

CHAS W. FREEMAN, JR.

Since 1995, Chas Freeman has chaired Projects International, Inc., a Washington-based firm that specializes in helping its American and foreign clients arrange transactions and set up business operations across borders. He has negotiated on behalf of the United States with over 100 foreign governments in East and South Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and both Western and Eastern Europe. As Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (during the Gulf War), he led an effort that more than doubled non-military exports to the Kingdom while managing the largest diplomatic mission in the world under crisis conditions. His long involvement with China began with his service as the principal American interpreter during President Nixon's historic 1972 visit to Beijing. In addition to Chinese, Ambassador Freeman speaks French and Spanish at the professional level and can converse in Arabic and several other languages. He concluded his thirty years in public service as Assistant Secretary of Defense, responsible for managing defense relations with all regions of the world except the countries of the former Soviet Union. He is the recipient of numerous high honors and awards for international negotiation and policy and management innovation.

2015-	Senior Fellow, the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University
2003-2020	Chair, Committee for the Republic
1997-2009	President, Middle East Policy Council
1996-2009	Co-Chair, United States China Policy Foundation
1996-2008	Vice Chair, Atlantic Council of the USA
1994-95	Distinguished Fellow, United States Institute of Peace
1993-94	Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs
1992-93	Distinguished Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies
1989-92	U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
1986-89	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, African Affairs
1984-86	Chargé/Deputy Chief of Mission, American Embassy, Bangkok
1981-84	Chargé/Deputy Chief of Mission, American Embassy, Beijing
1979-81	Director, Chinese Affairs, Department of State
1979	Acting, then Deputy U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs
1978-79	China Normalization Working Group, Department of State
1978	Director, Program Coordination and Development, USIA
1977-78	Director, Plans and Management, Public Affairs, Department of State
1976-77	Director, Public Programs, Department of State
1975-76	Deputy Director, Republic of China [Taiwan], Department of State
1974-75	Visiting Fellow, East Asian Studies, The Harvard Law School
1971-74	Economic/Commercial Officer for China, Department of State
1971-74	Principal Interpreter of Chinese, Department of State
1969-71	Language (Mandarin & Taiwanese) and Area Training, Washington and Taiwan
1967-68	Cultural Affairs Officer, South India
1966-67	Vice Consul, Madras [Chennai], India
1965	Entered Foreign Service of the United States

Education and Personal:

Ambassador Freeman attended the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Yale University (A.B., *magna cum laude*) and the Harvard Law School (J.D.). He is married to the Hon. Margaret Van Wagenen Carpenter, former Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East at the U.S. Agency for International Development. He has three surviving children by a previous marriage as well as a foster son, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Honors:

1995	Elected to American Academy of Diplomacy	
1994	Distinguished Public Service Award	(Policy Innovation in Europe)
1994	Distinguished Public Service Award	(Contributions to Defense Policy)

1992	Order of 'Abd Al-'Aziz, 1st Class	(Diplomatic Service)
1991	Defense Meritorious Service	(Desert Shield/Storm)
1991	CIA Medallion	(Desert Shield/Storm)
1991	Distinguished Honor Award	(Desert Shield/Storm)
1983/86/89	Presidential Meritorious Service Awards	
1989	Group Distinguished Honor Award	(Negotiation with Cuba/South Africa)
1986	DEA Outstanding Service Award	(Counter-Narcotics)
1982	Superior Honor Award	(Negotiation with China)
1980	Group Superior Honor	(China Normalization)
1978	Superior Honor Award	(Management Innovation)
1973	Group Superior Honor	(China Rapprochement)
1963	Forrest Prize	(Literary Achievement in Spanish)

Current Boards:

Projects International, Inc.
Committee for the Republic

Previous Boards:

American Academy of Diplomacy
Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
Atlantic Council of the USA
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
China National Offshore Oil Company Advisory Board
China Renaissance Fund Advisory Board
Defense Advisory Board, Center for Naval Analysis
Energy Management International
Enertech
Institute for Defense Analyses
Middle East Policy Council
MIT Center for Security Studies Advisory Board
Pacific Pension Institute
Overseers, Roger Williams University
Reproduct Corporation
Stanley Foundation Advisory Board
United States China Policy Foundation
Washington World Affairs Council
Member, Iraq Study Group, 2006
Member, National Security Study Group (Hart-Rudman), 1998 – 2000

Books:

- ◆ [America's Continuing Misadventures in the Middle East](#), Just World Books, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2016
- ◆ [Interesting Times: China, America, and the Shifting Balance of Prestige](#), Just World Books, Washington, D.C., 2013
- ◆ [America's Misadventures in the Middle East](#), Just World Books, Washington, D.C., 2010
- ◆ [The Diplomat's Dictionary](#), second edition, U.S. Institute of Peace Press, Washington, D.C., 2010
- ◆ [Arts of Power: Statecraft and Diplomacy](#), U.S. Institute of Peace Press, Washington, D.C., 1997
- ◆ [Cooking Western in China 西餐菜单](#), bilingual English & Chinese edition, Hong Kong 1987