

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE

*All-New Third Edition*

# Inside a U.S. Embassy

*DIPLOMACY AT WORK*



Shawn Dorman, EDITOR

AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*All-new, third edition of the essential guide  
to the Foreign Service*

# **INSIDE A U.S. EMBASSY**

*Diplomacy at Work*

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*Inside a U.S. Embassy* is widely recognized as the essential guide to the Foreign Service. The all-new third edition of this popular book from the American Foreign Service Association takes readers to more than 50 U.S. missions around the world, introducing Foreign Service professionals and providing detailed descriptions of their jobs and firsthand accounts of diplomacy in action. In addition to profiles of diplomats and specialists around the world—from the ambassador to the consular officer, and from the public diplomacy officer to the security specialist—is a selection from more than 20 countries of day-in-the-life accounts, each describing an actual day on the job. Personal reports from the field give a sense of the extraordinary challenges—the coups, the natural disasters, the civil wars—and rewards of representing America to the world.

Beginning with the country team, the book shows how an embassy works, how a career is shaped and how families navigate this unique lifestyle. In addition, this edition features a brand-new chapter on joining the Foreign Service, including a step-by-step guide to the hiring process and information on careers in all five foreign affairs agencies. Clearly and cogently presented, *Inside a U.S. Embassy* is a must-read for anyone considering a diplomatic career.

The book offers a unique inside look at the Foreign Service, and has been adopted for courses in more than 40 universities in the U.S. and abroad. It is a valuable guide for tourists



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and business travelers as well as a primer for military personnel and contractors assigned overseas.

### **About the Editor**

Shawn Dorman is editor and publisher of Foreign Service Books, a division of the American Foreign Service Association, and associate editor of the *Foreign Service Journal*. She has written extensively on issues related to the diplomatic career. A former U.S. Foreign Service political officer, Dorman served in Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, and Russia and in the State Department Operations Center in Washington, D.C.

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### ***Inside a U.S. Embassy: Diplomacy at Work***

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*Inside a U.S. Embassy* continued

## **Praise for the second edition of *Inside a U.S. Embassy***

“You don’t have to be Secretary of State to enter the intriguing world of international diplomacy. What every American needs to know about the role of U.S. embassies is in this volume. Told from the unique vantage point of diplomatic practitioners, the stories recounted here shed light upon a profession little known to most Americans but deeply important to the safety, freedom and prosperity of us all. These are the stories of the men and women who serve America’s interests – often under difficult and dangerous conditions – from the great cities to the most remote corners of the globe.”

— **Madeleine Albright, Former Secretary of State**

“Anyone who has been connected to American diplomacy knows how often the question is asked, ‘But what do you do in an embassy?’ Here is the answer: a heck of a lot. Our citizens and our friends around the world will learn from this lively book just how vital the Foreign Service is to our country’s well-being and to the betterment of all peoples.”

— **George P. Shultz, Former Secretary of State**

“An anthology of brief essays and personal testimonies penned by experienced professionals... includes profiles... typical days... and amazing glimpses of the Foreign Service in action during moments of crisis. A fascinating revelation of the tireless men and women who labor to represent America abroad.”

— **Midwest Book Review**

“I’m fascinated by the contents. And I think that not only members of the [Senate Foreign Relations] Committee but all Americans will be deeply interested in this.”  
— **Senator Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee**

“*Inside a U.S. Embassy* is a fascinating look at foreign policy in practice through the eyes of U.S. diplomats.”

— **Then-Senator Joseph Biden (D-Del.), Ranking Minority Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee**

“I am absolutely a fan of this book. What makes it so interesting is that it’s about individuals and what they do, and it’s about how they support the United States in an active way.”

— **Marc Grossman, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs**



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“Every day in hundreds of places around the world, thousands of your fellow Americans are at work in direct support of you and your interests. From helping Americans in trouble, to formulating American foreign policy, to talking to foreign leaders about cooperation in hundreds of different areas from trade and technology to preventing nuclear war, these people make a difference. This book tells the fascinating inside story of how it all works for you.”

— **Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering, Boeing Company Senior Vice President for International Relations and former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs**

“*Inside a U.S. Embassy* is required reading for the first week of my university seminar on practical diplomacy. My students are amazed at the variety and uniqueness of Foreign Service work described in the book’s first-hand accounts.

I wouldn’t teach the course without it.”

— **Ambassador Genta Hawkins Holmes, University of California at Davis**

“*Inside a U.S. Embassy* sits on my desk and I recommend it to all interested in the Foreign Service.”

— **Ambassador Karl Inderfurth, Professorial Lecturer of International Affairs at George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, and former Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.**

“Readers will find an up-to-date, compelling, interesting, accurate and highly readable depiction of the Foreign Service and our vital role in service to our nation. The profiles and the stories all show the rich diversity of our people, in terms of both their varied backgrounds and the wide range of services we perform.”

— **Ruth A. Davis, Distinguished Advisor for International Affairs at Howard University and former Director General of the Foreign Service**