

***THE THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES  
PROGRAM***



***THE GLOBAL "GO-TO THINK TANKS"***

***The Leading Public Policy Research Organizations In The World***

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# The Think Tanks & Civil Societies Program- TTCSP

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## INTRODUCTION

This project grew out of the never ending requests I receive from journalists, scholars and government officials to provide a list of the leading think tanks in a particular country or region of the world. Last year I launched a pilot project that was designed to identify some of the leading think tanks in the world in an attempt to answer these inquiries in a more systematic fashion. The report that follows summarizes the findings of this pilot project and provides lists of what might be called the “go to think tanks” in every region of the world. 228 institutions were nominated by their peers and are public policy research, analysis and engagement organizations that have become recognized nationally, regionally and globally for producing rigorous and relevant research, publications and programs. While I have done my best to be balanced and systematic in my approach to identifying the leading think tanks in the world much more work needs to be done to improve the selection process. I, therefore, view this report as a starting point and encourage your comments and suggestions for how I might improve the selection process. Additionally, it is also worth noting that the inclusion of an institution in the universe of leading think tanks does not indicate a seal of approval or endorsement for the institution, its publications or programs. Likewise a failure to be nominated does not necessarily indicate a lack of a quality and effectiveness or poor performance. There are 5080 think tanks around the world that are doing exceptional work to help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy. This report is simply an effort to highlight some of the leading think tanks around the world.

In this report and through the data I have collected and analyzed from surveys, I have attempted to identify the key think tank “players” or “go-to” institutions around the world. This task was made difficult by the global scale of the effort, the sheer number of think tanks, and also because of the regional, and national differences that exist among them. Accordingly, I developed an expert based selection process and relied on data collected for my ongoing global research on think tanks in order to ensure the accuracy and legitimacy of the results. In this unprecedented research endeavor, this study attempts to identify the 10 leading think tanks in the world (non-U.S.) and then seeks to identify the 30 leading think tanks in the world. In addition, the top 30 think tanks in the U.S. were ranked separately as well as the top 5 think tanks from regions that were underrepresented in the global list of top think tanks.

While I am confident in the value and utility of identifying the leading think tanks in the world, a number of important qualifications are in order. First and foremost, there are significant differences between the levels of development and resources in the world which may contribute to certain regions being underrepresented on the list. There are simply more think tanks in the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) countries. This may explain, in part, why think tanks in Europe and Asia are overrepresented in the top 30 while regions such as Africa and Eastern Europe are underrepresented. Second, international and defense-oriented think tanks may tend to be overrepresented here due to their orientation toward regional and global issues, while domestic-oriented think tanks may tend to be underrepresented. While think tanks focusing on domestic issues are clearly represented on the lists, think tanks whose mission and programs require that they interact on regional and global level may give them an edge in the rankings. While I have consulted widely in developing the universe of institutions to be considered and attempted to control for certain distortions and biases, I fully recognize that personal, regional, ideological and discipline biases may have influenced the selection made by some of those consulted for this study. Finally, large,

multi-issue think tanks may tend to be overrepresented because of the broad scope of their programs and their ability to promote these initiatives to a global audience. It is also important to note that U.S. think tanks (see Table 4 for a list of the top 30 of these) were not included in the universe of institutions considered because I felt their inclusion would have a distorting effect on the study's outcome. Despite these potential limitations, I am confident that the international focus group that I constituted for this study has enabled me to create the first authoritative list of the leading think tanks in the world.

## **A TRANSNATIONAL DEFINITION OF THINK TANKS**

Think tanks are public policy research, analysis and engagement institutions that generate policy-oriented research, analysis and advice on domestic and international issues that enables policymakers and the public to make informed decisions about public policy issues. Think tanks may be affiliated or independent institutions and are structured as permanent bodies, not ad hoc commissions. These institutions often act as a bridge between the academic and policymaking communities, serving in the public interest as an independent voice that translates applied and basic research into a language and form that is understandable, reliable, and accessible for policymakers and the public. (*Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US: Academics, Advisors and Advocates, Routledge 2007*)

