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# Brian Klaas

**Brian Paul Klaas** (born June 29, 1986) is an American political scientist and columnist at *The Washington Post*.<sup>[1]</sup> He is an associate professor in global politics at University College London. He is the author of *The Despot's Accomplice: How the West is Aiding and Abetting the Decline of Democracy* and *The Despot's Apprentice: Donald Trump's Attack on Democracy*. He is also the co-author of *How to Rig an Election*.

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## Brian Klaas

<b>Born</b>	June 29, 1986 <div>Golden Valley, Minnesota, U.S.</div>
<b>Occupation</b>	Academic · author · columnist
<b>Alma mater</b>	<u>Carleton College</u> (BA) <div><u>St Antony's College, Oxford</u> (MPhil)<div><u>New College, Oxford</u> (DPhil)</div></div>
<b>Subjects</b>	<u>Democratization</u>

## Early life and education

Klaas was born in Golden Valley, Minnesota.<sup>[2]</sup> He earned a BA (Summa cum laude) from Carleton College (2008), where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He earned an MPhil degree in political science from St. Antony's College, University of Oxford. He subsequently completed his DPhil in political science at New College, University of Oxford.

## Career

Klaas is associate professor in global politics at University College London. After completing his DPhil at New College, University of Oxford, he was a Fellow in Comparative Politics at the London School of Economics.

Klaas is a frequent commentator in the media on US foreign policy and democratization. His articles have been published in *The New York Times*,<sup>[3]</sup> *The Financial Times*,<sup>[4]</sup> *Foreign Affairs*,<sup>[5]</sup> *Foreign Policy*,<sup>[6]</sup> the *Los Angeles Times*,<sup>[7]</sup> and *The Guardian*.<sup>[8]</sup> He appears regularly on MSNBC,<sup>[9]</sup> CNBC,<sup>[10]</sup> BBC,<sup>[11]</sup> CNN<sup>[12]</sup> and other outlets.

He was policy director and deputy campaign manager for Mark Dayton's successful bid for governor of Minnesota in 2010.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Published works

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- *The Despot's Accomplice: How the West is Aiding and Abetting the Decline of Democracy*, Hurst, 2016, ISBN 978-1849046879<sup>[13]</sup>
- *The Despot's Apprentice: Donald Trump's Attack on Democracy*, Skyhorse Publishing, 2017, ISBN 978-1510735859<sup>[14][15]</sup>
- *How to Rig an Election*, Yale University Press, 2018, ISBN 978-0300204438<sup>[16]</sup>
- *Corruptible: Who Gets Power and How It Changes Us*, Scribner, 2021, ISBN 978-1982154097

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2. Donovan, Joe. "How Brian Klaas went from Mark Dayton's driver to one of Trump's harshest critics | City Pages" (<http://www.citypages.com/news/gov-mark-daytons-former-driver-built-a-career-by-dissing-trump-on-twitter/454464923>). *City Pages*. Retrieved December 4, 2017.
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- Klaas, Brian (April 24, 2018). *How To Rig An Election*. Yale University Press. ISBN 9781510735934.

## Further reading

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- Scholar Brian Klaas on how Trump is an aspiring despot who is steadily eroding our democracy (<https://www.salon.com/2017/12/24/authoritarianism-expert-brian-klaas-trump-is-steadily-eroding-our-democracy/>)
- Author Brian Klaas: Is Trump an “aspiring despot” or a “bumbling showman”? Yes! (<https://www.salon.com/2017/12/19/author-brian-klaas-is-trump-an-aspiring-despot-or-a-bumbling-showman-yes/>)

## External links

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- Official website (<http://brianpklaas.com/about/>)
- LSE profile page (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/government/people/academic-staff/brian-klaas>)
- Brian Klaas (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8548134/>) at IMDb

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