

# Jonathan Holslag



## Contact information:

Working address: Pleinlaan 5, 1050 Brussels

E-mail: [jholslag@vub.ac.be](mailto:jholslag@vub.ac.be)

## Personal information

Date of Birth: 15 June 1981

Birthplace: St-Niklaas, Belgium

Married, father of two daughters



**Bio:** Jonathan Holslag (°1981) works on international politics and Asian affairs at the Free University of Brussels. His work focuses on international security and Europe's position in the global order. In 2015, Singapore's *Straits Times* named him one of Europe's most influential Asia experts. In 2018, he was listed among Belgium's five most influential intellectuals by the Belgian newspaper *De Morgen*.

Jonathan has written several books. His work was translated into seven different languages. *China and India: Prospects for Peace* (Columbia University Press, 2010), *Trapped Giant* (IISS and Routledge, 2011), and *China's Coming War with Asia* (Polity, 2015 with translations in Dutch, German, Korean, Japanese, and Chinese) were all internationally well received. In 2016, the rights of *China's Coming War with Asia* were sold to the publishing house of the Central Party School, to become part of the education programme of China's top leadership. *De Kracht van het Paradijs* (De Bezige Bij, 2014) became a bestseller in Belgium and the Netherlands. *A Political History of the World* appeared in 2018 (Penguin, De Bezige Bij and several other publishers) and *Silk Road Trap*, about China's economic diplomacy, in early 2019 (Polity).

Jonathan has written over 40 academic papers that were published in journals like *International Spectator*, *the Journal of International Trade*, *the Washington Quarterly*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *the Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, etc. He is a frequently solicited referee for various international research commissions and has lectured at universities like Harvard, Columbia, Oxford, the London School of Economics, the Central Party School, Tsinghua, Peking University, Fudan University, Delhi University, and Singapore National University. He is a guest lecturer at the senior staff courses of the Defense Academies of Belgium, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, as well as at the generals and ambassadors course of the NATO Defense College and several other civilian leadership training programmes in Europe.

Jonathan contributed to various study projects organized by European and international institutions. In 2007 and 2008, he was coordinator of the EU-China Academic Network (ECAN), an academic forum established by the European Commission. He was invited by the European Parliament to provide advise on China's relations with the third world (2007/08)

China's economic transition (2011/12), on China's military transition (2012), on maritime security in Asia (2012), and on the relations between Europe and Southeast Asia (2013). For the European Commission he evaluated the EU's Asia Strategy (2008/09), advised on the strategic dialogue with China and India (2010/11), China's trade policy (2011), and the security outlook in Asia (2011/12/13). Jonathan has briefed various European member states, intelligence services, senior officials from China, India, the United States, as well as the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, NATO Supreme Alliance Commander, NATO Political Committee, US Central Command, European Military Staff, the Chiefs of European Navies (CHENS & CHANCOM), the Chiefs of the Joint Expeditionary Force, the EU Political and Security Committee, the UN Human Rights Council, the European Investment Bank, NATO Special Operations Command, NATO Ambassadors Committee, etc.

Jonathan advised *Fortune Global 500* companies on their Asia strategy and is a frequent speaker at internal briefings at board and high executive level.

Besides academic and policy related work, Jonathan regularly comments on current affairs in news media. Shorter pieces of his hand appeared in news outlets like *the Financial Times*, *the Guardian*, *South China Morning Post*, *Politico*, *the Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Policy*, *the Harvard International Review* and *Le Monde*. He was interviewed by major television channels – such as CNN, BBC, Bloomberg, CCTV, Al Jazeera – and newspapers – like the *New York Times*, *the Financial Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. He has had a weekly column in the *South China Morning Post* and still has in *Knack*. In 2017 and 2018, Jonathan travelled along Europe's outer frontier, from Greenland over Eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Middle East to Gibraltar, to report on the security environment for the Dutch newspaper *Trouw* and the Belgian magazine *Knack*, as well as to report to the EC leadership on the effectiveness of the EU's foreign policy.

Jonathan was appointed Member of De Raad van Nesteliers of the Commander of the Dutch gendarmerie, the Koninklijke Marechaussee (2019), appointed Benelux secretary of the *Trilateral Commission* (2018), nominated as a Rockefeller Fellow into the *Trilateral Commission* (2014), into the *World Economic Forum* (2012), is a European delegate at CSCAP (2014), a fellow of the *Nobel Committee* (2014) and into an advisory committee on globalisation of China's President Hu Jintao (2010). He participated in young leader programmes, including those of South Korea, Japan, and Singapore. He is part of strategic foresight reflection groups of intelligence services of two different countries. Jonathan founded of the *Friday Group*, a reflection group of young Belgian leaders, supported by the King Baudouin Foundation. In 2015, he was appointed Special Advisor to the first Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr. Frans Timmermans, a member of the wise men group of the Belgian Minister of Defense, and a member of the Ererra Council on Foreign Affairs.

Jonathan serves as a corvette captain (res.) with the Belgian Armed Forces and in that capacity is part of the policy planning cell of the cabinet of the ChOD.

