[Zachary Karabell: Enough Already | worldpolicy.org](#)

[Milken Institute Global Conference 2009 - Speaker: Zachary Karabell](#)

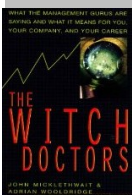
[Zachary Karabell: The Winds Are Still Blowing East](#) *Huffington Post*

[Zachary Karabell: Corporate Earnings Are No Sign of Recovery - WSJ.com](#)

[The Economic News Isn't All Bleak - WSJ.com](#)

## John Micklethwait

John Micklethwait is Editor-in-Chief of [The Economist](#). Before that he edited the US section of the publication from 1999 to 2006 and ran the New York Bureau for two years, having edited the Business Section of the newspaper for the previous four years. His other roles have included setting up The Economist's office in Los Angeles, where he worked from 1990 - 1993 and being Media Correspondent. He has covered business and politics from the United States, Latin America, Continental Europe, Southern Africa and most of Asia. He is a frequent broadcaster and has appeared on CNN, ABC News, BBC and NPR. Biography from *Economist Magazine*.



He is the co-author of ["The Witch Doctors"](#),

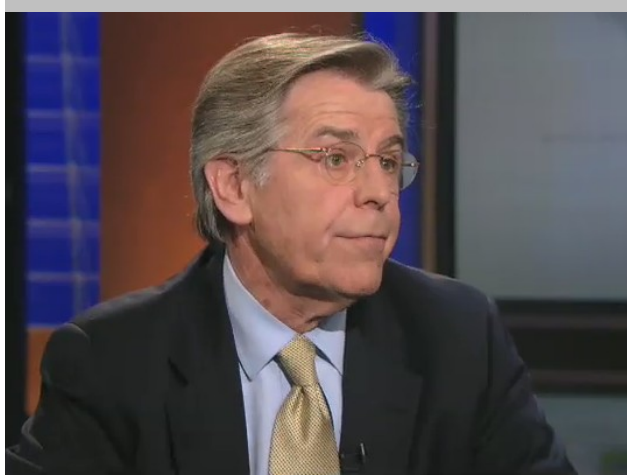
["A Future Perfect: the Challenge and Hidden Promise of Globalisation"](#)



and ["The Company: A Short History of a Revolutionary Idea"](#) and ["The Right Nation"](#), a study of conservatism in America, with Adrian Wooldridge, also an Economist journalist.

[Review of "God is Back" by John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge, Telegraph \(UK\)](#)

["Business as usual: John Micklethwait talks about the pressures and challenges that he faces as the 16th editor of one of Britain's best-known magazines," Guardian \(UK\)](#)



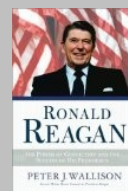
## Peter Wallison

Peter J. Wallison is a co-director of the American Enterprise Institute's program on financial policy studies. He researches banking, insurance, and securities regulation. He was general counsel of the U.S. Treasury Department where he had a significant role in the development of the Reagan administration's proposals for the deregulation of the financial services industry. He also served as White House counsel to President Ronald Reagan.

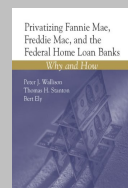
He is the author of [Ronald Reagan: The Power of Conviction and the Success of His Presidency](#),



[Competitive Equity: A Better Way to Organize Mutual Funds](#)



and [Privatizing Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks](#).



### MORE:

[The Future of the Mortgage Market and the Housing Enterprises](#) (Senate Banking Committee)

[TARP Baby: The Administration's Resolution Authority for Nonbank Financial Firms](#) AEI Online

[Getting the Story Right](#) AEI Online

[The Fed Can't Monitor "Systemic Risk"](#) Wall Street Journal

[Unnecessary Intervention: The Administration's Effort to Regulate Credit Default Swaps](#) AEI Online

[Too Big to Fail, or Succeed](#) AEI Online

Here is his [Testimony before the House Financial Services Committee](#)

[The American Spectator : The True Origins of This Financial Crisis](#)

[Expert Forecasted Government Bailout Nearly 10 Years Ago ...](#) Fox News

# SHASHI THAROOR

## Shashi Tharoor

Shashi Tharoor India's Minister of State for External Affairs and a member of the Indian Parliament from Trivandrum in Kerala.

He served as the UN Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information between June 2002 and February 2007. In 2006, he was the official candidate of India for the office of United Nations Secretary-General, and came second out of seven official candidates in the race.

He is also an author, columnist, journalist, and adviser or fellow of various institutions, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Aspen Institute, and the USC Center on Public Diplomacy. More of his biography [here](#)

["Dr. Shashi Tharoor: Understanding India," California Legal Review](#)

["Obama deserves the Nobel Peace Prize: Shashi Tharoor," The Times of India](#)

[India not competing with China in Africa: Tharoor](#) Press Trust of India

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