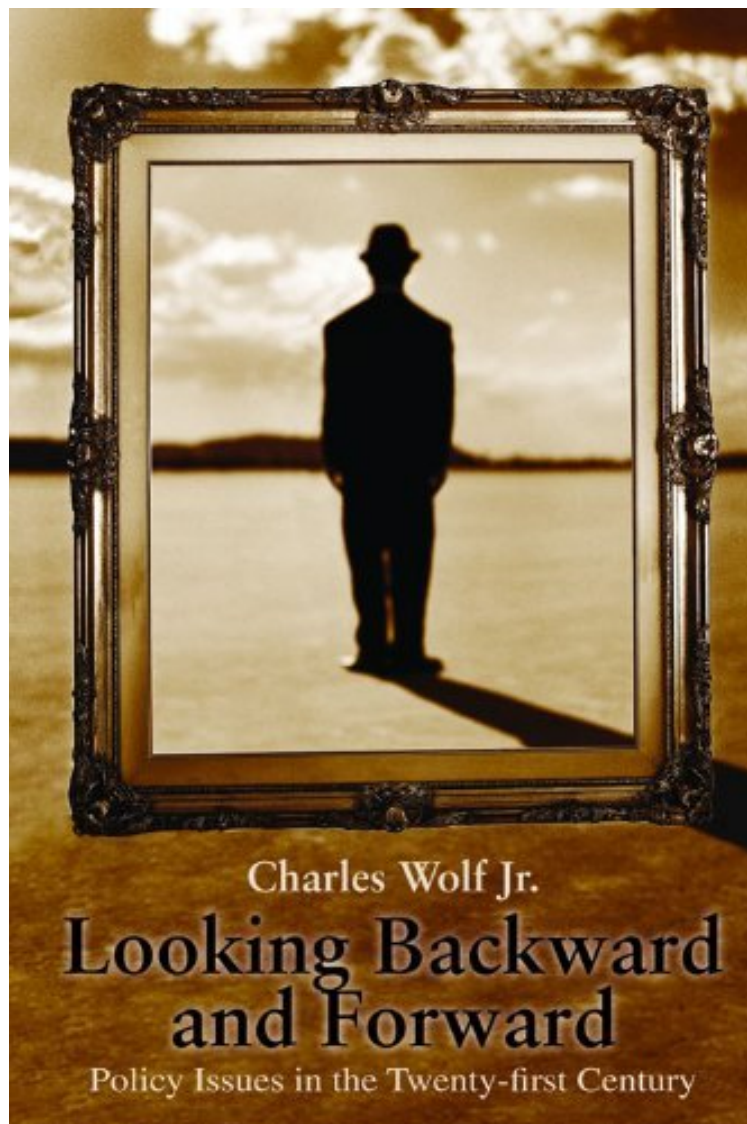


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Looking Backward and Forward: Policy Issues in the Twenty-first Century (Hoover Institution Press Publication)

Charles Wolf Jr.

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This collection of twenty-five essays written over the past five years by international economic policy expert Charles Wolf Jr. covers a range of worldwide economic, political, security, and diplomatic issues. Wolf looks at the challenges facing the United States at home and around the globe including critical issues regarding China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Iraq, and other key locales. Throughout the book, the author offers his often-controversial viewpoints, such as his assertion that "unilateralism" in U.S. national security policy may sometimes be preferable to multilateralism or that the erroneous expectation that Iraq possessed nuclear weapons does not imply that the intelligence leading to this expectation was flawed. Wolf reexamines each essay in the light of later developments with a "postaudit" comment to address whether the original argument is still valid and relevant compared with when it was first written.

"[In]. . . this collection . . . lie many solid insights and thoughtful gems. Though written over a number of years, unlike other commentators Wolf has no subsequent need to make major adjustments in his views or eliminate internal conflicts, for these papers demonstrate a very high degree of consistency. Some, like his very useful analysis of the probabilistic nature of intelligence, need to be taken to heart by passing critics. The special value of his observations is that he is never caught up in the prevailing fashions of the day. When a forecast fails to materialize, he is the first to recognize it. Would that other commentators followed this practice." --James Schlesinger, former secretary of defense, and former director of Central Intelligence

About the Author Charles Wolf Jr. is a senior research fellow at the Hoover Institution and a senior economic adviser and corporate fellow in international economics at the RAND Corporation.