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Samaranayake studies Indian Ocean regional security, U.S. alliances and partnerships, and small states in international affairs. She writes and speaks widely on national security issues, and her analysis has been published in *Foreign Policy*, *Defense One*, *Lawfare*, and *Newsweek*, and other outlets. She has appeared in media such as CBS, *Bloomberg*, *New York Times*, and Al Jazeera. Samaranayake's major publications include "Sri Lanka and South Asia" (Routledge, 2022); "Quad Plus: A Role for Indian Ocean Island States?" (Routledge, 2021); "India's Naval and Maritime Power" (Nomos, 2020); and *China's Engagement with Smaller South Asian Countries* (U.S. Institute of Peace, 2019). She is also lead author of *Raging Waters: China, India, Bangladesh and Brahmaputra River Politics* (Marine Corps University Press, 2018).

Before joining CNA in 2010, Samaranayake completed a fellowship at the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) in Seattle and analyzed public opinion for a decade at Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C. She holds an MSc International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a BA in International Studies from American University.