

Short Bio

Jeffrey D. Sachs is a University Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, where he directed the Earth Institute from 2002 until 2016. He is also President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and a commissioner of the UN Broadband Commission for Development. He has been advisor to three United Nations Secretaries-General, and currently serves as an SDG Advocate under Secretary General António Guterres. He spent over twenty years as a professor at Harvard University, where he received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. He has authored numerous bestseller books. His most recent book is *The Ages of Globalization: Geography, Technology, and Institutions* (2020). Sachs was twice named as one of Time magazine's 100 most influential world leaders and was ranked by The Economist among the top three most influential living economists.

(137 words)

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(83 words)

Jeffrey D. Sachs is a professor, author, and advisor to governments around the world and to the United Nations. He leads global efforts for sustainable development and climate safety. Sachs is a strong supporter of the Green New Deal and Medicare for All. He is an expert on public health and epidemics and has advised the World Health Organization at the highest levels during the past 20 years. Sachs helped to conceive and implement the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria.

(83 words)

Medium Bio

Jeffrey D. Sachs is a world-renowned economics professor, bestselling author, innovative educator, and global leader in sustainable development. He is widely recognized for bold and effective strategies to address complex challenges including debt crises, hyperinflations, the transition from central planning to market economies, the control of AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, the escape from extreme poverty, and the battle against human-induced climate change.

Sachs serves as the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, where he holds the rank of University Professor, the university's highest academic rank. Sachs held the position of Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University from 2002 to 2016. He is President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a commissioner of the UN Broadband Commission for Development, and an SDG Advocate for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. From 2001-18, Sachs served as Special Advisor to UN Secretaries-General Kofi Annan (2001-7), Ban Ki-moon (2008-16), and António Guterres (2017-18).

Sachs has authored and edited numerous books, including three *New York Times* bestsellers: *The End of Poverty* (2005), *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* (2008), and *The Price of Civilization* (2011). Other books include *To Move the World: JFK's Quest for Peace* (2013), *The Age of Sustainable Development* (2015), *Building the New American Economy: Smart, Fair & Sustainable* (2017), *A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism* (2018), and most recently, *The Ages of Globalization: Geography, Technology, and Institutions* (2020).

Sachs was the co-recipient of the 2015 Blue Planet Prize, the leading global prize for environmental leadership. He was twice named among *Time* magazine's 100 most influential world leaders and has received 35 honorary degrees. The *New York Times* called Sachs "probably the most important economist in the world," and *Time* magazine called Sachs "the world's best-known economist." A survey by *The Economist* ranked Sachs as among the three most influential living economists.

Prior to joining Columbia, Sachs spent over twenty years as a professor at Harvard University, most recently as the Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade. A native of Detroit, Michigan, Sachs received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard.

(351 words)

Full Bio

Jeffrey D. Sachs is a world-renowned economics professor, bestselling author, innovative educator, and global leader in sustainable development. He is widely recognized for bold and effective strategies to address complex challenges including debt crises, hyperinflation, the transition from central planning to market economies, the control of AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, the escape from extreme poverty, and the battle against human-induced climate change.

Sachs holds the title of University Professor at Columbia University, the university's highest academic rank. He is Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University's Earth Institute, and President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network under the auspices of UN Secretary-General António Guterres. Sachs also serves as an SDG Advocate of Secretary-General Guterres to promote and advance the SDGs globally. From 2001-18, Sachs served as Special Advisor to UN Secretaries-General Kofi Annan (2001-2007), Ban Ki-moon (2008-2016), and Antonio Guterres (2017-2018).

Sachs serves as an advisor to many governments and agencies worldwide, including as Special Advisor to the High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borell Fonteles of the European Commission (2020). Sachs is a Member of the High-Level Advisory Council of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (2020-2022). He serves as a Commissioner of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Development. Sachs is a Distinguished Fellow of the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis in Laxenburg, Austria. Sachs is also the CEO of Millennium Promise Alliance and was the director of the Millennium Villages Project (2005-2015).

