

What is the Bilderberg Group?

Monday, October 11, 2021 6:12 PM

What to Know About the Bilderberg Group's Secret Annual Meeting



Barriers stand in front of hotel Taschenbergpalais Kempinski in Dresden, Germany, where the Bilderberg conference will take place from June 9-12, 2016.


Arno Burgi
By [JOSH SANBURN](#)

JUNE 9, 2016 3:03 PM EDT

A shadowy world government. Political kingmakers. A capitalist cabal looking to impose its will across the globe. For decades, conspiracy theorists have tried to [decode the secretive Bilderberg Group](#), an annual gathering of the some of the world's most powerful figures, which begins Thursday in Dresden, Germany. But while little is known about what's said at the private meetings, there are a few things that we do know about [this year's gathering](#).

Since 1954, the Bilderberg Group has been gathering in secret to discuss everything from the rise and fall of communism to nuclear warfare to cybersecurity. The group began as a way to create more cooperation between Europe and North America during the Cold War, and Bilderberg releases an annual list of the people who will attend and the topics they'll discuss, but beyond that, little leaves the walls of the meeting rooms.

From <https://time.com/4362872/bilderberg-group-meetings-2016-conspiracy-theories/>

 Bilderberg Hotel in the Netherlands , anonymous location of the first conference in 1954 51.9898°N 5.8176°E	
Formation	29 May 1954; 67 years ago
Membership	c. 150 invitees, smaller core group
Co-Chair of the Steering Committee	Victor Halberstadt Marie-Josée Kravis
Website	bilderbergmeetings.org

The Bilderberg meeting (also known as the Bilderberg Group) is an annual [conference](#) established in 1954 to foster dialogue between [Europe](#) and [North America](#). The group's agenda, originally to prevent another [world war](#), is now defined as bolstering a consensus around [free market](#) Western [capitalism](#) and its interests around the globe. Participants include [political leaders](#), [experts](#) from [industry](#), [finance](#), [academia](#), and the [media](#), numbering between 120 and 150. Attendees are entitled to use information gained at meetings, but not attribute it to a named speaker. This is to encourage candid debate, while maintaining privacy – a provision that has fed conspiracy theories from both the [left](#) and [right](#). Meetings were chaired by [Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands](#) until 1976. The current Chairman is [Henri de Castries](#).

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilderberg_meeting

The Bilderberg Group take their name from the Hotel de Bilderberg in Oosterbeek, the Netherlands, where its members first convened on 29 May 1954 at the invitation of Prince Bernhard of Lippe-Biesterfeld.

From <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/bilderberg-group-conspiracy-theories-secret-societies-new-world-order-alex-jones-a8377171.html>

ABOUT BILDERBERG MEETINGS

Since its inaugural Meeting in 1954, the annual Bilderberg Meeting has been a forum for informal discussions to foster dialogue between Europe and North America. Every year, approx. 130 political leaders and experts from industry, finance, labour, academia and the media are invited to take part in the Meeting. About two thirds of the participants come from Europe and the rest from North America; one third from politics and government and the rest from other fields. The Meeting is a forum for informal discussions about major issues. The Meetings are held under the Chatham House Rule, which states that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s) nor of any other participant may be revealed. Thanks to the private nature of the Meeting, the participants take part as individuals rather than in any official capacity, and hence are not bound by the conventions of their office or by pre-agreed positions. As such, they can take time to listen, reflect and gather insights. There is no detailed agenda, no resolutions are proposed, no votes are taken, and no policy statements are issued.

From <https://www.bilderbergmeetings.org/index.html>

What does the Group do?

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Activities and goals

The group's original goal of promoting [Atlanticism](#), of strengthening U.S.-European relations and preventing another world war has grown; according to Andrew Kakabadse, the Bilderberg Group's theme is to "bolster a consensus around [free-market Western capitalism](#) and its interests around the globe".^[1] In 2001, [Denis Healey](#), a Bilderberg group founder and a steering committee member for 30 years, said, "To say we were striving for a [one-world government](#) is exaggerated, but not wholly unfair. Those of us in Bilderberg felt we couldn't go on forever fighting one another for nothing and killing people and rendering millions homeless. So we felt that a single community throughout the world would be a good thing."^[2] According to the web page of the group, the meetings are conducted under the [Chatham House Rule](#), allowing the participants to use any information they gained during the meeting, but not to disclose the names of the speakers or any other participants. According to former chairman [Etienne Davignon](#) in 2011, a major attraction of Bilderberg group meetings is that they provide an opportunity for participants to speak and debate candidly and to find out what major figures really think, without the risk of off-the-cuff comments becoming fodder for controversy in the media.^[3] A 2008 press release from the "American Friends of Bilderberg" stated that "Bilderberg's only activity is its annual Conference and that at the meetings, no resolutions were proposed, no votes taken, and no policy statements issued."^[4] However, in November 2009, the group hosted a dinner meeting at the [Château of Val-Duchesse](#) in Brussels outside its annual conference to promote the candidacy of [Herman Van Rompuy](#) for [President of the European Council](#).^[5] The Bilderberg meetings are also unofficially called the "Bilderberg Group", "Bilderberg conference" or "Bilderberg Club".

