

Daniel P. Erikson



Daniel P. Erikson is Managing Director at Blue Star Strategies, LLC, an international consulting firm, where he leads the firm's Latin America practice. He is also a senior fellow at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, a foreign policy research center affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania.

Previously, Mr. Erikson served in the White House as special advisor to Vice President Joe Biden, where he focused on Western Hemisphere Affairs and covered foreign affairs and national security issues related to Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, South America, and Canada. In that capacity, Mr. Erikson helped lead the Obama Administration's efforts to secure \$750 million in assistance

for the Northern Triangle of Central America, and to deepen support for Colombia's peace process. Prior to the White House, he served in the U.S. Department of State as senior advisor for Congressional and Inter-Governmental Affairs and senior advisor for Western Hemisphere Affairs from 2010–2015. In June 2017, he received the U.S. Department of State's Superior Honor Award for his diplomatic contributions in Latin America.

In addition to his U.S. government experience, Mr. Erikson previously served as director of Caribbean Programs and senior associate for U.S. Policy at the Inter-American Dialogue. A widely-published scholar, Mr. Erikson is the author of an award-winning book, *The Cuba Wars: Fidel Castro, the United States, and the Next Revolution* and has contributed chapters to numerous edited volumes, including *China Engages Latin America*; *The Diplomacies of Small States*; *Shifting the Balance: Obama and the Americas*; *Inter-American Cooperation at the Crossroads*; and *Transforming Socialist Economies*, among other works.

During the 2000s, Erikson directed the Inter-American Dialogue's project on Haiti and traveled to the country frequently. His numerous published works on Haiti include: "Add to Our To-Do List: Finishing the Job in Haiti," in *The Washington Post* (2003) (with Peter Hakim); "The Haiti Dilemma" in the *Brown Journal of World Affairs* (2004); "Neighbors in Need," *The Baltimore Sun* (2004); "Haiti After Aristide: Still on the Brink?" in *Current History* (2005); "The Caribbean: Democracy Adrift?" in *Latin America's Struggle for Democracy* (2008); "Haiti's Political Outlook: What the United States Should Do," in *The Obama Administration and the Americas: Agenda for Change* (2009); "The Ghosts of Port-au-Prince," *Foreign Policy* (2010); "Haiti's Faint Signs of Progress Take a Vicious Blow," *CNN.com* (2010); "New Bipartisanship on Haiti is Promising," *The Des Moines Register* (2010); and "The Haitian Diaspora: Building Bridges After Catastrophe," in *Diaspora Lobbies and the U.S. Government* (2014). He also served as the Haiti and Caribbean analyst for the annual *Freedom in the World* and *Countries at the Crossroads* publications and was the principal author of several Inter-American Dialogue reports on Haiti including "Haiti: Challenges in Development Assistance" (2002); "Haiti: Preparing for Elections" (2005); and "Haiti: Real Progress, Real Fragility" (2007).

Mr. Erikson received his Masters in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a B.A. in International Relations from Brown University. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Mexico and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.