



Ambassador Nicholas Burns to Speak about US Foreign Policy

Cambridge, MA, January 7, 2021--Ambassador Nicholas Burns, the Roy and Barbara Goodman Family Professor of the Practice of Diplomacy and International Relations at Harvard University and distinguished US diplomat, will speak at a Cambridge Public Library virtual event on January 19 at 6:30 p.m. Join us as Burns discusses the foreign policy challenges awaiting the Biden-Harris Administration as part of the Library's *Our Path Forward* series that examines issues important to the health of our democracy.

Tensions with Iran, growing military and economic rivalry with China and Russia, and escalating regional conflicts in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East are some of the crises the Biden-Harris Administration will inherit. Managing these challenges will be complicated by a foreign policy landscape characterized by weakened international alliances, a diminished US role in global affairs, and the proliferation of autocracies emboldened to disregard norms accepted by the international community.

Ambassador Burns served in the United States government for 27 years and rose to the pinnacle of the US Department of State. Burns served as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs from 2005 to 2008. He was U.S. Ambassador to NATO (2001-2005), Ambassador to Greece (1997-2001) and State Department Spokesman (1995-1997). Burns served for five years (1990–1995) on the National Security Council at the White House where he was Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia Affairs and Special Assistant to President Clinton and Director for Soviet Affairs in the Administration of President George H.W. Bush. He was a member of Secretary of State John Kerry's Foreign Affairs Policy Board from 2014-2017.

“Ambassador Burns is a great friend of the Cambridge Public Library and I am delighted that he is going to be speaking about the foreign policy challenges that the new Administration will face,” said Director of Libraries, Dr. Maria McCauley. “The impacts of foreign policy are felt at the local and national level and I encourage our patrons to sign up to hear from one of the most seasoned foreign policy minds of our time.”

[Registration is required to participate in this event.](#)

About the Cambridge Public Library:

At the Cambridge Public Library, we welcome all, inspire minds and empower community. We support a Cambridge where everyone has equitable opportunities to learn, people live their best lives, and democracy thrives. During the Covid-19 health crisis, we are offering a variety of programs and services. [Visit our website](#) to learn the details.

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