

Texas A&M International University  
A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business  
Center for the Study of Western Hemispheric Trade



## INTERNATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE 2016-2017 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

# “Failure to Adjust: How Americans Got Left Behind in the Global Economy”



PRESENTED BY:

## Edward Alden

Author and Bernard L. Schwartz Senior Fellow,  
Council on Foreign Relations,  
Washington, D.C.

### Wednesday, April 5, 2017

TAMIU Student Center Ballroom (SC 203)

Reception 7 p.m. | Lecture 7:30 p.m.

Open to the public. Free of charge.

For additional information,  
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Texas A&M International University  
5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, TX 78041





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### Edward Alden

Author and Bernard L. Schwartz Senior Fellow,  
Council on Foreign Relations,  
Washington, D.C.

Edward Alden is the Bernard L. Schwartz Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), specializing in U.S. economic competitiveness. He is the author of the new book *Failure to Adjust: How Americans Got Left Behind in the Global Economy*, which focuses on the federal government's failure to respond effectively to competitive challenges on issues such as trade, currency, worker retraining programs, education, infrastructure, and support for innovation. In addition, Alden is the director of the CFR Renewing America publication series and coauthor of a recent CFR Discussion Paper "A Winning Trade Policy for the United States."

Alden's previous book, *The Closing of the American Border: Terrorism, Immigration, and Security Since 9/11*, was a finalist for the Lukas Book Prize, for narrative nonfiction, in 2009. The jury called Alden's book "a masterful job of comprehensive reporting, fair-minded analysis, and structurally sound argumentation."

Alden was the project co-director of the 2011 CFR-sponsored *Independent Task Force on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy*, which was co-chaired by former White House chief of staff Andrew Card and former Senate majority leader Thomas Daschle. Alden was the project director of the 2009 CFR-sponsored *Independent Task Force on U.S. Immigration Policy*.

Alden was previously the Washington bureau chief for the *Financial Times* and prior to that was the newspaper's Canada bureau chief, based in Toronto. He worked as a reporter at the *Vancouver Sun* and was the managing editor of the newsletter *Inside U.S. Trade*, widely recognized as a leading source of reporting on U.S. trade policies. Alden has won several national and international awards for his reporting. He has done numerous TV and radio appearances as an analyst on political and economic issues, including on PBS *NewsHour*, NPR, BBC, CNN, Fox News and MSNBC. His work has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Fortune*, and *The Toronto Globe and Mail*.

Alden earned a master's degree in international relations from the University of California, Berkeley, and pursued doctoral studies before returning to a journalism career. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of British Columbia. Alden was the winner of numerous academic awards, including a Mellon Fellowship in the humanities and a MacArthur Foundation graduate fellowship.

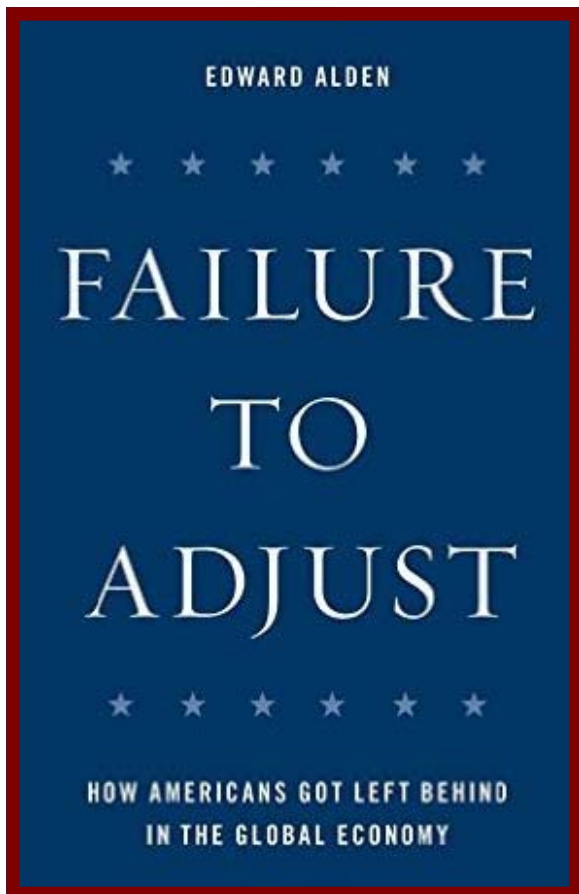


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Americans know that something has gone wrong in this country's effort to prosper in the face of growing global economic competition. The vast benefits promised by the supporters of globalization, and by their own government, have never materialized for most Americans.

This book is the story of what went wrong, and how to correct the course. It is a compelling history of the last four decades of U.S. economic and trade policies that have left Americans unable to adapt to or compete in the current global marketplace. *Failure to Adjust* argues that, despite the deep partisan divisions over how best to respond to America's competitive challenges, there is achievable common ground on such issues as fostering innovation, overhauling tax rules to encourage investment in the United States, boosting graduation rates, investing in infrastructure, and streamlining regulations. The federal government needs to become more like U.S. state governments in embracing economic competitiveness as a central function of government.

The book presents an analysis of the trade policies of the Obama administration, and discusses how America can reassert itself as the leader in setting rules for international economic competition that would spread the benefits of global trade and investment more broadly.

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