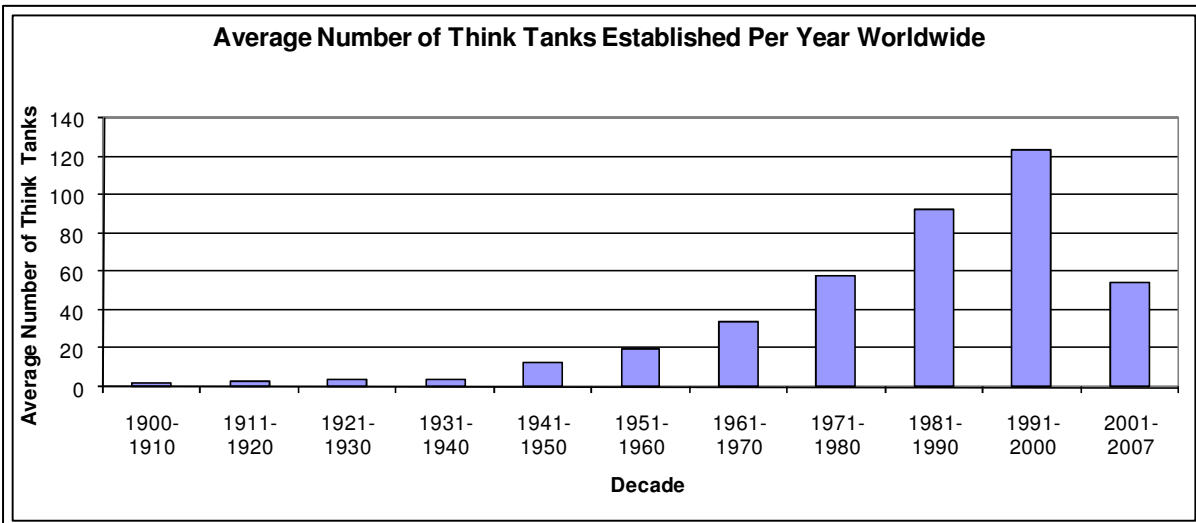
## **GLOBALIZATION OF THINK TANKS**

The growth of public policy research organizations, or think tanks, over the last few decades has been nothing less than explosive. Not only have these organizations increased in number, but the scope and impact of their work has also expanded dramatically. Despite this growth, over the past decade there has been a marked decrease in the rate of establishment of new think tanks. There are a number of factors that were suggested by the responses to the 2007 Global Survey of Think Tanks that might help explain this shift. A list of the possible trends that may be contributing to the decrease in establishment rate of think tanks is provided below. That being said, the potential of think tanks to support and sustain democratic governments and civil societies around the world is far from exhausted. Policymakers in the legislative and executive branches of government throughout the developed and developing world face the common problem of bringing expert knowledge to bear on governmental decision-making. The challenge then for the policymakers and think tanks is to harness the vast reservoir of knowledge, information and associational energy that exist in public policy research organizations in every region of the world for public good.

The breadth and scope of this reservoir has expanded considerably since the 1990s, as these think tanks have responded to the need of policymakers and the general public for information that is understandable, reliable, accessible and useful. Although this need has been an inherent dynamic of the policymaking process, the forces of globalization have fostered and markedly accelerated the growth of independent think tanks, due to those institutions' unique ability to strengthen the research-policy bridge and thus facilitate the effectiveness of the policymaking process. As a result, they have proliferated, growing in numbers and solidifying their position as integral contributors to the policymaking process. In addition, they have developed and strengthened ties with other nongovernmental and research organizations through the establishment of state, regional and international networks. In recognition of the increased role, number and position of think tanks, as well as the fact that think tanks have received less research attention than other environmental, development or education NGOs, this report focuses

on the role of a small sample of these institutions, as well as their role in regional and global networks, in order to illustrate the value and utility of think tanks to policymakers at the regional and global level.

**Graph 1.0 Number of Think Tanks Established**



**2007 GLOBAL SURVEY OF THINK TANKS FACT SHEET**

*The challenge for the new millennium is to harness the vast reservoir of knowledge, information, and associational energy that exist in public policy research organizations in every region of the world for public good. (Think Tanks and Transnationalization of Foreign Policy, McGann 2002, Electronic Journal, US State Department)*

**Global Overview**

There are 5080 think tanks in the world

- North America 1924 (37.87%)
- Western Europe 1198 (23.58%)
- Asia 601 (11.83%)
- Eastern Europe 483 (9.51%)
- Latin America 408 (8.03%)
- Africa 274 (5.39%)
- Middle East 192 (3.78%)

**United States**

There are 1776 think tanks in the US

- 91% created since 1951
- More think tanks have been established since 1970 than in the previous 50 years
- Number of think tank have more than doubled since 1980--58% established in just the last 25 years
- 31% established between 1981-1990---End of Post WWII consensus & Challenge to the Welfare State

- Most of the think tanks that have come into existence in the US since the 1970s are specialized focusing on a particular discipline or policy issue
- About 20% or approximately 350 of the think tanks are located in Washington, DC
- More than 50% are university affiliated
- The number of think tanks being established has declined over the last 7 years