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilderberg_meeting>

What are the Bilderberg Meetings and what are its goals?

The annual Bilderberg Meeting is designed to foster dialogue between Europe and North America. Bilderberg was established in 1954 as a forum for informal discussions, bringing together individuals who share an active interest in affairs relevant to the relationship between Europe and Northern America. The Meeting has one main goal: to foster discussion and dialogue. There is no desired outcome, there is no closing statement, there are no resolutions proposed or votes taken, and the organisation does not support any political party or viewpoint.

From <<https://www.bilderbergmeetings.org/frequently-asked-questions>>

Founded in 1954, the Bilderberg Meeting was designed to foster warmer relations between the United States and Europe. The annual talk fest is considered secretive because guests are not allowed to reveal who said what at the meeting.



Fabrice Coffrini | AFP | Getty Images

The clandestine nature of the Bilderberg Meeting regularly sparks conspiracy theories and accusations of a "secret world order," but organizers say the restricted gathering with rules on reporting simply allows more freedom within discussions.

From <<https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/28/kushner-google-and-microsoft-to-attend-secret-bilderberg-meeting.html>>

The end of Atlanticism: has Trump killed the ideology that won the cold war?

The foreign policy establishment has been lamenting its death for half a century. But Atlanticism has long been a convenient myth by [Madeleine Schwartz](#)

Tue 4 Sep 2018 06.00 BST

If you took headlines at their word, you would think that the western world is in freefall. As dozens of magazine articles, opeds and blogposts will tell you, the post-second-world-war order was built – from D-day until yesterday – by Americans and Europeans who shared the ideals of peace, freedom and democracy. The system worked well until [Donald Trump](#) came along and knocked it down as if he were laying the foundations for a new casino. This perceived crisis may be the main thing that unites the press in the United States and Europe. “Is the Trans-Atlantic Relationship Dead?” asked the New York Times in January. A few weeks later, it rang a more definite note: “The Post-World War II Order Is Under Assault From the Powers That Built It.” In Germany, the heart of the Europe-US alliance, there is talk of little else when it comes to foreign policy. A recent cover of the German weekly Der Spiegel showed a hand giving the finger, except that the finger was a little Trump. Two editors at the German newspaper Die Zeit argued that politicians had to accept that the relationship was over and move on. Too many, they argued, “refuse to accept this reality. Instead, they take refuge in argumentative acrobatics.”



[The end of Atlanticism: has Trump killed the ideology that won the cold war? – podcast](#)

[Read more](#)

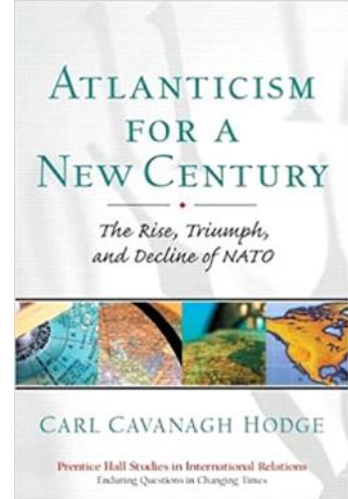
The idea that the world's stability and prosperity is defined primarily by a partnership between Europeans and Americans is called Atlanticism or transatlanticism, and the people who care about it are convinced that Trump is out to tear up the alliance. For the politicians, professors, thinktank pundits and journalists for whom “Atlanticist” is a badge of honour, an end to this partnership is not just a geopolitical issue, but a threat to liberalism and any hopes of political betterment around the world. Democracy, free speech, anti-totalitarianism, constitutionalism and free trade that manages to enrich all of its participants – these ideals, to the Atlanticists, depend on the close relationship between the US and [Europe](#). As goes the transatlantic relationship, so goes the possibility of western progress. At the heart of the crisis of transatlanticism is the legacy of the American effort to rebuild Europe after the second world war through three institutions: [Bretton Woods](#), [the Marshall plan](#) and [Nato](#). These were the foundations of the so-called “post-world order”, a programme to stabilise Europe and prevent the emergence of new forms of totalitarianism. (“Transatlanticism” sounded better than “denazification”.) For the Atlanticists, these institutions were not only the means of shaping Europe after 1945, but an expression of the possibilities for idealistic American power. The high point of the relationship was the end of the cold war, when the opportunities that had shaped the west suddenly became available to the Soviet bloc, validating the Atlanticist strategy. Atlanticism could be a means of bringing the west to the rest, as some Atlanticists proposed in the heady years following the fall of the Berlin wall. No longer simply a response to crises, Atlanticism became a way of conceiving the world and the US's place within it.

