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Charles Edel is a senior adviser and the inaugural Australia Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He previously taught at the University of Sydney, where he was also a senior fellow at the United States Studies Centre. Prior to that, Dr. Edel was a professor of strategy and policy at the U.S. Naval War College and served on the U.S. secretary of state's Policy Planning Staff from 2015 to 2017. In that role, he advised the secretary of state on political and security issues in the Indo-Pacific region.

He has also been a global fellow at the Wilson Center and a Henry Luce scholar at Peking University's Center for International and Strategic Studies, and he was awarded the Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellowship. He is the coauthor of *The Lessons of Tragedy: Statecraft and World Order* (Yale University Press, 2019) and author of *Nation Builder: John Quincy Adams and the Grand Strategy of the Republic* (Harvard University Press, 2014). Currently, he is working on a book examining the United States' history of dealing with authoritarian regimes.