



A member of the American Committees on Foreign Relations

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
7:00 p.m. MT

The Importance of Getting US-Mexico Relations Right



An accomplished diplomat and executive, Ambassador Tony Wayne has served in a wide variety of positions during his career, including as U.S. Ambassador to Mexico and Argentina, Deputy Ambassador in Afghanistan, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs, and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe. Wayne left the State Department in late 2015 as a Career Ambassador, the most senior U.S. diplomatic rank.

Among his current activities, Wayne is Co-Chair of the Mexico Institute's Board at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and is a Distinguished Diplomat in Residence at American University. Wayne is also a non-resident advisor/fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Atlantic Council.

Wayne's most recent diplomatic posting was as **United States Ambassador to Mexico** from September 2011 through July 2015. He led a Mission of 2,700 employees representing 29 U.S. agencies, working to foster America's relationship with a major partner on trade, investment, tourism, migration, law enforcement, and border security. During Wayne's tenure, Mission Mexico's accomplishments included establishing the U.S.-Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue, the Mexico-U.S. Entrepreneurship and Innovation Council, and new energy and environmental dialogues. Before Mexico, Wayne spent two years working at the U.S. embassy in Kabul, **Afghanistan**. Arriving in 2009, Wayne served as **Coordinating Director for Development and Economic Affairs**, leading a new office created to improve coordination of over \$4 billion in U.S. non-military assistance among U.S. civilian agencies and with the Afghan government, the U.S. military's programs, and international aid agencies. After a year, Wayne was named **Deputy U.S. Ambassador**. As the Chief Operating Officer, he supervised an Embassy and field offices of over 1000. Wayne liaised closely with the government of Afghanistan, the U.S. military, and international military and civilian leaders. From 2006 to 2009, Wayne was the **United States Ambassador to Argentina**.

Wayne has received various honors. In 2017, he was awarded the Director General's Cup for the Foreign Service. In 2015, he was awarded the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest order granted to foreigners, by Mexico's President and Foreign Secretary. He also received the State Department's Charles Cobb Award for Initiative and Success in Trade Development. He was presented the International House "Global Ambassador of Peace and Public Service" award by the Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley. In 2012, Wayne received a Presidential Meritorious Service Award and, in 2011, the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service, both for work in Afghanistan. In 2010, Wayne was confirmed by the Senate as a Career Ambassador. That year he also received the Cordell Hull Award for Economic Achievement by Senior Officers for work in Afghanistan. In 2008, he was given the Paul Wellstone Anti-Slavery Ambassador of the Year Award for work in Argentina. In 2005, Wayne received the Department of State's Distinguished Honor Award and a Presidential Meritorious Service Award for work as EB Assistant Secretary. He received a Presidential Distinguished Service Award for work related to Kosovo and Southwest Europe in 2001.

Wayne has an MPA from the JFK School of Government, Harvard University (1984), an MA from Princeton University (1975), an MA from Stanford University (1973), and a BA is from the University of California, Berkeley (1972).

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