From <<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2018/sep/04/atlanticism-trump-ideology-cold-war-foreign-policy>>

At-lan-ti-cism | \ət-ˈlan-tə-si-zəm , at-ˈ
Definition of *Atlanticism*

: a policy of military cooperation between European powers and the U.S.

From <<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Atlanticism>>



Bretton Woods Agreement and System

What Was the Bretton Woods Agreement and System?

The Bretton Woods Agreement was negotiated in July 1944 by delegates from 44 countries at the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference held in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. Thus, the name "Bretton Woods Agreement."¹

Under the Bretton Woods System, gold was the basis for the U.S. dollar and other currencies were pegged to the U.S. dollar's value. The Bretton Woods System effectively came to an end in the early 1970s when President Richard M. Nixon announced that the U.S. would no longer exchange gold for U.S. currency.¹

The Bretton Woods Agreement and System Explained

Approximately 730 delegates representing 44 countries met in Bretton Woods in July 1944 with the principal goals of creating an efficient [foreign exchange](#) system, preventing competitive devaluations of currencies, and promoting international economic growth. The Bretton Woods Agreement and System were central to these goals. The Bretton Woods Agreement also created two important organizations—the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#) and the [World Bank](#). While the Bretton Woods System was dissolved in the 1970s, both the IMF and World Bank have remained strong pillars for the exchange of international currencies.¹

Though the Bretton Woods conference itself took place over just three weeks, the preparations for it had been going on for several years. The primary designers of the Bretton Woods System were the famous British economist [John Maynard Keynes](#) and American Chief International Economist of the U.S. Treasury Department Harry Dexter White. Keynes' hope was to establish a powerful global central bank to be called the Clearing Union and issue a new international reserve currency called the *bancor*. White's plan envisioned a more modest lending fund and a greater role for the U.S. dollar, rather than the creation of a new currency. In the end, the adopted plan took ideas from both, leaning more toward White's plan.¹

It wasn't until 1958 that the Bretton Woods System became fully functional. Once implemented, its provisions called for the U.S. dollar to be pegged to the value of gold. Moreover, all other currencies in the system were then pegged to the U.S. dollar's value. The exchange rate applied at the time set the price of gold at \$35 an ounce.¹

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Bretton Woods Agreement and System created a collective international currency exchange regime that lasted from the mid-1940s to the early 1970s.
- The Bretton Woods System required a currency peg to the U.S. dollar which was in turn pegged to the price of gold.
- The Bretton Woods System collapsed in the 1970s but created a lasting influence on international currency exchange and trade through its development of the IMF and World Bank.

From <<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/brettonwoodsagreement.asp>>

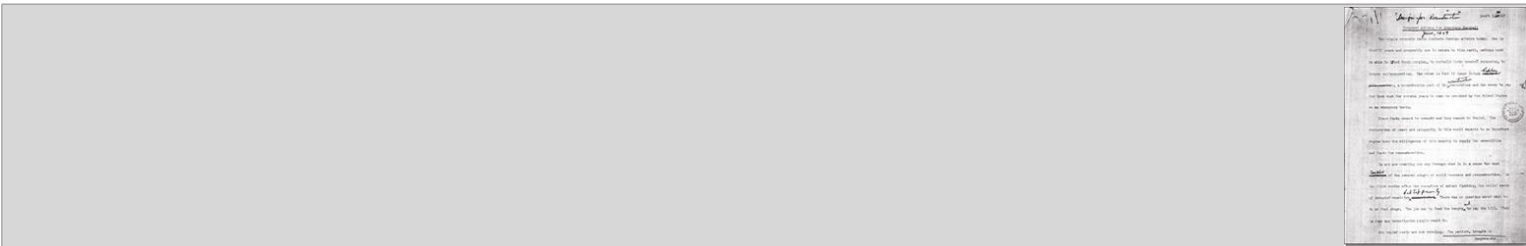
The Marshall Plan

by [Peter J. Duignan](#), [Lewis H. Gann](#)

Thursday, October 30, 1997

The Marshall Plan formed the greatest voluntary transfer of resources from one country to another known to history. Technically known as the European Recovery Program, the plan was passed by the U.S. Congress with a decisive majority and was signed by President Truman on April 3, 1948--just in time to influence the Italian election in that year.

The Marshall Plan did not, in and of itself, cause Western European economic recovery. Indeed, there was little direct correlation between the amount of U.S. aid received and the speed of economic recovery in the various recipient countries. France and Britain obtained much more aid per capita than West Germany, which nevertheless progressed more quickly than either. But the Marshall Plan (guided by the European Cooperation Administration, ECA) helped to tide Western Europe over a dangerous period. The plan provided new confidence to Western Europe; the plan furnished money, food, fuel, and machinery at a time when the Western European economies were all in disarray. Marshall Plan experts argued in favor of free trade, decentralized management, breaking up of cartels, the elimination of quotas and customs, and labor-saving technologies.



