

Teresita Schaffer

Senior Advisor

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Education

Certificat d'Etudes Politiques, Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Paris
BA, Bryn Mawr College

Affiliations

Member, Council on Foreign Relations.
Trustee Emeritus, The Asia Foundation
Member and Contributing Editor, International Institute of Strategic Studies
Member, American Academy of Diplomacy

Languages

Hindi, Urdu, French, Swedish, German, Italian, Bangla and Sinhala

Teresita C. Schaffer, Senior Advisor, supports clients on matters in India and South Asia. After a 30-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service specializing in international economic relations and South Asia, she has leveraged her intimate understanding of governments in that region to support clients with a wide range of commercial problems. She is based in Washington, D.C.

In her 30-year diplomatic career, Ambassador Teresita Schaffer was recognized as one of the State Department's leading experts on South Asia. She served in US embassies in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, and from 1992-95 as US Ambassador in Sri Lanka. Her other career focus was on international economic issues. During her assignments in the State Department in Washington, she was Director of the Office of International Trade and later Deputy Assistant Secretary of state for the Near East and South Asia, at that time the senior South Asia Policy position in the State Department.

After leaving government service, Ambassador Schaffer was a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. She also created the South Asia program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and directed it from 1998-2010. That program produced path-breaking research on economic, political, security and risk management trends on India and Pakistan, but also more broadly on the region that extends from Afghanistan through Bangladesh. She has also taught courses on diplomacy and on strategic forecasting at Georgetown University.

Ambassador Schaffer has written extensively on politics, negotiating style, and diplomacy in Asia. Her most recent book is *India at the Global High Table: The Quest for Regional Primacy and Strategic Autonomy*, published in 2016. Her book *How Pakistan Negotiates with the United States* (2011, both these books co-authored with her late husband), has been acclaimed as a unique resource on that subject. Other publications include book chapters or reports on Bangladesh (2017), Sri Lanka (1999), Kashmir (2004), and public health issues including HIV and polio eradication in India. Most recently, Ambassador



Schaffer published a report for the US-China Education Trust, titled “American, Chinese, and Indian Trilateral Perspectives: Conclusions and Recommendations” (2021).

Ambassador Schaffer’s in depth understanding of how the governments in South Asia work and what drives their economies has been a unique resource for clients.

- In India, she helped a client in the food and agriculture space navigate a complex merger in the difficult Indian regulatory environment.
- In Pakistan, she introduced a solar power company to the country and to its federal and provincial governments.
- In Bangladesh, she has provided the connections needed to resolve a remittance problem for a well-established foreign investor, helped a major beverage company launch a new plant and rebrand its local image, helped a telecommunications provider develop a strategy and position itself in the country, and provided policy advice to a major exporter of ready-made garments.

Ambassador Schaffer received a BA from Bryn Mawr College and studied at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques in Paris. She did graduate work in economics at Georgetown University. She speaks Hindi, Urdu, French, Swedish, German and Italian, and has studied Bangla and Sinhala.

