



Alastair Newton

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A former career diplomat with the British foreign service (1985-2005), after moving to the City Alastair established himself as one of the private sector's top political analysts globally. He now runs his own business development and political risk consultancy, Alavan, based in Livingstone, Zambia. Additionally, he is Chair of Paris-based Qalis Partners and Lusaka-based 30Thirty Capital, and CFO of Livingstone-based Diamond Development Company.

As a diplomat, he served in sub-Saharan Africa, Paris (at the OECD) and the United States. In London, he worked in intelligence co-ordination (including during the 1990/91 Gulf War), policy planning and economic relations, as well as running the Prime Minister's G7/8 team from 1998 to 2000. He was on secondment from the Diplomatic Service to Lehman Brothers from 2000 to 2002.

Alastair was Senior Political Analyst at Nomura International between October 2008 and July 2015, having first joined Lehman Brothers International in that capacity in August 2005. As such, he was responsible for identifying, tracking, analysing and illuminating to investors political events world-wide likely to impact on financial markets. In addition to his signature periodical Issues Which Keep Me Awake At Night on political and geopolitical risk, he was the co-author of major studies on Chi-na, on India, on Indonesia, on North Korea, on Iran/Israel and on geopolitical risks related to the shift of the global economic centre of gravity back towards Asia, as well as numerous shorter papers.

Alastair is a past-President of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies. He served on the Council of Chatham House from 2010 to 2015. And he is currently a member of the Practitioners' Advisory Board of the journal Global Policy; and a guest editor of the journal Arab Digest.

In addition to the regular reports he circulates to his clients, Alastair can be followed on his Facebook page, Alavan Independent. And he is a frequent commentator on politics on tel-elevision and radio and a regular speaker at conferences and other events worldwide.