Manuscript draft of a speech on post-war reconstruction in Europe. Such documents record the evolution of the Marshall Plan, which promoted economic recovery with innovative and bold initiatives. The original draft is in the Truman presidential library, and a copy is filed in the Hoover Institution Archives.

The Americans also delivered know-how. For example, at the Doboelman soap works in Holland, American experts showed the Dutch how to cut processing time from five days to two hours with new machinery. In Norway, fishermen used a new type of net made from yarn spun in Italy. In Offenbach in West Germany, Marshall Plan leather revived the handbag industry; in Lille, Marshall Plan coal kept a steel factory in business; and in Roubaix, Marshall Plan wood maintained one of the world's largest textile mills. In 1945, only twenty-five thousand tractors were in use on French farms; four years later, Marshall Plan aid had put another two hundred thousand tractors in the field. Overall, American investment in Western Europe grew apace, and more and more U.S. patents found customers abroad. Americans had good reason for talking about "the American century."

A host of U.S. technical experts, consultants, and managers also contributed their experience to Western Europe. But there was also a reverse flow of Europeans to the United States. As William James Adams, an economist, puts it with regard to France:

Under the Marshall Plan, France dispatched large numbers of business executives, trade unionists, civil servants to the United States with an eye toward absorption of American productivity. They returned not only with . . . butch haircuts and wineless lunches, but also with an appreciation of how business was conducted in a relatively dynamic, seemingly disorganized setting. The plan likewise presented an immense U.S. political commitment. Not for nothing did George C. Marshall, a professional soldier, receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. In a more intangible sense, Europeans benefited from the American sense of optimism and the American premise that peace, labor productivity, consumerism, welfare, and profits went hand in hand--this at a time when gloomy existentialist philosophies were in high fashion among European intellectuals. America produced cheaper coal (coal miners struck in Europe's coldest winter, 1946) and sent food to tide the Europeans over and then the means to revive quickly their economies through the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan, like NATO, created an intricate network of intra-European and transatlantic contacts among businessmen, civil servants, and trade unionists.

Above all, the Marshall Plan was designed to push Europeans toward political and economic cooperation--a major objective of U.S. policymakers. Paul G. Hoffman, who headed the ECA, predicted European unification through a common market. Aid was administered through the OEEC (Organization for European Economic Cooperation, created in 1948, replaced in 1961 by the OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development). In terms of a narrowly conceived realpolitik, the Americans might have benefited from dealing separately with their European allies in a strictly bilateral fashion. In practice, the Americans looked toward a new Western European economic association.

The Marshall planners were convinced that only a prosperous Europe could resist communism. The Plan worked.

The United States was both a lobbyist for a united Europe and also a role model. Surely, European federalists argued, the United States could not have developed into the world's greatest economic power had the fifty states remained divided by customs barriers and if a New Yorker visiting California were obliged to show his passport every time he crossed the border of a state. The OEEC created a network of transnational bodies and transnational committees to deal with specialized questions. (These included the European Payments Union [EPU], set up in 1950, and a central bank and clearinghouse for intra-European trade and payments. By 1959 the European currencies had largely become convertible, and the EPU was replaced by the European Monetary Agreement.)

Yet the Marshall Plan was only passed against heavy U.S. domestic opposition. American isolationists resented having to spend American taxpayers' money on foreign countries that had already defaulted on their previous debts from World War I. Businessmen didn't want to reconstruct competitor European industries. Congressmen only wanted to give food, not loans. The Soviet Union and its allies all the world over denounced the plan for strengthening the hold of U.S. capitalism on Western Europe; hence the Soviet Union would not become a beneficiary of the plan, nor would Moscow permit any of its satellites to participate. Even pro-American Europeans were bound to feel uneasy. It was hard to ask a foreign country for aid, harder still to ask aid from a donor whom visiting European dignitaries had traditionally described in unflattering terms. A handful of purists also complained because of the plan's Keynesian connotations, its refusal to leave European recovery to the free market alone.

Nevertheless, the plan worked. It succeeded in part because it gained widespread political acceptance within the United States itself--a remarkable political achievement. The plan represented a new welfare capitalism--confident, committed to raising productivity, raising wages, expanding markets, and establishing good labor relations by depoliticizing trade unionism. The Marshall planners were convinced that only a prosperous Europe would resist communism and that only a prosperous Europe would provide expanding markets for U.S. as well as European producers. On the whole, the plan was well administered; there were no scandals, no massive diversion of funds into the pockets of political and bureaucratic racketeers. Yet the expenditure involved was astronomical by the standards of the time. The Marshall Plan and other forms of foreign assistance between them cost the United States \$17.6 billion (or \$120 billion in current value for the Marshall Plan alone)--as we said, the largest voluntary transfer of resources in history. Ten years after the end of the greatest war in history, Western Europe had not only fully recovered but had become far more prosperous and productive than before.

