ESTABLISHED IN WASHINGTON, D.C., OVER 50 YEARS AGO, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to providing strategic insights and policy solutions to help decisionmakers chart a course toward a better world.

In late 2015, Thomas J. Pritzker was named chairman of the CSIS Board of Trustees. Mr. Pritzker succeeded former U.S. senator Sam Nunn (D-GA), who chaired the CSIS Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2015. CSIS is led by John J. Hamre, who has served as president and chief executive officer since 2000.

Founded in 1962 by David M. Abshire and Admiral Arleigh Burke, CSIS is one of the world’s preeminent international policy institutions focused on defense and security; regional study; and transnational challenges ranging from energy and trade to global development and economic integration. For the past seven years consecutively, CSIS has been named the world’s number one think tank for international security by the University of Pennsylvania’s “Go To Think Tank Index.”

The Center’s 220 full-time staff and large network of affiliated scholars conduct research and analysis and develop policy initiatives that look to the future and anticipate change. CSIS is regularly called upon by Congress, the executive branch, and the media to explain the day’s events and offer bipartisan recommendations to improve U.S. strategy.
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CSIS won the 2017 Shorty Award for Best Data Visualization for its pioneering use of interactive maps to illustrate complex policy issues. CSIS was selected among Uber, NBC, and Google. These maps, created by the CSIS iDeas Lab, received over 4.5 million views in 2016, proving that there is a wide audience for well-illustrated approaches to the challenges facing the world.

CSIS voted top defense and national security think tank for 7th consecutive year

For the seventh consecutive year, CSIS has been named the world’s #1 defense and national security think tank by the University of Pennsylvania’s Global Think Tank Index.
2017 Highlights

CSIS is dedicated to developing practical solutions to the world’s greatest challenges. We provide strategic insights and bipartisan policy solutions that help decisionmakers chart a course toward a better world.

The CSIS Missile Defense Project is a leading source of analysis of North Korea’s ballistic missile program and testing, and the threats these developments pose to the United States and the world.

In September 2017, an interactive study conducted by CSIS’s Beyond Parallel project was cited in the New York Times’ exclusive story regarding the Trump administration’s direct communication with North Korea. The CSIS study is fully interactive and charts 25 years of U.S.-DPRK interactions.
The New Barbarianism is an original feature-length documentary on the systematic attacks on health care and humanitarian providers in conflict zones. The film, produced in-house at CSIS, examines the crisis, its causes, the limited international response, and possible ways forward through dozens of interviews and original footage obtained from inside Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan.

The Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AMTI) is the world’s one-stop shop for all legal and political issues in the Indo-Pacific region. In 2017, it provided breaking coverage of military base building in the South China Sea through original satellite imagery and interactive visualizations.
CSIS closely examines U.S.-Russia relations, U.S. strategy toward Russia, and Russian interference and how to counter it through in-depth reports and a narrative podcast miniseries.

In January 2017, the bipartisan CSIS Asia Economic Strategy Commission released a report that recommended a comprehensive economic strategy toward the dynamic Asia-Pacific region. Building on this, CSIS experts released a report in October 2017 that offered recommendations for advancing U.S. interests at the regional level, as well as for managing specific bilateral relationships.
CSIS is one of the most trusted, independent resources on foreign policy and national security for members of Congress and their staffs. CSIS is proud to work with a diverse and bipartisan Capitol Hill audience. In 2017, CSIS experts participated in 21 House and Senate hearings and testified before the Armed Services and Foreign Affairs/Relations Committees more than any other think tank.
(Top Left) His Excellency Moon Jae-in, president of the Republic of Korea, at CSIS; (Top Right) IMF managing director Christine Lagarde at CSIS; (Middle Left) CIA director Mike Pompeo at CSIS; (Middle Right) From left to right: Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) at CSIS; (Bottom Left) President Mauricio Macri of Argentina at CSIS; (Bottom Right) Robert Lighthizer, U.S. trade representative, at CSIS.
In 2017, CSIS continued to be a major resource for the media in Washington and globally. Our scholars were prolific in appearing in elite media outlets, racking up over 300 mentions in the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and New York Times. As well as making an impact online and in print, CSIS experts were called on by the world’s leading television networks to explain and analyze the global challenges driving the news. We continue to be featured on average more than once a day on the major U.S. networks and worldwide news channels.
Outreach

CSIS’s social media channels reach an audience of hundreds of thousands every day, allowing the center to extend its reach far beyond our headquarters. CSIS experts continue to be in high demand both on Capitol Hill and in national and international media.

543K Facebook Likes
1ST AMONG THINK TANKS WORLDWIDE

249K Twitter Followers
FASTEST GROWING FOLLOWING OF ANY THINK TANK

22K Instagram Followers
LARGEST FOLLOWING OF ANY THINK TANK

2.7 million unique visitors to CSIS.org and associated sites in 2017

2.7 million on demand video views in 2017

230K live event webcast viewers in 2017
Podcasts at CSIS

CSIS podcasts had over three-quarters of a million downloads in 2017. The roster of CSIS podcasts has grown to 15, with additions such as the Latin America–focused “35 West” and “The Kremlin Playbook,” a three-part miniseries told in a narrative style, a first for CSIS. Staples such as “The CSIS Podcast” and “Bob Schieffer’s About the News” continue to attract audiences in the tens of thousands as CSIS makes innovative use of the Apple Podcasts platform.

To experience CSIS podcasts, visit

csis.org/podcasts
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