

LEE R. SCHWARTZ (2013 WINNER)



As Geographer of the United States, Lee Schwartz holds the position of the Director of the Office of The Geographer and Global Issues in the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Schwartz is the State Department's 9th Geographer, a position that was established in 1921 and bears the statutory responsibility for providing guidance to all federal agencies on questions of international boundaries and sovereignty claims. He also oversees the Humanitarian Information Unit – a U.S. government interagency organization focused on unclassified data coordination for emergency preparedness, response, and mitigation. Dr. Schwartz earned his Ph.D. in geography from Columbia University, with a focus on political and population geography, and a regional concentration in the Soviet Union. Prior to joining the Office of The Geographer, Schwartz was a member of the faculty of The American University's School of International Service. At the Department of State, he has directed research and analysis on global issues primarily related to complex humanitarian emergencies and has coordinated related fieldwork and applied geography projects overseas, including the Balkans, Central Asia, Russia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, the Horn of Africa, Haiti, and Syria. His work has focused on ethnic conflict, refugee flows, peacekeeping operations, strategic warning, and conflict mitigation and response – with an emphasis on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing information coordination as well as Participatory Mapping and Volunteered Geographic Information applications. Lee was the State Department's 2005 winner of the Warren Christopher Award for Outstanding Achievement in Global Affairs.