From <<https://www.hoover.org/research/marshall-plan>>

Chatham House Rule

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Chatham House Rule

The Chatham House Rule is used around the world to encourage inclusive and open dialogue in meetings.



The Chatham House Rule helps create a trusted environment to understand and resolve complex problems. Its guiding spirit is: share the information you receive, but do not reveal the identity of who said it.

The Rule reads as follows:

When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

The Rule explained

Meetings do not have to take place at Chatham House, or be organized by Chatham House, to be held under the Rule.

Any group of individuals in any sector can use the Rule as a pre-agreed guide for running an event, particularly when issues of a sensitive nature are to be discussed.

In a polarized world, used effectively, the Chatham House Rule helps to bring people together, break down barriers, generate ideas and agree solutions.

Meetings, events and discussions held at Chatham House are normally conducted 'on the record' with the Rule occasionally invoked in relevant cases. In cases where the Rule is not considered sufficiently strict, an event may be held 'off the record'.

From <<https://www.chathamhouse.org/about-us/chatham-house-rule>>

What is the Chatham House Rule?

The Chatham House Rule is used in meetings where participants need a way to openly share information, but don't want to be identified as the source of that information in any meeting records or articles written afterward. The rule is invoked regularly in meetings dealing with sensitive topics. It reads:

When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

From <<https://www.lucidmeetings.com/glossary/chatham-house-rule>>



How do you join?

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 5:44 PM

What criteria do I have to meet and what do I have to do to get an invitation for a Bilderberg Meeting?

Please note that there is no application process for joining the Bilderberg Meetings. Participation is for invitees only.

How does the invitation procedure work?

Participation is for invitees only, as curated by the Steering Committee from leaders who distinguish themselves in the areas of government, business, technology, labour and academia. There is always a comprehensive discussion to ensure diversity in background, views, generations and gender.

Are journalists allowed to attend – is there an accreditation procedure and how can I apply?

The Meeting is closed to reporting journalists in order to encourage the highest level of openness and dialogue. As a result, there is no accreditation of journalists. Each year journalists have attended à titre personnel.

From <<https://www.bilderbergmeetings.org/frequently-asked-questions>>

Want to Join the Bilderberg Group?

The Bilderberg Group fascinate me. Who wouldn't want to be a fly on the wall at their annual meeting? Hell, who wouldn't want to be invited to the meeting? If I was invited I'd know I'd reached the very top of the world order. But hang on. Would that really be true?

The Bilderberg Group fascinate me. Who wouldn't want to be a fly on the wall at their annual meeting? Hell, who wouldn't want to be invited to the meeting? If I was invited I'd know I'd reached the very top of the world order. But hang on. Would that really be true?

This year's Bilderberg Meeting, or Conference as it's known to Bilderbergers, has just ended in a blaze of media apathy. The Meeting in Copenhagen went almost without press comment: just a little spike of interest when the attendee list was 'leaked', or as I like to put it: 'released'. This total lack of interest is, in fact, more interesting than it might first appear. The media apathy is a sign that the Bilderberg Group continue to do their job; quietly and politely keeping us all in the dark.

Now I'm no conspiracy theorist but I do know that Bilderberg doesn't do anything by accident. The [list of attendees](#) means nothing. This is a list of people who don't mind it being known that they are attending the Bilderberg Meeting; in fact, they are desperate for you to know that they're on the global A-list. They're the ones who proudly stride up to the hotel's main entrance and wave to the cameras. They clutch bundles of documents and wear their Bilderberg lanyard like a medal of honour. For business reasons or personal pride, deep inside you know they're saying: 'I've made it! I am someone. At last! At last!' But only the most naïve of them, and us, would believe that they are anything other than political bubble wrap; the dispensable ones.

I know this because it mirrors the real, non-Bilderberg world. I act as a media consigliere to a clutch of global CEOs, and organise lots of behind-the-scenes meetings - and I can tell you one thing: no one who comes to any of my meetings will ever want to be named as an attendee on any publicly available list: nor will they ever be. And let's face it, I'm not the Bilderberg Group. If your name is on any list at all connected to Bilderberg you are probably the international and political equivalent of cannon fodder. You draw the flack while the people on the list glide up to a side entrance and step silently and unrecognized into the hotel. And it's quite likely that if you are on the list, you know this too.