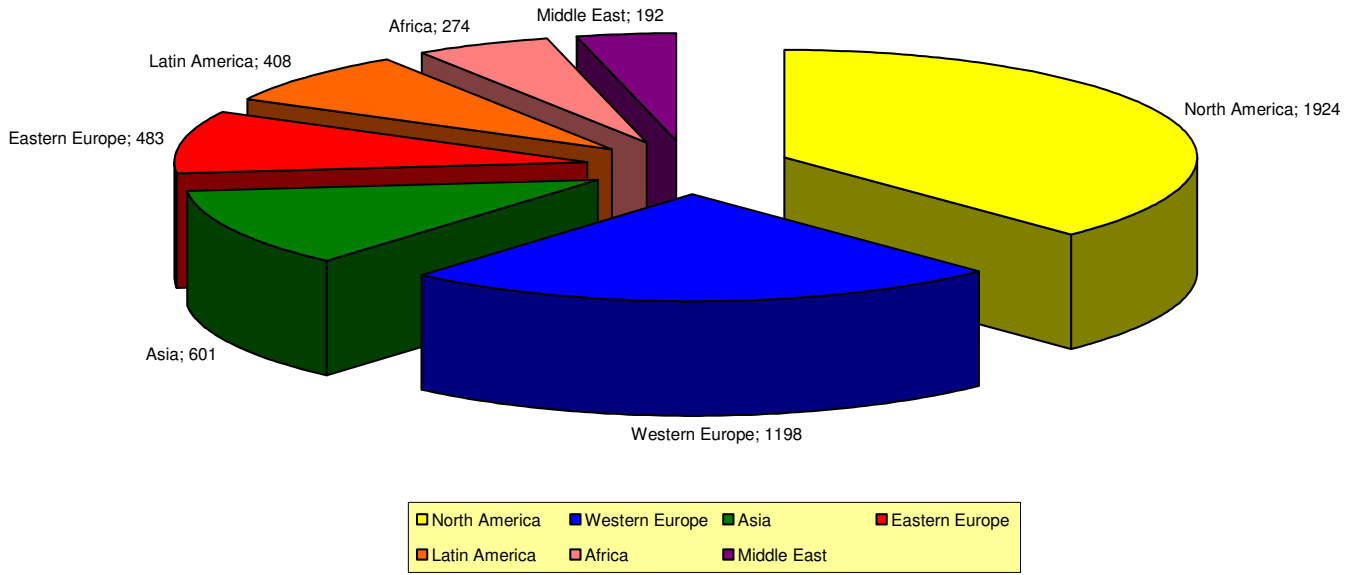
**Reasons for the Growth of Think Tanks**

- Information revolution has increased the volume and flow of ideas and information
- End of government monopoly on information
- The complexity and technical nature of policy problems has grown which has made decision making more difficult
- The size of government has expanded but its effectiveness has not which has led to a crisis in confidence in government officials
- Globalization and the growth of state and non state actors
- Need for timely and concise information and analysis “in the right form at the right time”

**Reasons for the Decline in Number of Think Tanks Being Established Worldwide**

- Political and regulatory environment hostile to think tanks and NGOs
- A change in funding priorities for think tanks by public and private donors has made their support more targeted and restrictive
- Underdeveloped institutional capacity decreases survival rate
- Increased competition from advocacy organizations, for profit consulting firms and electronic media is impacting some think tanks
- Donors tend to fund short term projects and programs instead of strengthening capacity and building institutions
- Institutions have served their purpose and have discontinued their operations

## GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF THINK TANKS BY REGION



## COUNTRIES WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF THINK TANKS

1	United States	1776
2	UK	283
3	Germany	187
4	France	162
5	India	122
6	Russia	104
7	Japan	103
8	Argentina	100
9	Canada	94
10	Italy	87
11	China	73
12	Switzerland	72
13	Sweden	69
14	Mexico	54
15	Netherlands	54
16	Romania	50
17	South Africa	47
18	Ukraine	43
19	Belgium	49
20	Spain	49
21	Brazil	38
22	Taiwan	36
23	Israel	35
24	Poland	35
25	Bangladesh	34

## COUNTRIES WITH 10 OR MORE THINK TANKS

Africa		Asia		Eastern Europe		Latin America		Middle East		North America	
Ethiopia	16	Australia	26	Bulgaria	28	Argentina	100	Egypt	21	Canada	94
Ghana	17	Bangladesh	34	Czech Republic	23	Bolivia	27	Iran	11	Mexico	54
Kenya	26	China	73	Hungary	30	Brazil	38	Iraq	14	United States	1776
Nigeria	27	Hong Kong	29	Lithuania	10	Chile	30	Israel	35	Washington D.C.	(374)
South Africa	47	India	122	Macedonia (FYR)	10	Colombia	24	Lebanon	11		
		Japan	103	Romania	50	Cuba	11	Turkey	19	<b>Western Europe</b>	
		Malaysia	16	Russia	104	Dominican Rep	13			Austria	36
		Nepal	12	Serbia	20	Ecuador	12			Belgium	49
		Philippines	13	Slovenia	32	El Salvador	12			Denmark	30
		South Korea	29	Ukraine	43	Guatemala	10			Finland	26
		Sri Lanka	14			Peru	21			France	162
		Taiwan	36							Germany	187
										Greece	28
										Ireland	14
										Norway	15
										Portugal	19
										Spain	49
										Sweden	69
										Switzerland	72
										United Kingdom	283