Sachs' policy and academic work spans the challenges of globalization and sustainable development and includes the relationship of international trade and economic growth; the resource curse and extractive industries; global public health; the history and practice of economic development; economic geography; strategies of economic reform; international financial markets; macroeconomic policy; global competitiveness; climate change; the role of universities in sustainable development; and the end of poverty.

Sachs has authored hundreds of scholarly articles and many books, including three *New York Times* bestsellers: *The End of Poverty* (2005), *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* (2008), and *The Price of Civilization* (2011). His recent books include: *To Move the World: JFK's Quest for Peace* (2013), *The Age of Sustainable Development* (2015), *Building the New American Economy: Smart, Fair & Sustainable* (2017), *A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism* (2018), and most recently *The Ages of Globalization: Geography, Technology, and Institutions* (2020).

Professor Sachs is one of the world's leading experts on economic development, global macroeconomics, and the fight against poverty. His work has taken him to more than 130 countries, and he has advised dozens of world leaders in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East on economic strategy. He was among the outside advisors to Pope John Paul II on the encyclical *Centesimus Annus* and works closely with the Pontifical Academy of Sciences

and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences on the issues of sustainable development in the context of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

Sachs also works closely with many international organizations, including the African Union, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, UNAIDS, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, among others.

Professor Sachs' work has been pivotal in many of the key junctures of globalization during the past thirty years. In the 1980s he helped several Latin American countries including Bolivia, Brazil, and Peru to end hyperinflations and reduce their external debts. He was the leading academic advocate in the United States for reducing the debt overhang of the developing countries, and his ideas were incorporated into the global debt-reduction plans undertaken from the mid-1980s onward, including the Brady Plan and the HIPC Program.

In 1989, Professor Sachs advised Poland's anti-communist Solidarity movement and the first post-communist Government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki. He wrote the first-ever comprehensive plan for the transition from central planning to a market democracy, which became incorporated into Poland's highly successful reform program led by Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz. Professor Sachs was the main architect of Poland's successful debt reduction operation. The Government of Poland awarded Sachs with one of its highest honors in 1999, the Commanders Cross of the Order of Merit. He also received an honorary doctorate from the Cracow University of Economics.

Sachs' ideas and methods of transition from central planning were successfully adopted throughout the transition economies. He helped Slovenia (1991) and Estonia (1992) to introduce new, stable and convertible currencies. Based on Poland's success, he was invited first by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and then by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to advise on the transition to a market economy. He also served as advisor to Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar and Finance Minister Boris Federov during 1991-93 on macroeconomic policies. Further, he received the Leontief Medal of the Leontief Centre, St. Petersburg, for his contributions to Russia's economic reforms.

From the mid-1990s until today, Prof. Sachs has been involved with economic reforms in many parts of Asia, including India and China. He has been a senior advisor to the Indian Government, most recently on the scaling up of primary health care in rural areas (the National Rural Health Mission), a policy that he recommended and helped to promote through the Indian Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. For his broad-based support of India's economic reforms, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, one of India's highest honors.

He has similarly engaged with the Chinese Government on many issues of sustainable development, and from 2001-2003 worked with senior government officials on China's Western Development Strategy. He has authored many scholarly and policy papers on India's and China's economic reforms. Sachs has also worked in other parts of Asia on a number of development and research projects, including in Malaysia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and other

countries. He actively supports Bhutan's innovative strategy of Gross National Happiness. He works with the Government of Jordan on a national program of poverty reduction and with the Government of Qatar on education and ICT initiatives throughout the Arab region.

Since 1995, Professor Sachs has been deeply engaged in Africa's escape from poverty. He has worked in more than two-dozen African countries, and has advised the African leadership at several African Union summits. In the mid-1990s he worked with senior officials of the Clinton Administration to develop the concept of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). He has engaged with dozens of African leaders to promote smallholder agriculture and to fight high disease burdens through strengthened primary health systems. His pioneering ideas on investing in health to break the poverty trap have been widely applied throughout the continent. He currently serves as an advisor to several African governments, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda, among others.