The thing you need to remember about The Bilderberg Group is that it doesn't just miraculously appear like an apparition once a year - this isn't the annual equivalent of the World Cup. It exists and operates all year round. The Meeting is just the candy floss; the part that enables the people with the real power to keep their finger on the pulse; to size up those people who might have, as they call it on [their website](#), something 'interesting' to say. What they deem 'interesting' is anyone's guess. But my guess would be that it's probably a combination of influence expansion and succession planning.

When Bilderberg say about their annual Meeting: 'Move along, nothing to see here', they mean it and they're right. To all intents and purposes the Meeting is very impressive window dressing. The work of Bilderberg is not done at the Meeting; it's done later or early in chateaux in France and mansions in the northern USA. This is standard practice. It's the same with all meetings, not just the ones arranged by Bilderberg.

So, do I still want to be invited to the Bilderberg Meeting? Absolutely! Yes! I'd happily be the first name on the list - I'd have my bag packed and ready six months in advance. Why? Because I'm curious and interested. I want to meet all these people on the list; I'd love to meet the people on the list. I'm a human being. We all want to meet powerful people and talk to them face to face.

And what about the rest? What about the secrecy? Well, I'm a realist. Not everything in life is open and transparent; laid out naked and unashamed for public consumption. And not everything ever can be, or should be. Privacy is desirable and, yes, secrecy is sometimes necessary at every level. Do I think The Bilderberg Group should be more open? No I don't. They are not publicly funded. They are not ours to hold to account. And anyway, what would be do without them? We'd have no global-government conspiracy theory to keep us warm at night - and the people who go in through the side door would have no control over each other. And finally, while Bilderberg exists, while the people not on the list are still talking to each other, perhaps, just perhaps, we're all just that little bit less vulnerable.

From <https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/paul-blanchard/bilderberg-group_b_5450677.html>

Who are members?

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 5:44 PM

Who are the participants of the annual Bilderberg Meeting?

The participants list changes from year to year and is published on this website a few days before each annual Meeting. Every Bilderberg Meeting represents a diverse mix of backgrounds, views, generations and genders. Participants take part in the Meeting as individuals in their own right.

From <<https://www.bilderbergmeetings.org/frequently-asked-questions>>

List of Bilderberg participants

The following is a list of prominent persons who are known to have attended one or more conferences organized by the [Bilderberg meeting](#). The list is currently organized by category. It is not a complete list and it includes both living and deceased people. Who we know, the year(s) they attended are denoted in brackets.

Canada

- [Gordon Campbell](#), (2010),^[a]^[b] [Premier of British Columbia](#) 2001–2011
 - [Mike Harris](#), (2006),^[a]^[b] [Premier of Ontario](#) 1995–2002^[a]^[b]^[c]^[d]
 - [Jason Kenney](#), (2014),^[a]^[b] [Premier of Alberta](#) 2019–current
 - [Bernard Lord](#), (2006),^[a]^[b] [Premier of New Brunswick](#) 1999–2006
 - [Frank McKenna](#), (2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013)^[a]^[b] [Premier of New Brunswick](#) 1987–1997
 - [Bill Morneau](#), (2016–2017),^[a]^[b] [Minister of Finance](#) (2015–2020)
 - [Alison Redford](#), (2012),^[a]^[b]^[c]^[d] [Premier of Alberta](#) 2011–2014
 - [Brad Wall](#), (2013)^[a]^[b] [Premier of Saskatchewan](#) 2007–2018
 - [Nigel S. Wright](#), (2012)^[a] [Chief of Staff, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada](#), 2011–2013
 - Prime Ministers
 - [Lester B. Pearson](#), (1968),^[a]^[b] [Prime Minister of Canada](#) (1963–1968) (deceased)
 - [Pierre Elliott Trudeau](#), (1968),^[a]^[b] [Prime Minister of Canada](#), 1968–1979, 1980–1984 (deceased)
 - [Jean Chrétien](#), (1996),^[a]^[b] [Prime Minister of Canada](#), 1993–2003
 - [Paul Martin](#), (1996),^[a]^[b] [Prime Minister of Canada](#), 2003–2006
 - [Stephen Harper](#), (2003),^[a]^[b] [Prime Minister of Canada](#), 2006–2015
 - [Chris Hadfield](#) (2016),^[a] Colonel, Astronaut
 - [Neil McKinnon](#), (1965), President of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC).
 - [Louis Rasminsky](#), (1968), third Governor of the Bank of Canada from 1961 to 1973. (deceased)
 - [Frank McKenna](#), (2006, 2008, 2010, 2012),^[a]^[b]^[c] Deputy Chair of [TD Bank Financial Group](#), Canadian Ambassador to the United States 2005–2006, [Premier of New Brunswick](#) 1987–1997
 - [Marcel Faribault](#), (1966), Canadian notary, businessman and administrator, he became president of Trust Général du Canada. (deceased)
 - [Mark Carney](#), (2011, 2012),^[a] Governor of the Bank of England from July 2013 on, eighth governor of the Bank of Canada from 2008 to 2013 and the Chairman of the Financial Stability Board, an institution of the G20 based in Basel, Switzerland. ^[a]^[b]
 - [Clark, Edmund](#), (2008, 2010, 2011, 2012),^[a]^[b]^[c] President and CEO, TD Bank Financial Group
 - [Heather Reisman](#) (2016),^[a] Chair and CEO, [Indigo Books & Music](#).
 - [Yoshua Bengio](#) (2016),^[a] Professor in Computer Science and Operations Research, [University of Montreal](#)
 - [James Orbinski](#), (2011),^[a] Professor of Medicine and Political Science, University of Toronto, he was President of the International Council of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, aka Doctors Without Borders) at the time the organization received the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize.
 - [Peter Mansbridge](#), (2010),^[a] CBC's chief correspondent and anchor of The National, CBC Television's flagship nightly newscast.
 - [Conrad Black](#), [Baron Black of Crossharbour](#), (1981, 1983, 1985–1996),^[a]^[b] [Hollinger International](#), Author and former media magnate.^[a] (1997),
 - [Robert Prichard](#), (2010),^[a]^[b] the president of Ontario's Metrolinx.
 - [Heather Reisman](#), (2000 – present),^[a]^[b] CEO of Chapters/Indigo, Co-Founder of the Heseg Foundation.
 - [David Frum](#), (1997),^[a] Canadian American journalist and a former economic speechwriter for President George W. Bush.
- From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Bilderberg_participants#Canada>
- ## BILDERBERG MEETING 2019
- ### Montreux, 30 May - 2 June 2019
- #### BOARD
- Castries, Henri de (FRA), *Chairman, Steering Committee; Chairman, Institut Montaigne*
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From <<https://www.bilderbergmeetings.org/press/press-release/participants>>