## SELECTION PROCESS

Prior to launching this study, extensive research was conducted to develop a working list of the leading think tanks in the world. Relying on previous studies, think tank directories and databases, and experts in the field, I identified a universe of 5080 institutions for possible inclusion in the study. I then asked an international group of scholars who study think tanks, executives and scholars from think tanks, public and private donors, and policymakers to nominate think tanks that they consider to be the best in the world. Approximately 190 institutions were identified through this process. Each institution had to receive two or more nominations to be included in the universe of institutions that would be ranked. We then cross referenced this universe with several of the most authoritative directories of think tanks and frequently cited and studies of think tanks. Other methods such as a Lexis-Nexis search of the number of citations and mentions in scholarly and popular publications were utilized to help determine whether an institution should be included in the final universe. An effort was also made to identify the leading think tanks in regions that were under represented in the initial universe of 190 institutions which involved consulting with experts in each these regions. This effort resulted in additional nominations that expanded the universe to close to 200 institutions. Think tanks in the U.S. were ranked separately but are included in the total universe of 228 think tanks that appears in Table #1. A questionnaire was sent to the 228 selected institutions and a detailed profile was developed for each one these organizations.

We then sent this list to over 70 scholars of think tanks, 24 directors of regional and global think tank networks, 400 executives of think tanks around the world, 20 foundations, NGO executives who fund think tanks, and four intergovernmental organizations with think tank programs. This panel of experts was asked to develop a list of high performance think tanks that were either domestic- or international-oriented and had a regional or global reach, meaning that their programs, scholars and publications were read and utilized by decision-makers around the world. Each of these participants was then asked to identify the top 30 from the universe of 228 institutions. Think tanks in the US were excluded from this process for the reason noted previously. A list of the top think tanks in the US was ranked separately in 2006. That list was updated and expanded in 2007 for this study.

Over 50 experts from all the groups listed above and from every world region agreed to participate in the pilot project and sent in their lists of the top think tanks. Many of these experts circulated the list among their staffs, meaning that the responses represent the collective wisdom of some of the leading think tanks, foundations and IGOs in the world. The votes were then tallied and the lists of the leading think tanks were developed. The results of this process are provided below.

**228 Think Tanks Nominated\***  
**As One Of**  
**The Leading Think Tanks In The World**  
*(Arranged Alphabetically By Region)*  
**Table # 1**

<b>Think Tank</b>	<b>Country</b>
<b><i>EUROPE</i></b>	
Adam Smith	UK
Association for Liberal Thinking	Turkey
Austrian Institute for International Affairs	Austria
Bertelsmann Foundation	Germany
Bruegel	Belgium
Center for a New Europe	Belgium
Center for Applied Policy Research (CAP)	Germany
Center for European Reform (CER)	UK
Center for European Security Studies (CESS)	Netherlands
Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW)	Germany
Centre for European Policy Studies	Belgium
CIDOB	Spain
Danish Institute of International Affairs (DUPI)	Denmark
Danish Institute of International Studies	Denmark
Demos	UK
EU Institute for Security Studies	France
European Policy Center	Belgium
Finnish Institute of International Affairs	Finland
FOA	Sweden
Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM)	Italy
Foreign Policy Center	UK
Foreign Policy Institute	Turkey
Foundation for Social Analysis and Study (FAES)	Spain
French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)	France
FRIDE	Spain
Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)	Switzerland
German Council of Foreign Relations (DGAP)	Germany
German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)	Germany
German Institute for International Politics and Security (SWP)	Germany
Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)	Greece
Institut Choiseul	France
Institut European de la Mediterranania (IEMed)	Spain
Institut Montaigne	France
Institute for Fiscal Studies	UK
Institute for International and Strategic Relations (IRIS)	France
Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)	UK
Institute for Strategic Studies	Portugal
Institute of International Affairs (IAI)	Italy
Instituto Bruno Leoni	Italy
International Affairs Institute	Italy
International Crisis Group	Belgium
International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)	UK
International Peace Research Institute	Norway
International Policy Network	UK

Kiel Institute for World Economy	Germany
Liberte Cherie	France
Netherlands Institute of Foreign Relations	Netherlands
Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael	Netherlands
New Defense Agenda	Belgium
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)	Norway
Overseas Development Institute (ODI)	UK
Peace Research Institute (PRIF)	Germany
Policy Exchange	UK
Real Istituto Elcano	Spain
Reform	UK
Royal Institute of International Affairs – Chatham House (RIIA)	UK
Royal International Service Institute (RUSI)	UK
Social Market Foundation	UK
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute	Sweden
Strategic Research Foundation (FRS)	France
Südosteuropa Gesellschaft (South East European Association)	Germany
Swedish Institute of International Affairs	Sweden
Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI)	Finland
Timbro	Sweden
University of Iceland	Iceland

