

Isobel Coleman
The Council on Foreign Relations
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WORK EXPERIENCE:

- 2002- Present: **Council on Foreign Relations**, New York, NY
Senior Fellow and Director, Civil Society, Markets, and Democracy Initiative
- Founding director of Civil Society, Markets, and Democracy Initiative; raised more than \$5 million to launch program
 - Founder of the Women and Foreign Policy Program; Raised \$5 million to endow program chair and support operations
 - Frequent op-ed writer, media commentator, and lecturer in academic and business settings on political and economic development in the Middle East
- 2000 – 2002: **NursingHands, Inc.**, New York, NY
Chief Executive Officer
- Raised \$2 million in venture capital from leading institutional investors to create recruitment/distance learning business for healthcare/nursing profession
 - Sold company in 2002 to NurseWeek, a division of Jobson Publishing, LLC; company is now owned by Gannett.
- 1992 – 2000: **McKinsey & Company**, New York, NY
Principal, Financial Institutions Group, 1998-2000
- Co-led the firm’s North American Insurance Practice
 - Led Financial Institutions Research Group (30 person research team).
 - Founded Investment Management Practice in North America.
 - Led Business Analyst recruitment efforts for New York office.
 - Contributed actively on pro-bono projects; worked closely with the NYC Partnership and the NYC Board of Education.
- Associate, Financial Institutions Group, 1992 – 1998*
- Provided strategy and management consulting to leading financial and healthcare institutions in the U.S., Europe and Asia.
- 1990-1991: **The Brookings Institution**, Washington, DC
Research Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies
- Researched, lectured and published in several academic journals on international economics and trade policies.
- American University**, Washington, DC
Adjunct Professor
- Developed and taught a course on U.S.-Japan relations.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:

- 1987-1990: **Oxford University**, Oxford, England
- M.Phil in International Relations, 1989
 - D.Phil in International Relations, 1992
- 1983-1987: **Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ
- BA, *Magna Cum Laude*, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and East Asian Studies

HONORS and AWARDS:

- 2011: **Named one of “150 Women Who Shake the World”** by *Newsweek*;
- Featured author** at the Emirates Literature Festival in Dubai.
- 2007: **Isabel Benham Award/Women’s Bond Club** – recognized with \$25,000 charitable award for improving the lives of women
- 2000 **Springboard Entrepreneur** – selected to present at venture capital forum at Harvard Business School
- 1990-1991 **Brookings Research Fellow** – won a pre-doctoral fellowship to complete dissertation.
- 1987-1990: **Marshall Scholar** – won a 3-year scholarship funded by the British Government for study at Oxford University.

OTHER: Advisory Board, National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Board member, Student Sponsor Partners. Active supporter of several other not-for-profit educational initiatives. Member, Council on Foreign Relations. Foreign Policy Association Whitehead Fellow. Married with 5 children.

RECENT SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- 2011: “Is the Arab Spring Bad for Women?” *Foreign Policy*, December 20, 2011.
- “Maternal Health in Afghanistan,” *CFR Working Paper*, September 2011 (with Gayle Lemmon).
- “On the Front Lines of Change: Women in the Arab Uprisings,” *POMED Policy Brief*, July 26, 2011.
- “Family Planning and U.S. Foreign Policy,” *Other Report*, April 2011 (with Gayle Lemmon).
- “Are the Mideast Revolutions Bad for Women’s Rights?” *Washington Post*, February 20, 2011.

- 2010: *Paradise Beneath Her Feet: How Women are Transforming the Middle East*, Random House, 2010.
- “The Global Glass Ceiling: Why Empowering Women is Good for Business,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2010.
- “The Better Half: Helping Women Help the World,” *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010.
- “Women are the New Global Growth Engine,” *Forbes*, September 15, 2010.
- 2009: “Should the United States Aggressively Promote Women’s Rights in Developing Nations?” in *Controversies in Globalization and Public Policy*. Eds. Peter M. Haas and John A. Hird, Congressional Quarterly Press, 2009.
- “Reformist Women in the Muslim World: History is on Their Side,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Middle East Program Occasional Series, Spring 2009.
- 2008: “Economic and Political Development in the Middle East: Managing Change, Building a New Kind of Partnership,” in *Restoring the Balance: A Middle East Strategy for the Next President*, Brookings Institution Press, 2008.
- 2007: “Re-Reading the Texts: Religious Education and Women in the Middle East,” Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University, May 22, 2007.
- “There are Grounds for Hope in Afghanistan,” by Isobel Coleman and Craig Charney. *The Globe and Mail*. June 18, 2007.
- 2006: *Strategic Foreign Assistance: Civil Society in International Security*, Co-Authored with L. Chickering, Hoover Institution Press, July 2006.
- “The Kingdom’s Clock,” by Isobel Coleman and Rachel Bronson. *Foreign Policy*, September/October 2006.
- “Women, Islam, and the New Iraq,” *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2006.
- “The Arab World is Experiencing the First Tremors of a Youthquake,” *Dallas Morning News*, February 5, 2006.
- 2005: “Saudi System is the Problem,” by Rachel Bronson and Isobel Coleman, *Dallas Morning News*, May 7, 2005.
- “Iran’s Bitter Lessons for Iraq,” by Swanee Hunt and Isobel Coleman, *International Herald Tribune*, February 7, 2005.
- “Defending Microfinance,” *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, Winter, 2005.

2004: "Gender Disparities, Economic Growth and Islamization in Pakistan," in *Islamization and the Pakistani Economy*, Eds. Robert M. Hathaway and Wilson Lee, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, July 2004.

"The Pay-Off From Women's Rights," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June, 2004.

"Beyond the Burqa: The Future Of Afghan Women's Rights," *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, Summer 2004.