



# David Rennie

Beijing Bureau Chief *The Economist*  
and *Chaguan* China Columnist

*An Insider's Perspective on  
The USA and the Rise of Populism and  
China and its Relations with the World*

# David Rennie

## About him

David Rennie is the **Beijing bureau chief** of *The Economist* and the author of its weekly **"Chaguan" column on China**. He has been a columnist at *The Economist* since 2007, writing, successively, its "Charlemagne", "Bagehot" and "Lexington" columns. From 2007-10 he was **European Union correspondent** and "Charlemagne", based in Brussels. From July 2010 to July 2012 he was **British political editor and author** of "Bagehot", based in London. In the summer of 2012 he moved to Washington DC. He was "Lexington" 2012-17, and **Washington bureau chief** 2013-2018. In May 2018 he moved to China as **Beijing bureau chief**, launching "Chaguan" in September of that year.

Previously he was on the **foreign staff of the Daily Telegraph**, with postings in Sydney (1998), Beijing (1998 to 2002), Washington DC (2002-05) and Brussels (2005-07). He has covered elections on four continents, the war in Afghanistan (2001), as well as earthquakes, referendums and other disasters. He worked for the *Daily Telegraph* in London (1996-98), and the *Evening Standard* (1992-96). He has given classes and public lectures on EU affairs at the universities of Harvard and Boston in America, Bristol University in Britain and at the business schools ESCP (Paris) and IE (Madrid). He won the 2010 UACES/Thomson Reuters "Reporting Europe" award.



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## About him

David Rennie is the Beijing Bureau Chief for *The Economist*. He offers a **top insider's perspective** on the **biggest global trends** of the moment, after spending the past two decades writing weekly columns for The Economist. In his second posting to China, **and he will be reporting on that country** in all its depth and breadth, covering the **extraordinary power** wielded by President Xi Jinping, **China's growing geopolitical might** and the ambitions that lie behind such **mega-projects** as the Belt and Road Initiative.

Relations between China and the West, and especially the USA under President Trump, as become more volatile. Looking at such trade and security tensions, David Rennie **brings years of experience** reporting on **global affair from around the globe**. As Washington bureau chief, which he held until 2018, he reported on the presidential candidates and political leaders, including **interviewing Donald Trump multiple times** and spent many months on the road taking the pulse American politics. He has also traveled with U.S. cabinet secretaries on official trips around the world. This **combination of access to key decision-makers** and his **on-the-ground interviews** has given him a **unique perspective** on the rise of Populism, a phenomenon that increasingly governments are facing across the West.



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## Speaking Topics

**Too big to fail? The US-China relationship; is it too important to let it drift into a new Cold War? Trust is collapsing fast.**

The past two years have seen a sea change in Western views of China, and bipartisan concerns - especially in Washington - that its rise is at America's expense. The world has seen economic contests between giants before: think Reagan-era tensions between US and Japan. The world has survived tense ideological and security contests: think the Soviet confrontation with the West. China is unique: an economic giant, embedded in supply chains that span the globe, that is also a geo-political rival. Think Japan and the Soviet Union rolled into one

Nobody is safe. Political risk is on the rise, and is capable of upending business models overnight for everyone from telecoms moguls to soybean farmers. The election of Donald Trump, Brexit and populist election victories in Europe were not one-off events. The world is living through a historic period of distrust and discontent that is going to change the way global business works, test decades-old alliances, and spark geopolitical tensions not seen since the Cold War.



# David Rennie

## key facts

Currently ...

- **Beijing Bureau Chief**, *The Economist*
- *Launch Columnist of the China column*,
- professional **speaker** and **moderator**

Formerly ...

- From 2010 to 2012 Rennie wrote the magazine's column on Britain, based in London.
- Joined *The Economist* in 2007, writing its **European column** from Brussels
- From 2006 until he joined *The Economist*, he was also a contributing editor of the *Spectator magazine*
- 1996: worked with the *London Daily Telegraph*, moving to the foreign department in 1998 with postings in Sydney, Australia, Beijing, Washington, D.C., and Brussels
- 1992 to 1996: Full-time journalist for *London Evening Standard*



*David travels from China*

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## what people say

*David Rennie was easy to work with on details and logistics, responded promptly to our emails, was delighted to go with our Davos-style format, and most importantly was an engaging speaker. Rennie's political insights are unique- analysis that is succinct and on point and which those of us outside of New York and DC miss. I highly recommend David Rennie as a speaker on President Trump and the Trump Administration in particular, but also on broader issues about the United States economy, political development and foreign relations."*

**World Affairs Council of Atlanta**

"David Rennie combines a unique knowledge of the current landscape of political economy with a stirring speaking style. He delivered a superb talk on the current Trumpian Political landscape through the unique lens of the globalisation of populism"

**Centre for Financial policy, UMD Smith School of Business**

"We have engaged a number of professional speakers at our conferences over the past ten years, and David was right up there with the best. His subject matter is fascinating, and delivered in a clear and entertaining style. Our only regret is not dedicating more time..."

**Tom Wright, the MD of Hawkins Wright**



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