The Millennium Villages Project, which he directed, operated in ten African countries, covering more than 500,000 people. The MVP achieved notable successes in raising agricultural production, reducing children's stunting, and cutting child mortality rates, with the results described in several peer-reviewed publications. Its key concepts of integrated rural development to achieve the MDGs are now being used by many other countries to help support national anti-poverty programs. He works closely with the Islamic Development Bank to scale up programs of integrated rural development and sustainable agriculture among the Bank's member countries.

During the period of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) during 2000-2015, Professor Sachs was widely regarded as the world's leading academic scholar promoting the MDGs. He chaired the WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (2000-2001), which played a pivotal role in scaling up the financing of health care and disease control in the low-income countries to support MDGs 4, 5, and 6. He worked with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2000-2001 to design and launch the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria. He worked closely with senior officials of the administration of George W. Bush to develop the PEPFAR program to fight HIV/AIDS, and the PMI to fight malaria. On behalf of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, from 2002-2006 he chaired the UN Millennium Project, which was tasked with developing a concrete action plan to achieve the MDGs. The UN General Assembly adopted the key recommendations of the UN Millennium Project at a special session in September 2005. The recommendations for rural Africa were implemented in the Millennium Villages during 2006-2015, and in several national scale-up efforts.

The Earth Institute is home to cutting-edge research on all aspects of earth systems and sustainable development. As Director from 2002 to 2016, Professor Sachs led a university-wide organization of more than 850 professionals from natural-science and social-science disciplines, in support of sustainable development. Sachs has consistently advocated for the expansion of University education on sustainable development, and led the introduction of the PhD in Sustainable Development at Columbia University. He championed the new Masters of Development Practice (MDP), which has led to a consortium of dozens of major universities around the world offering the new degree. The Earth Institute has also guided the adoption of sustainable development as a new major at Columbia College.

In August 2012, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the launch of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), with Sachs as the Director. The SDSN mobilizes scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable-development problem-solving at local, national, and global scales. The SDSN accelerates global learning and helps to overcome the compartmentalization of technical and policy work by promoting integrated approaches to the interconnected economic, social, and environmental challenges confronting the world. The Network convenes expert thematic groups on key sustainable development challenges that identify common solutions and highlight best practices. The SDSN assists governments around the world to develop long-term sustainable development strategies.

In the SDG context, Professor Sachs has launched and sits on the board of several regional centers of excellence for the SDGs, including the Jeffrey D. Sachs Center of Sustainable Development at Sunway University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the ASEAN countries, and SDG Centers of Excellence for Africa (Kigali, Rwanda), Latin America (Bogota, Colombia), and the Arab Region (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates).

Sachs is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Blue Planet Prize, membership in the Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Society of Fellows, and the Fellows of the World Econometric Society. In 2017, Sachs and his wife Dr. Sonia Ehrlich Sachs were the first recipients of the World Sustainability Award of the World Sustainability Forum and Sachs was the first winner of the Boris Mints Institute Prize at Tel Aviv University. Sachs' conversation with Tyler Cowen won the Quartz Podcast Award for best business/economics podcast of 2015. Sachs has received 32 Honorary Doctorates and many other awards and honors around the world. His syndicated newspaper column in *Project Syndicate* appears in more than 100 countries world-wide.

Prior to his arrival at Columbia University in July 2002, Sachs spent over twenty years as a professor at Harvard University, most recently as Director of the Center for International Development and the Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade.

Sachs was born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1954. He received his B.A., summa cum laude, from Harvard College in 1976, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1978 and 1980, respectively. He joined the Harvard faculty as an Assistant Professor in 1980 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1982 and Full Professor in the fall of 1983, at the age of 28.