#### **RUSSIA, EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE**

Adriatic Institute for Public Policy	Croatia
Center for Liberal Studies	Bulgaria
Center for Public Policy Providus	Latvia
Center for Policy Studies at Central European University	Hungary
Center for Policy Studies in Russia	Russia
Centre for Security and Defense Studies	Hungary
Center for Social and Economic Research	Poland
Committee of International Studies at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences	Hungary
Free Market Center	Serbia & Montenegro
Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA)	Hungary
Institute for Market Economics	Bulgaria
Institute for Security and International Studies	Bulgaria
Institute for Strategic and Defense Studies	Hungary
Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognosis (ISSP)	Montenegro
Institute for the U.S. and Canadian Studies	Russia
Institute of Europe	Russia
Institute of Far Eastern Studies (IFES), Russian Academy of Sciences	Russia
Institute of Urban Economics	Russia
Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO)	Russia
International Center for Policy Studies	Ukraine
Liberalni Institut	Czech Republic
Lithuanian Free Market Institute	Lithuania
New Economic School-Georgia	Georgia
PIR Center (Policy Research in Russia)	Russia
Polish Institute of International Affairs	Poland
Slovak Foreign Policy Association	Slovakia
Ukraine Center for European Policy Studies	Ukraine
USA/Canada Institute	Russia

#### **ASIA**

Asian Forum Japan	Japan
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Australia Strategic Policy Institute	Australia
Center for Contemporary International Relations (CICIR)	China
Center for Independent Studies	Australia
Center for Policy Dialogue	Bangladesh
Center for Strategic and International Studies	Indonesia
Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI)	Japan
Centre for Economic Research	Uzbekistan
China Institute for International Studies (CIIS)	China
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)	China
Chinese Institute of Foreign Affairs	China
Delhi Policy Group (DPG)	India
Development Research Center for the State Council	China
Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)	India
Institute for Defense and Strategic Studies	Singapore
Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis	India
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	Japan
Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS)	Japan
Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies	India
Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations	Malaysia
Institute of Policy Studies	Singapore
Institute of Social Sciences	India
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies	Singapore
Institute of Strategic and International Studies	Malaysia
Islamabad Policy Research Institute	Pakistan
Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)	Japan
Kazakstan Institute for Strategic Studies	Kazakstan
Korean Development Institute	South Korea
Korean Institute for International Economic Policy	South Korea
Lowry Institute	Australia
National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)	India
National Institute for Research Advancement	Japan
Observer Research Foundation (ORF)	India
Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS)	China
Strategic and Defense Studies Centre	Australia
Strategic Foresight Group (SFG)	India
Sustainable Development Policy Institute	Pakistan
Tata Energy Research Institute	India
Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)	Thailand
Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)	Thailand
The Sejong Institute	South Korea
Asian Forum Japan	Japan
Australia Strategic Policy Institute	Australia

***NORTH AMERICA***

American Enterprise Institute	USA
Atlantic Institute for Market Studies	Canada
Baker Institute of Public Policy	USA
Brookings Institution	USA
Canadian Institute of International Affairs (CIIA)	Canada
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace	USA
Carter Center	USA
CATO Institute	USA
Center for American Progress	USA
Center for Global Development	USA
Center for Strategic and International Studies	USA
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities	USA

CIDAC: Centro de Investigación para el Desarrollo, A.C.	Mexico
Council on Foreign Relations	USA
Economic Policy Institute	USA
Fraser Institute	Canada
FUNDAR	Mexico
Henry L. Stimson Center	USA
Heritage Foundation	USA
Hoover Institution	USA
Hudson Institute	USA
Institute for International Economics	USA
Institute for Policy Analysis (IPA)	Canada
International Development Research Center	Canada
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies	USA
Manhattan Institute	USA
New American Foundation	USA
Nixon Center	USA
National Bureau of Economic Research	USA
National Center for Policy Analysis	USA
Progressive Policy Institute	USA
RAND	USA
Resources for the Future	USA
Urban Institute	USA
United States Institute for Peace	USA
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars	USA
World Resources Institute	USA

### **SOUTH AMERICA**

Argentine Council for International Relations	Argentina
CADAL	Argentina
CEDES	Argentina
Center for Entrepreneurship Development of the ICESI University	Colombia
CEP	Chile
CERES	Bolivia
CIPPEC: Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento	Argentina
Comisión Andina de Juristas	Colombia
Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia	Colombia
Fedesarrolla (Foundation for Higher Education and Development)	Colombia
Flasco	Argentina
Fundação Getulio Vargas	Brazil
Fundación Atlas 1853	Argentina
Fundación Libertad	Argentina
FUSADES: Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social	El Salvador
GRADE	Peru
IBASE	Brazil
ILD (Institute for Liberty and Democracy)	Peru
Instituto Apoyo	Peru
Instituto Desarrollo y Libertad	Colombia
Instituto Liberal	Brazil
IPE	Peru
ITDT: Instituto Torcuato Di Tella	Argentina
Latin American Economic Research Foundation (FIEL)	Argentina
Libertad y Desarrollo	Chile
Participa	Chile
POLIS	Brazil

