

Thomas L. Friedman

Thomas Friedman, a world-renowned author and journalist, joined *The New York Times* in 1981 as a financial reporter specializing in OPEC and oil-related news and later served as the Chief Diplomatic, Chief White House, and International Economics Correspondents. A three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, he has traveled hundreds of thousands of miles reporting the Middle East conflict, the end of the cold war, US domestic politics and foreign policy, international economics and the worldwide impact of the terrorist threat. His Foreign Affairs Column, which appears twice a week in *The Times*, is syndicated to 700 other newspapers worldwide.

Friedman is the author of *From Beirut to Jerusalem*, which won both the National Book and the Overseas Press Club Awards in 1989 and was on *The New York Times* "Bestseller List" for nearly 12 months. *Beirut* has been published more than 20 languages, including Chinese and Japanese, and is now used as a basic textbook on the Middle East in many high schools and universities. Friedman also wrote *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, one of the best selling business books in 1999, and the winner of the 2000 Overseas Press Club Award for best non-fiction book on foreign policy. *Lexus* is now out in 27 languages. *Longitudes and Attitudes: Exploring the World After September 11*, issued in 2002, consists of columns Friedman published about September 11. His most recent book, *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*, released in April 2005, received the inaugural Goldman Sachs/Financial Times Business Book of the Year Award.

Friedman graduated summa cum laude from Brandeis University with a degree in Mediterranean Studies and received a Masters degree in Modern Middle East Studies from Oxford. He has served as a visiting professor at Harvard University and has been awarded honorary degrees from several U.S. universities. He lives in Bethesda, MD, with his wife, Ann, and their two daughters.