

# Sergey Kislyak, ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States



## Biography

**Born:** 1950 (age: 66)

**Education:** Graduated from Moscow Engineering Physics Institute with a degree in nuclear physics (1973), USSR Academy of Foreign Trade (1977)

## Career

- In 1981, he began working for the Soviet mission at the UN in New York City
- He returned to Moscow in 1989 to become a deputy director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- A former ambassador to Belgium and NATO
- Became the ambassador to the United States in 2008 under President Medvedev

## Professional highlights and diplomatic agenda

- Joined the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation in 1977
- Is an engineer by training
- Speaks English and French fluently
- Specializes in arms control and is well versed in the relevant technical details
- Has openly stated that U.S.-Russian relations are at their lowest point since the end of the Cold War
- Believes that the U.S and Russia could work together on common interests like combating terrorism, religious intolerance and climate change
- But also believes that arguments about Ukraine, NATO's expansion into the Baltic states and sanctions placed on Russia after the invasion into Crimea harm Russian-U.S. relations
- Believes that the conflict in Ukraine is Ukraine's fault, that Russia did nothing wrong in this conflict and that other states are in error
- According to CNN, he is a recruiter for Russian intelligence, but this has been refuted by the Woodrow Wilson Center and the Russian government
- Co-hosts jazz nights with American University's Carmel Institute of Russian Culture and History

Sources: Michael Crowley, "Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak is Washington's most dangerous diplomat," Politico, March 2, 2017; "Who is Russia's US ambassador Sergei Kislyak?" BBC, March 3, 2017; Tim Lister, "Who is Sergey Kislyak, the Russian Ambassador to the United States?" CNN, March 2, 2017; the official website of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Washington, DC.