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GTR Training

Managing geopolitics in the 2020s and beyond

#GTRTraining

March 29, 2022
The Parliament Chamber at Middle Temple
London, UK

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Managing Geopolitics in the 2020s and Beyond

The pandemic has accelerated the drivers of geopolitical change and competition for global influence is intensifying. We're moving into an era where no single country or region will dominate the world and a range of international actors will compete to advance their ambitions, ideologies and interests. This will heighten instability between and within regions at a time when global cooperation is necessary to address the challenges of climate change, cyber crime and global debt.

In the absence of one nation with the resources and willingness to lead, competition and tensions over values such as human rights and data privacy will complicate supply chains and the management of global workforces. Nowhere is this conflict of cultures more pronounced than in evolving tensions between the US and China. Technology is becoming the primary battleground with countries and companies forced to balance the adoption of 5G and AI technologies with the regulatory and reputational risks of alignment with Washington or Beijing.

As the geopolitical landscape changes, so must the way in which risk leaders protect their businesses. A thorough understanding of the interlinked geopolitical risk drivers and their impacts provides a strong foundation for prevention and protection against them and is vital for companies to maintain a competitive advantage.

Geopolitical Risk

09.00-10.00: Session 1

Country, sovereign and political risk

- **Country risk** – structural factors, exchange rate risk, transfer risk and expropriation risk. Commodity price risk. Instability/political violence risk.
- **Sovereign risk** – economic structure, FX exposure, devaluation, economic default, political default, sub-sovereign risk.
- **Political risk** – institutional structure, separation of powers, ideology, international alliances.
- **Discussion** – we will analyse the differing causes of two major sovereign defaults for lower and higher rated sovereigns.

10.15-11.15: Session 2

Why geopolitical risk matters

- Economic and political consequences of non-payment
- Global contagion and international systemic risk
- Sector specific impacts and supply chain disruption
- Discussion: we will identify three geopolitical risk events that have occurred in the last 30 years and explore their economic consequences.

Managing Geopolitical Risk in the 2020s

11.15-12.15: Session 3

The geopolitics of cryptocurrency and blockchain

- The challenge of crypto and blockchain to the existing financial and geopolitical order
- Winners and losers in a crypto dominated financial system
- Regulating crypto and financial decentralisation
- The impact of crypto and blockchain on US sanctions power

12.15-13.30: Working lunch – Session 4

Reputational risk and international business

- Managing reputational risk across cultures and regions
- Maximising growth opportunities in culturally different markets
- Social media and the court of public opinion
- Exercise – we will analyse a case study of a company that adopted a policy of cultural relativism in its international investments and the impact this exerted on its global brand reputation.

13.30-14.30: Session 5

The geopolitics of climate change and the transition to net zero

- The challenge of the energy transition to the financial and geopolitical order
- Who is responsible? What action should be taken? Who should pay?
- Creating competitive advantages in a net zero world
- Is net zero achievable, sustainable and 'green'?

14.45-15.45: Session 6

'The Divided States of America'

- What are the global trade and business ramifications of divisions within the US?
- What are the long term implications of US sovereign debt for global markets?
- Will the US remain divided, stagnate or fail?

15.45-16.00: Session 7 – Wrap up

Training host

Dr Elizabeth Stephens
Investment & Country Risk Advisor;
Managing Director,
Geopolitical Risk Advisory

Dr Elizabeth Stephens is an investment and country risk advisor and Managing Director of Geopolitical Risk Advisory, a geopolitical tech company. The company uses data analytics to give financial, corporate and high net worth clients the advantage in understanding how geopolitical risk moves markets. Elizabeth founded Geopolitical Risk Advisory after ten years as Head of Credit & Political Risk Advisory at JLT Specialty.

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Pricing details

Standard rate £995* ☐

CPD accredited – 7 points

*UK event – 20% VAT

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