Criticisms and conspiracy theories

Partly because of its working methods to ensure strict privacy and secrecy,^[1] the Bilderberg Group has been criticised for its lack of transparency and accountability.^[2] The undisclosed nature of the proceedings has given rise to several [conspiracy theories](#),^{[3][4]} which have been popular at both extremes of the [political spectrum](#), although there is disagreement about the exact nature of the group's intentions. Some on the left accuse the Bilderberg group of conspiring to impose capitalist domination,^[5] while some on the right have accused the group of conspiring to impose a [world government](#) and [planned economy](#).^[6]

In 2005, Davignon discussed accusations of the group striving for a one-world government with the [BBC](#): "It is unavoidable and it doesn't matter. There will always be people who believe in conspiracies but things happen in a much more incoherent fashion. ... When people say this is a secret government of the world I say that if we were a secret government of the world we should be bloody ashamed of ourselves."^[7]

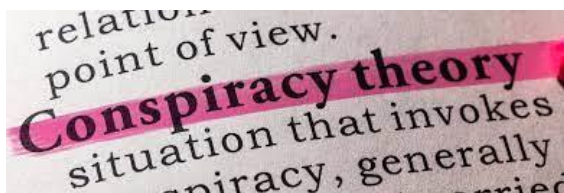
In a 1994 report, *Right Woos Left*, published by the [Political Research Associates](#), investigative journalist [Chip Berlet](#) argued that [right-wing populist](#) conspiracy theories about the Bilderberg group date back to as early as 1964 and can be found in [Phyllis Schlafly](#)'s self-published book *A Choice, Not an Echo*,^[8] which promoted a [conspiracy theory](#) in which the [Republican Party](#) was secretly controlled by elitist intellectuals dominated by members of the Bilderberg group, whose [internationalist](#) policies would pave the way for [world communism](#).^[9]

In August 2010, former Cuban president [Fidel Castro](#) wrote an article for the Cuban Communist Party newspaper *Granma* in which he cited [Daniel Estulin](#)'s 2006 book *The Secrets of the Bilderberg Club*,^[10] which, as quoted by Castro, describes "sinister cliques and the Bilderberg lobbyists" manipulating the public "to install a world government that knows no borders and is not accountable to anyone but its own self."^[11]

Proponents of Bilderberg conspiracy theories in the United States include individuals and groups such as the [John Birch Society](#),^[12] political activist [Phyllis Schlafly](#),^[13] writer [Jim Tucker](#),^[14] political activist [Lyndon LaRouche](#),^[15] conspiracy theorist [Alex Jones](#),^{[16][17]} and politician [Jesse Ventura](#), who made the Bilderberg group a topic of a 2009 episode of his [TruTV](#) series *Conspiracy Theory with Jesse Ventura*.^[18] Non-American proponents include Lithuanian writer [Daniel Estulin](#)^[19] and British politician [Nigel Farage](#).^[20]