### **AFRICA**

Africa Institute of South Africa	South Africa
Center for Development and Enterprise	South Africa
Centre for Conflict Resolution	South Africa
Center for Policy Analysis (CEPA)	Ghana
Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)	Tanzania
Institute for Security Studies	South Africa
Inter Region Economic Network (IREN)	Kenya
Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic Research (ISSER)	Ghana
Kenyan Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)	Kenya
Namibia Policy Research Institute (NEPRU)	Namibia
South African Institute of Race Relations	South Africa

### **MIDDLE EAST**

Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies	Egypt
Arab Reform Forum at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina	Egypt
Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies	Israel
Center D'Etudes et de Recherches en Sciences Sociales (CERSS)	Morocco
Center for Strategic and Future Studies	Kuwait
Center for Strategic Studies	Jordan
Center for Sudanese Studies	Sudan
Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research	UAE
Gulf Research Center	UAE
Gulf Strategic Studies Institute	UAE
Israel Center for Social and Economic Progress	Israel
Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI)	Israel
Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies	Israel
King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies	Saudi Arabia
Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research	West Bank
Palestinian Center for Political and Survey Research	Palestine
The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies	Lebanon
The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies	Israel

\* To make this list an institution had to receive two or more nominations. Self nominations were not counted.

## The Top 10 Think Tanks in the World

Provided below is the list of leading think tanks that emerged from the research conducted, the indicators utilized and the survey results compiled.

### Top 10 Think Tanks Globally (Arranged Alphabetically)

Table # 2

<b>Think Tank</b>	<b>Country</b>
Centre for European Policy Studies	<i>Belgium</i>
French Institute of International Relations	<i>France</i>
German Institute for International Politics and Security	<i>Germany</i>
Institute of World Economy and International Relations	<i>Russia</i>
International Crisis Group	<i>Belgium</i>
International Institute for Strategic Studies	<i>United Kingdom</i>
Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies	<i>Israel</i>
Japan Institute of International Affairs	<i>Japan</i>
Royal Institute of International Affairs	<i>United Kingdom</i>
Shanghai Institute for International Studies	<i>China</i>



## Top 30 Think Tanks in the World

Broadening the list of influential think tanks beyond these top 10 I then proceeded to develop a list of the top 30 think tanks internationally. The rankings of the expert panel, coupled with our own research and assessment, have yielded the top 30 think tanks globally:

<b>Top 30 Think Tanks Globally</b> <i>(Arranged Alphabetically)</i>	
<i>Table # 3</i>	
<b>Think Tank</b>	<b>Country</b>
Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies	<i>Egypt</i>
Center for European Reform	<i>UK</i>
Center for Strategic and International Studies	<i>Indonesia</i>
Centre for European Policy Studies	<i>Belgium</i>
Centro de Estudios Públicos	<i>Chile</i>
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences	<i>China</i>
European Policy Center	<i>Belgium</i>
European Union Institute for Security Studies	<i>France</i>
French Institute of International Relations	<i>France</i>
Fundação Getúlio Vargas	<i>Brazil</i>
German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)	<i>Germany</i>
German Institute for International Politics and Security (SWP)	<i>Germany</i>
Institut Montaigne	<i>France</i>
Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis	<i>India</i>
Institute for International and Strategic Relations	<i>France</i>
Institute for International Policy Studies	<i>Japan</i>
Institute for Security Studies	<i>South Africa</i>
Institute for the U.S. and Canadian Studies	<i>Russia</i>
Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO)	<i>Russia</i>
International Affairs Institute	<i>Italy</i>
International Crisis Group	<i>Belgium</i>
International Institute for Strategic Studies	<i>UK</i>
Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies	<i>Israel</i>
Japan Institute of International Affairs	<i>Japan</i>
Kiel Institute for World Economy	<i>Germany</i>
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs	<i>Norway</i>
Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House)	<i>UK</i>
Shanghai Institute for International Studies	<i>China</i>
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute	<i>Sweden</i>
Strategic Research Foundation	<i>France</i>

## Top 30 Think Tanks in the United States

As was previously stated, think tanks from the US were not included in the top 10 and 30 because I felt it might have a distorting effect on the results and the objective was to identify the leading think tanks outside of the United States. The list below are the top 30 think tanks in the United States. This list was developed by surveying think tanks in the United States in 2006. This research was conducted in 2006 for my book *Think Tanks and Policy Advice in The US: Academics, Advisors and Advocates* (Routledge 2007). The list was expanded from 25 to 30 institutions to make it consistent with the global list and updated to reflect the results of surveys and interviews conducted in 2007.

