

Participant Biography



Richard Fontaine is the Chief Executive Officer of the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). He served as a Senior Advisor and Senior Fellow at CNAS from 2009-2012 and previously as foreign policy advisor to Senator John McCain, through McCain's 2008 Presidential campaign. From 2003-2004, he served on the NSC as the associate director for Near Eastern affairs, following his work in the NSC's Asian Affairs directorate covering Southeast Asian issues. During his time at the State Department, Mr. Fontaine worked in the office of former

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and in the department's South Asia bureau, working on issues related to India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Mr. Fontaine began his foreign policy career as a staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, focusing on the Middle East and South Asia. He also spent a year teaching English in Japan. Mr. Fontaine graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in International Relations from Tulane University and then earned an M.A. in International Affairs from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has been an adjunct professor in the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He also served as the chairman of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the United States.