

Jon Finer
Biographical Sketch
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Jon Finer is a Senior Research Scholar and the Senior Distinguished Fellow in residence for The Tsai Leadership Program at Yale Law School. He served as U.S. Principal Deputy National Security advisor from 2021–2025 and received the National Security Medal, the highest White House award for contributions to national security. Prior to re-joining the White House, he was Global Head of Geo-Political and Policy Affairs at Warburg Pincus LLC and an Adjunct Senior Fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. Before that, he was Chief of Staff and Director of Policy Planning at the U.S. Department of State. He also worked in the White House from 2009-2013, including in the National Security Council and Office of the Vice President. He first joined the U.S. government as a White House Fellow. Prior to entering government service, Finer was a Foreign and National Correspondent for The Washington Post, where he reported on four conflicts, including the invasion of Iraq, and from more than 20 countries. He has taught or been a fellow at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University; Reiss Center for Law and Security, New York University; Princeton School of International Affairs; Institute for Advanced Study; and the Institute of Politics, Harvard University. He has a J.D. from Yale Law School, an M.Phil in international relations from the University of Oxford and an undergraduate degree from Harvard College. He was born and raised in Norwich, Vermont.