<b>Think Tank</b>
American Enterprise Institute
Baker Institute of Public Policy
Brookings Institution
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Carter Center
Cato Institute
Center for American Progress
Center for Global Development
Center for Strategic and International Studies
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Council on Foreign Relations
Economic Policy Institute
Henry L. Stimson Center
Heritage Foundation
Hoover Institution
Hudson Institute
Institute for International Economics
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
Manhattan Institute
National Center for Policy Analysis
New American Foundation
Nixon Center
National Bureau of Economic Research
Progressive Policy Institute
RAND
Resources for the Future
Urban Institute
United States Institute of Peace
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
World Resources Institute

## Top Think Tanks for Selected Regions of the World

Finally, I attempted to identify some of the leading think tanks in each region of the world. The institutions that appear on this list were selected by tabulating votes within a region to identify the leading think tanks in each region. Some institutions from the regions listed below received more votes globally than they received from the region in which they are located and that is why they are not included on the regional list. Once again this was done to isolate the top think tanks in each region and to control for the possible over representation of think tanks from the OECD countries.

<b>REGIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE TOP THINK TANKS</b> <i>(Arranged Alphabetically)</i> <b>Table # 5</b>		
<b>REGION</b>	<b>THINK TANK NAME</b>	<b>Country</b>
Africa	Africa Institute of South Africa	<i>South Africa</i>
Africa	Economic and Social Research Foundation	<i>Tanzania</i>
Africa	Institute for Security Studies	<i>South Africa</i>
Africa	Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research	<i>Ghana</i>
Africa	Kenyan Institute for Public Policy	<i>Kenya</i>
Asia	Center for Strategic and International Studies	<i>Indonesia</i>
Asia	Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis	<i>India</i>
Asia	Institute for International Policy Studies	<i>Japan</i>
Asia	Japan Institute of International Affairs	<i>Japan</i>
Asia	Shanghai Institute for International Studies	<i>China</i>
Central and Eastern Europe	Center for Policy Studies at Central European University	<i>Hungary</i>
Central and Eastern Europe	Center for Social and Economic Research	<i>Poland</i>
Central and Eastern Europe	Center for Liberal Studies	<i>Bulgaria</i>
Central and Eastern Europe	Centre for Security and Defence Studies	<i>Hungary</i>
Central and Eastern Europe	Institute for Strategic and Defence Studies	<i>Hungary</i>
Central and Eastern Europe	Lithuanian Free Market Institute	<i>Lithuania</i>
Central and Eastern Europe	Polish Institute of International Affairs	<i>Poland</i>
Russia	Center for Policy Studies in Russia	<i>Russia</i>
Russia	Institute for Urban Economics	<i>Russia</i>
Russia	Institute of World Economy and International Relations	<i>Russia</i>

Russia	USA/Canada Institute	<i>Russia</i>
Middle East	Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies	<i>Egypt</i>
Middle East	Center for Strategic Studies	<i>Jordan</i>
Middle East	Egyptian Center for Economic Studies	<i>Egypt</i>
Middle East	Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies	<i>Israel</i>
Middle East	Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research	<i>UAE</i>
Latin America	Argentine Council for International Relations	Argentina
Latin America	CIPPEC: Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento	Argentina
Latin America	Fundação Getulio Vargas	Brazil
Latin America	Instituto Apoyo	Peru
Latin America	Libertad y Desarrollo	Chile

## CONCLUSION

Susanne Trimbath asserted in her article “Think Tanks: Who’s Hot and Who’s Not” (Summer 2005 *The International Economy*) that “like it or not, think tanks will be with us for many years to come”. Despite this optimistic assessment, the on-going challenge for think tanks is to produce timely and accessible policy oriented research that effectively engages policymakers, the press and the public on the critical issues facing a country. Gone are the days when a think tank could operate with the motto “research it, write it and they will find it”. Today, think tanks must be lean, mean, policy machines. **The Economist** described “good think tanks” as those organizations that are able to combine “intellectual depth, political influence, and flair for publicity, comfortable surroundings, and a streak of eccentricity.” Those who fail to organize and integrate these qualities into their think tank will become known for their “pedantry, irrelevance, obscurity, poverty and conventionality.” Many think tanks have already successfully met this challenge and are now playing a critical role bridging the divide between the academic and policy communities and policymakers and the public.

Clearly there is no shortage of policy challenges at the national, regional and global level. The world we live in can be characterized by what someone described as “The Four Mores.” More issues, more actors, more competition and more conflict. Over the last 10-15 years governments and civil society groups have come to rely on think tanks for ideas and advice and I am confident that this trend will continue well into the future.

