

George Friedman

George Friedman (Hungarian: *Friedman György*, born February 1, 1949) is a Hungarian-born U.S. geopolitical forecaster, author, and strategist on international affairs. He is the founder and chairman of *Geopolitical Futures*, an online publication that analyzes and forecasts the course of global events.^[1] Prior to founding Geopolitical Futures, he was chairman of its predecessor <u>Stratfor</u>, the private intelligence publishing and consulting firm he founded in 1996.

Early life and education

Friedman was born in <u>Budapest, Hungary</u> in 1949^[2] to Jewish parents who survived the <u>Holocaust</u>. His family fled Hungary when he was a child to escape the Communist regime as refugees, settling first in a camp for displaced persons in Austria and then emigrating to the <u>United States</u>. Friedman describes his family's story as "a very classic story of refugees making a new life in America." He grew up in <u>New York</u> <u>City.^[2]</u> Friedman received a B.A. at the <u>City College of New</u> <u>York</u>, where he majored in political science, and a Ph.D. in government at <u>Cornell University</u>.^[3]

Career

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, he studied potential for a Japan-U.S. conflict and co-authored with his wife <u>The</u> Coming War with Japan in 1991. [4]

In 1996, Friedman founded <u>Stratfor</u>, a private intelligence and forecasting company, and served as the company's CEO and Chief Intelligence Officer. Stratfor's head office is in <u>Austin</u>, <u>Texas</u>. He resigned from Stratfor in May 2015.^[5] That year, he founded Geopolitical Futures.^[6]

Friedman's reputation as a forecaster of geopolitical events led <u>*The New York Times*</u> magazine to comment, in a profile, "There is a temptation, when you are around George Friedman, to treat him like a <u>Magic 8-Ball</u>". [7]

In *The Next Decade*, Friedman argues how the U.S. administrations of the 2010s will need to create regional power balances, some of which have been disturbed. Friedman



Education	New York
Alma mater	Cornell University
Thesis	<i>The Political Philosophy of the Frankfurt School</i> (1977)
Aca	demic work

conceptualizes successful U.S. management of world affairs not by directly enforcing countries, but by creating competing relationships, which offset one another, in the world's different regions. For example, in the past, Iraq balanced Iran, and currently Japan balances China. Friedman asserts this is the decade where the U.S. as a power must mature to manage its power and balance as an unintended empire and republic.^{[8][9]}

Discipline	Political scientist	
Institutions	Dickinson College	
George Friedman's voice		
	0:27	
Recorded November 2022		

Friedman's latest book was released in 2020 by Doubleday. While originally scheduled to be released in January 2018, it was delayed six times before being released in 2020. The working title was *The New American Century: Crisis, Endurance, and the Future of the United States*,^[10] but has subsequently been changed to *The Storm Before the Calm: America's Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond*.

Personal life

Friedman is married to Meredith Friedman (née LeBard), has four children, and lives in Austin, <u>Texas.^[11]</u> He and his wife have co-authored several publications, including *The Coming War with* <u>Japan.^[12]</u>

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- The Future of War: Power, Technology and American World Dominance in the Twenty-First Century, with Meredith Friedman (1996). Crown Publishers, 1st edition, ISBN 0-517-70403-X. St. Martin's Griffin, 1998, ISBN 0-312-18100-0.
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- The Next Decade: What the World Will Look Like (2011). ISBN 0-385-53294-6.
- Flashpoints: The Emerging Crisis in Europe (2015).

External video

Booknotes interview with Friedman and Meredith LeBard on The Coming War with Japan, June 9, 1991 (https://www.c-spa n.org/video/?18335-1/the-comin g-war-japan), C-SPAN

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External links

- George Friedman at Geopolitical Futures (https://web.archive.org/web/20180903215 505/https://geopoliticalfutures.com/geopolitical-futures-in-the-press/)
- New York Times Magazine profile of George Friedman (https://web.archive.org/web/2 0150527234558/http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/20/magazine/the-way-we-live-no w-4-20-03-encounter-spooky.html)
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