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Outside of government, Stokes has been a senior analyst in the China program at the U.S. Institute of Peace and with the National Security Network. His writing has appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *The Washington Quarterly*, *Lawfare*, *Politico Magazine*, *War on the Rocks*, *Democracy*, *Orbis*, and *The Guardian*. His analysis has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, *CBS News*, *NBC News*, *The Economist*, *Reuters*, *Bloomberg*, *USA Today*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *TIME*, *Newsweek*, *C-SPAN*, *Axios*, and *Vox*. Stokes is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He holds an MA from the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and undergraduate degrees from the University of Missouri.