



# Antony Blinken

Secretary of State Expected Nominee

<b>Relevant Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Antony Blinken is a long-time government official who served in senior foreign policy positions for three decades. He most recently served as Deputy Secretary of State for the Obama administration from 2015-2017.</li><li>▪ Blinken began his public service at the State Department where he served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs from 1993-1994.</li><li>▪ Blinken was a member of President Clinton's National Security Council (NSC) staff from 1994-2001. He served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European Affairs – Clinton's principal advisor for relations with European countries, the EU and NATO – from 1999-2001, and as Clinton's chief foreign policy speechwriter from 1994-1998.</li><li>▪ He later served on Capitol Hill as Democratic Staff Director for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (2002-2008), which Biden chaired, before assisting in the Obama-Biden presidential transition team in 2008.</li><li>▪ From 2009-2013, Blinken served as Deputy Assistant to the President &amp; National Security Advisor to then-Vice President Biden before being appointed to Deputy Secretary of State by a 55-38 vote.</li><li>▪ In addition to his public sector experience, Blinken co-founded WestExec Advisors, a political strategy advising firm, and is a partner of private equity firm, Pine Island Capital Partners.</li><li>▪ Blinken currently serves as a global affairs analyst for CNN and was chosen by President-Elect Biden to be Secretary of State. According to the Biden transition team, Blinken has advised President-elect Biden on foreign policy dating back to 2002.</li></ul>
<b>Issue Positions &amp; Recent Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Blinken's priority will likely be to re-establish the U.S. as a trusted ally willing to rejoin global agreements including the Paris climate accord, Iran nuclear Deal and World Health Organization. He has not been vocal on financial services-related issues but has been an advocate for the use of sanctions against U.S. foreign adversaries.</li><li>▪ Blinken continues to believe that diplomacy needs to be "supplemented by deterrence" and "force can be a necessary adjunct to effective diplomacy."</li><li>▪ Like President-elect Biden, Blinken has acknowledged plans to maintain a tough stance towards China, focused on strengthening American alliances, particularly in Europe, and using sanctions to shape Beijing's behavior.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blinken recently voiced an openness to working with China in areas of overlapping interests including climate change and global pandemics.</li> <li>▪ In his roles in the NSC under Obama and as Deputy Secretary of State, Blinken advocated for more robust U.S. involvement in the Syria conflict. He notably broke with his boss, former VP Biden, to support the intervention of Libya.</li> <li>▪ During his time as National Security Advisor to VP Biden, Blinken helped to develop the American response to the political instability across the Middle East, including in Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Libya. He also played a central role in the U.S. response to Russia's incursion into Crimea.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Biographical Information</b></p>	<p>Blinken grew up in Paris, France with his mother and step father, attorney and confidante of French presidents Samuel Pizar, who was a Holocaust survivor. Pizar wrote a memoir of his Holocaust experience that Biden has said should be “required reading” as a reminder of our ongoing obligation to never forget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Education:</b> Columbia University, J.D. ; Harvard University B.A.</li> <li>▪ <b>Personal:</b> Born April 16, 1962 (New York, New York)</li> <li>▪ <b>Family:</b> Married (Evan Ryan)</li> </ul>