

**Name:** Thornton, John L.

**Education:** Harvard University, A.B., History 1976  
Oxford University, B.A./M.A. Jurisprudence, 1978  
Yale University, M.P.P.M., Management, 1980  
Bank Street College of Education, Honorary Doctorate, 2003

**Field:** Global Finance & Education

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John lettered in varsity tennis at Harvard University. He served as captain of the freshmen team and played both singles and doubles positions on the team. Unfortunately, John was plagued by injuries; but he played his way into the varsity line-up at 3 and 4 singles for the Eastern Conference Athletic Championships during his senior year. While at Harvard, John was a John Harvard Scholar and also received the John Imrie Award. At Oxford University, John competed on both the real (court) tennis and lawn tennis teams. As a member of the Oxford team, John was invited to change the numbers on the wooden scoreboard during Wimbledon.

After graduating from the Yale University School of Management in 1980, John began his career in investment banking with Goldman Sachs, and after a distinguished 23-year career, he retired in 2003 as President of the Goldman Sachs Group and member of the firm's Board of Directors. While at Goldman Sachs, John played a central role in the firm's internationalization, serving as Co-Chief Executive for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and Chairman for Asia during periods when the firm built its presence and underwent rapid expansion in those markets. In 2007, Institutional Investor Magazine named him one of the 40 individuals who have had the greatest influence on global financial markets over the past four decades. Since 2003, John has been advising Chinese leaders and enterprises as China expands its global presence and role.

John is currently Professor and Director of the Global Leadership Program at the Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management in Beijing, China. Through his Global Leadership seminar, John is credited with mentoring hundreds of China's brightest undergraduate, graduate and executive education students and leading them into significant roles in Chinese society as entrepreneurs, senior executives in state-owned enterprises, or government officials at the national and local levels. In December 2008, John became a director of The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC). In this capacity, he also serves as Chairman of HSBC North America.

John has served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. since June 2003. With his personal donation of \$12.5 million in 2006, Brookings founded the John L. Thornton China Center (with offices in Washington and Beijing) to provide research and recommendations to decision makers in both China and the West on issues of common concern. The first Director of the Center was Ambassador Jeffrey Bader, who is now President Obama's senior advisor for East Asia in the National Security Council. The aim of the John L. Thornton China Center is to address America's inadequate knowledge and understanding of China, its domestic challenges and changing role in Asia. As part of this initiative, the Brookings-Tsinghua Center at Tsinghua University is engaged in an in-depth study of China's financial system in conjunction with senior Chinese regulators, scholars and practitioners. John has helped to promote Western understanding of China through initiating and sponsoring the translation of works by important contemporary Chinese thinkers into English; under his direction, Brookings has published collections of essays by Zheng Bijian, a personal advisor to three generations of Chinese leaders, and Yu Keping, one of China's most important contemporary political scientists. In 2008, John co-edited the first English-language annual edition of Caijing magazine, China's most respected independent news publication. This landmark publication provided Western readers with news and sophisticated analysis about China in English written by some of the country's most thoughtful and influential commentators.

Last year, John was appointed to serve as Chair of the Federal Advisory Committee on the Ten-Year Framework for Energy and Environment Cooperation with China. Formally constituted by the US Treasury Department, this committee is meant to exist for 2-3 years and advises Secretaries Clinton and Geithner. In 2009, John co-chaired the group that produced "A Roadmap for U.S.-China Cooperation on Energy and Climate Change," which helped shape the Obama administration's focus on sustained partnerships on energy efficiency, technology for capturing carbon dioxide from power plants and other initiatives. Through John's leadership, the Chinese and US governments have put together a twin-city project (Chongqing and Denver) for electric vehicles, and he is currently working on a similar electric vehicle project with the Beijing government.

John's philanthropy involves education and leadership programs. Some of his philanthropic activities include donating \$5 million to establish a Center on Global Understanding at the Hotchkiss School. The John L. Thornton Foundation

has donated \$2 million to The Asia Society; nearly \$1 million to Morehouse College to establish a leadership capability at the Andrew Young International Center; and funded a young leaders program for The National Committee on US-China Relations. John also supports an Agape Ministry that runs a summer program for inner-city youth in Charleston, South Carolina.

At the request of Nelson Mandela, John established the Nelson Mandela Legacy Trust. The Trust, which John chairs, exists to raise funds for the three foundations Nelson Mandela has established in South Africa and to manage the funds and oversee their distribution. Along with four partners, John helped to found the United World Colleges of East Africa (UWCEA). Currently in the planning stages, UWCEA plans to create the first United World College on the continent of Africa. The cost is estimated to be \$30-\$50 million, and some of these developmental funds will come from John and his partners directly and they plan to raise the remaining funds.

John serves as a Director of China Unicom, Ford Motor Company, IMG, Intel and News Corporation. He resigned his directorship at Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) when he assumed his duties at HSBC. He is a trustee, advisory board member or member of the Asia Society, China Foreign Affairs University, China Institute, China Reform Forum, China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), Council on Foreign Relations, The Hotchkiss School, Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management, and the Yale School of Management. John also serves as advisor on China to Yale University President Richard C. Levin.

John's file includes several articles written by him and about him in journals in such as *Foreign Affairs*, *The McKinsey Quarterly*, and *Institutional Investor*, to name a few.

John was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2003 from the Bank Street College of Education in New York City. In 2005, John was one of four individuals honored by the National Committee on U.S. China Relations for their special contributions to the relationship between the two countries. In 2007, he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2008, John was awarded the "National Friendship Award," the highest award bestowed on non-Chinese by the Chinese Government. The ceremony was presided over by the Chinese Premier. John was also named by the Chinese Government as one of 15 "foreign experts" who have made the greatest contribution to the development of China in the past thirty years.

John Thornton is married to Margaret Bradham Thornton, a writer. They have four children and reside in Palm Beach, Florida.