



Lord Kim Darroch

AUTHOR · POLITICIAN

Boards used to treat geopolitics as background noise. It is now a line item in capital allocation, supply chain design, and sanctions exposure. Most leadership teams have no one in the room who has actually negotiated with the White House, sat inside a National Security Council, or watched a transatlantic alliance fracture from the inside.

Kim Darroch is a former British Ambassador to the United States and National Security Adviser who helps boards and executive teams read political risk with the judgement of someone who shaped it.

Lord Kim Darroch's 2026 Biography

Why organisations work with Kim Darroch

- A first-hand reading of US, EU, and UK political dynamics from someone who has sat opposite the people now setting policy, not a commentator interpreting from the outside.
- A decade at the operational core of UK national security and European policy, covering Brexit, the Trump administration, Russian aggression in Ukraine, the rise of Daesh, and the Libya collapse.
- Author of *Collateral Damage*, the most senior insider account of the UK-US relationship under the first Trump presidency, published by HarperCollins and reviewed in *Foreign Affairs*.
- A career-long perspective on the transatlantic alliance at the moment it is under the most pressure since the Cold War, useful for boards exposed to US, European, and China risk in the same quarter.

Biography highlights

- British Ambassador to the United States, 2016 to 2019.
- National Security Adviser to Prime Minister David Cameron, 2012 to 2015.
- UK Permanent Representative to the European Union, 2007 to 2011.
- Head of the Cabinet Office European Secretariat and EU adviser to Prime Minister Tony Blair, 2004 to 2007.
- Crossbench life peer, House of Lords; Chairperson, Best for Britain.
- Author, *Collateral Damage: Britain, America and Europe in the Age of Trump* (HarperCollins, 2020). KCMG (2008).

Biography

The British Ambassador to Washington is meant to be the cable channel between Downing Street and the White House. In July 2019, Kim Darroch's frank diplomatic cables about the Trump administration were leaked to

AVAILABLE FOR

- Speaking

KIM'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Economic Trends & Global Markets
- Geopolitics
- Political Risk & Policy
- Risk Management
- Scenario Planning & Strategic Foresight

LANGUAGES: English

the British press, and the post became untenable. He resigned, closing a forty-year career in HM Diplomatic Service from inside the most public diplomatic incident in modern British memory.

That career was built at the centre of UK foreign policy. As National Security Adviser to David Cameron from 2012 to 2015, he chaired the brief covering Daesh in Iraq and Syria, Russian operations in Ukraine, and the collapse of state authority in Libya. Before that he was UK Permanent Representative to the European Union, and before that Tony Blair's senior EU adviser inside the Cabinet Office. Few living British diplomats have held that range of senior posts in sequence.

His memoir, *Collateral Damage*, is the closest thing to a Washington-side account of how the UK read the Trump administration through Brexit and the early trade negotiations. Foreign Affairs reviewed it; HarperCollins published it in the UK and PublicAffairs in the US. He served as a Resident Fellow at the Harvard Institute of Politics in spring 2020 and now sits as a crossbench peer in the House of Lords, chairing Best for Britain.

What boards get from him is unusual at the senior diplomatic level. He speaks operationally about how Washington, Brussels, and Whitehall actually decide, who holds the file, what moves the principal, where the brittle points are. That is the reading senior executives need when they are asked to price political risk into a five-year plan.

Key speaking topics

- US politics and the Washington decision-making system
- The transatlantic alliance under strain
- The war in Ukraine and European security
- China, the US, and strategic competition
- UK foreign policy after Brexit
- Geopolitical risk for boards and investors

Ideal for

- Boards and audit committees pricing political and sanctions exposure into strategy
- CEOs and CFOs of multinationals with significant US, European, or China revenue
- General counsel, government affairs, and strategy heads reading regulatory and trade risk
- Investor and asset management audiences exposed to sovereign and policy risk

Audience outcomes

- A grounded reading of the current US administration's foreign policy trajectory from someone who has worked with the principals.
- A clearer view of where the transatlantic alliance is brittle and where it still holds.
- The questions a senior leadership team should be asking its risk function about geopolitics, not the headlines.
- A sharper sense of how Washington, Brussels, and London actually negotiate, useful when planning lobbying, market entry, or sanctions response.

Lord Kim Darroch's 2026 talks & topics

The transatlantic alliance under strain

A first-hand reading of where US, UK, and European relations stand after a decade of disruption.

Key takeaways:

- How the Trump and post-Trump US is rewriting the assumptions behind NATO and trade
 - Where European capitals diverge on China, Ukraine, and defence spending
 - What this means for businesses with revenue exposure on both sides of the Atlantic
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Ukraine, Russia, and European security

The origins of the war and its long arc for European security, defence, and energy.

Key takeaways:

- What the war has already changed in European defence posture and procurement
 - The most likely scenarios for the next phase and their economic consequences
 - Implications for energy security and capital allocation in Europe
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Reading Washington

How the White House, Congress, and the federal agencies actually decide, from the perspective of a former ambassador.

Key takeaways:

- Who holds the pen on the files that matter to international business
- How political appointees, career officials, and lobbyists interact in practice
- Where the leverage points sit for non-US companies trying to be heard

Lord Kim Darroch's Videos



What Lord Kim Darroch's clients say

Lord Darroch's analysis of international affairs combines the insight of a practitioner with the detachment of a scholar. His perspectives on US politics and transatlantic relations are particularly valuable.

Leading UK Think Tank

An authoritative commentator whose expertise spans decades of diplomatic experience. His insights into China policy and European relations are essential reading for policymakers.

Senior Government Official

Lord Darroch brings unparalleled credibility to discussions of national security and international relations. His speaking engagements provide audiences with genuine insider perspectives on global affairs.

International Conference Organizer

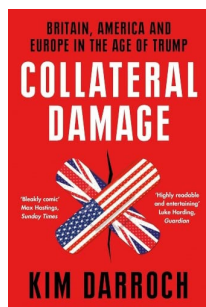
His book 'Collateral Damage' is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand modern diplomacy. As a speaker, he combines wit with profound strategic insight.

Foreign Policy Magazine

Rarely do you encounter a speaker who can combine such depth of experience with such accessible communication. Lord Darroch's presentations are both informative and engaging.

Corporate Event Manager

KIM'S LATEST BOOKS



Collateral Damage: Britain, America and Europe in the Age of Trump