Concerns about [lobbying](#) have arisen.^{[21][22]} Ian Richardson sees Bilderberg as the transnational [power elite](#), "an integral, and to some extent critical, part of the existing system of [global governance](#)", that is "not acting in the interests of the whole".^[23] An article in *The Guardian* in June 2017 criticized the world view expressed in an agenda published by the Bilderberg group.^[24]

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilderberg_meeting#Criticisms_and_conspiracy_theories>



Why we shouldn't dismiss Bilderberg conspiracies so lightly

We live in an age of conspiracies about a world shaped by shadowy plots, secret organisations and deals made behind closed doors. And while they are often viewed as the fictions of sad people wearing anoraks and tin foil hats, they can relate to the real business of global politics. Conspiracy theories surround the likes of TTIP, Davos, the CIA, and this week, the [Bilderberg](#) meeting.

Haven't heard of Bilderberg? That's because security is very heavy, journalists are not invited, and all participants are forbidden from talking about the discussions. This year's meeting starts on June 9 and takes place in the rather pleasant looking [Taschenbergpalais in Dresden](#). Other details, however, are kept under wraps.

A mad world?

People have been suspicious of the meeting since its inception in 1954 at the Hotel De Bilderberg in Oosterbeek, Netherlands. Since at least the mid-1960s, the meetings have been seen by commentators on the right and left as one of the places where the [New World Order](#) does its business. Like [Bohemian Grove](#), the [Trilateral Commission](#) and [Area 51](#), Bilderberg attracts the paranoia of conspiracy theorists who claim that a varied collection of people spend time talking about how to enslave us. There are plenty of [websites](#) with colourful hotlinks making connections between Bilderberg and the Illuminati, the Freemasons, the death of Diana and so on. It's a spiralling world of madness.

Or is it? Rather famously, Adam Smith (beloved of free-marketeers) once said: "People of the same trade seldom meet together, even for merriment and diversion, but the conversation ends in a conspiracy against the public, or in some contrivance to raise prices." So imagine what really happens in those hotels, in between the heavy meals and the raids on well-stocked minibars.

The official line is that the informal discussions concern megatrends and major issues facing the world. Last year, the [topics discussed](#) included artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, chemical weapons threats, Greece, Iran, NATO, Russia, terrorism and the US elections. Because the meeting is private, the people who take part don't have to worry about repeating particular policy or party lines. They can instead explore scenarios and say what they really think, because there are no agendas, no resolutions, no votes and no statements issued at the end of the meeting.

That makes it sound like a rather pleasant policy seminar. [Last year](#), it was a place where top politicians from different parties and countries could chat with each other, as well as executives from Google, BP, Shell, Deutsche Bank and other big companies. Fed with presentations and canapés, they can explore problems in a way that they rarely get an opportunity to during their hectic day jobs. The leaders of the free world do need to stop and think sometimes.

A narrow spectrum

But some conspiracy theorists do have a point. These politicians and businessmen (because they are, mostly, men) do have common interests after all. These are the success stories of transatlantic post-war capitalism. What do they know of the ["precariat"](#) they're supposed to be discussing?

If you spend much of your life occupying the first class compartment on aeroplanes, it doubtless becomes logical to assume that there is some virtue to the system that put you there. Your fillet steak always tastes better if it has been accompanied by a small side-helping of self-congratulation. So the 120-150 members of the elite who get together every year – two thirds of the participants from Europe and the rest from North America – are undoubtedly not terribly motivated to change much.



Closed to the public. EPA/Sebastian Kahnert

That is doubtless why most of the invitees tend to be [from a narrow spectrum of occupations and positions](#) – CEOs, finance ministers and heads of state. Some critics have attended in the past – journalists Will Hutton in 1997, Jonathan Porritt in 1999 – but they are few and far between. The conversations are therefore unlikely to explore radical reforms which might endanger the power and privileges of those who already have seats at the table.

Conspiracy theorists give conspiracy theories a bad name. Conspiracies do exist, and this is one of them. Politics, at this sort of elite level, is precisely a conspiracy in the sense that Adam Smith meant it. When these people gather once a year, they do not engage in withering self-criticism, but instead reinforce the assumptions that they collectively make about the best sort of economic and political order. This is exactly the sort of process that the psychologist Irving Janis described as ["groupthink"](#), where dissent is marginalised and consensus amplified.

If the participants at Bilderberg really want to explore global challenges, talking to each other is the last thing that they should be doing. We already know that the [powerful organise the world](#) for us – it is common knowledge. What Bilderberg exposes is that what goes on at endless summits and conferences across the globe is a mountain of smugness that is much more frightening than anoraks muttering about the Illuminati.

From <<https://theconversation.com/why-we-shouldnt-dismiss-bilderberg-conspiracies-so-lightly-60653>>