## **Think Tank and Civil Societies Program**

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the Foreign Policy Research Institute examines the role policy institutes play in governments and in civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the 'think tank's think tank,' TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. Over the last 20 years the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program has laid the foundation for a global initiative that will help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environment, information and society, poverty alleviation and health. This international collaborative effort is designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that will improve policy making and strengthen democratic institutions and civil societies around the world. The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program works with some of the leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs. If you would like additional information about our publications and programs contact JM@fpri.org or Jmcgann@villanova.edu

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Dr. McGann has served as a consultant and advisor to the World Bank, United Nations, United States Agency for International Development, Soros, Hewlett and Gates Foundations and foreign governments on the role of nongovernmental, public policy and public engagement organizations in civil society. He has served as the senior vice-president for the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats, the public policy program officer for The Pew Charitable Trusts, the assistant director of the Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government, at Harvard University, and a senior advisor to the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs and the Society for International Development.

Among Dr. McGann's publications are *Competition for Dollars, Scholars and Influence In The Public Policy Research Industry* (University Press of America 1995), *The International Survey of Think Tanks* (FPRI, 1999), *Think Tanks and Civil Societies: Catalyst for Ideas and Action*, co-edited with Kent B. Weaver (Transaction Publishers 2000), *Comparative Think Tanks, Politics and Public Policy* (Edward Elgar 2005), *Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the U.S: Academics, Advisors and Advocates* (Routledge, 2007), *Think Tanks Catalysts for Democratization and Development* (Forthcoming) and *Global Trends and Transitions: 2007 Survey of Think Tanks*.

## Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US

### Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US

Academics, Advisors and Advocates  
*Routledge Research in American Politics*

**James G. McGann**, Foreign Policy Research Institute, Philadelphia, USA

This volume chronicles and analyzes the development of think tanks and public policy research organizations, while exploring the impact think tanks have on politics, public policies, and governance in the US.

*Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US* investigates the distinctive nature of thirty leading think tanks in America, while capturing the political and intellectual ecology of the more than 1,500 think tanks in the US. Presidents from twenty think tanks have contributed insightful essays that examine the role, value, and impact of these organizations on a national and global level. The book examines a range of key factors (partisan politics; growth of liberal and conservative advocacy groups; restrictive funding policies of donors; growth of specialized think tanks; narrow and short-term orientation of Congress and the White House; tyranny of myopic academic disciplines; and the 24/7 cable news networks) which have impacted on the ability of think tanks to provide independent analysis and advice.

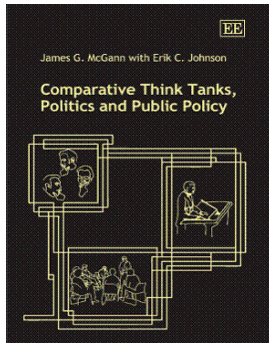
This text fills a gap in the available literature and will serve as a valuable reference tool for policy makers, the media, and researchers in the fields of public policy, political science, and American politics more generally.

Twenty essays by the Presidents of some of the leading think tanks in the US are featured in this work:

**Christopher DeMuth** - President, American Enterprise Institute  
**Edward P. Djerejian** - Founding Director, Baker Institute  
**Strobe Talbott** - President of The Brookings Institution  
**John Podesta** - President and CEO, Center for American Progress  
**Tim Roemer** - President, Center for National Policy  
**John J. Hamre** - President and CEO, Center for Strategic and International Studies  
**Richard N. Haass** - President of the Council on Foreign Relations  
**Ellen Laipson** - President and CEO, Henry L. Stimson Center  
**Edwin Feulner** - President of the Heritage Foundation  
**John Raisan** - Director, Hoover Institution, Stanford University  
**Herbert I. London** - President, Hudson Institute  
**C. Fred Bergsten** - Director of the Institute for International Economics  
**John Cavanagh** - Director, Institute for Policy Studies  
**Togo D. West Jr.** - President and CEO, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies  
**John C. Goodman** - President, National Center for Policy Analysis  
**Dimitri K. Symes** - Founding President, Nixon Center  
**David W. Lyon** - President and CEO, Public Policy Institute of California  
**James Thomson** - President of the Rand Corporation.  
**Phillip Sharp** - President, Resources for the Future  
**Robert D. Reischauer** - President, Urban Institute

**Selected Contents:** Introduction 1. Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the United States 2. History of Think Tanks in the United States 3. Think Tanks Defined 4. Marketing, Public Relations and Public Engagement 5. Measuring the Influence of Think Tanks 6. Think Tanks Funding 7. Current Trends Facing Think Tanks 8. Conclusion 9. Recommendations 10. Essays on Value, Role and Impact of Think Tanks Appendix A: U.S. Think Tanks - The Global Context Appendix B: U.S. Think Tanks in Brief

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**James G. McGann, Erik C. Johnson, *Comparative Think Tanks, Politics and Public Policy*, Edward Elgar Pub, March 2006**

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**Contents:** 1. Introduction 2. Think Tanks and Governance 3. Think Tanks, Politics and Public Policy in the Americas 4. Comparative Politics and Policy Advice in Europe 5. Comparative Politics and Policy Advice in the Asia Pacific Region 6. Comparative Politics and Policy Advice in Africa 7. Comparative Politics and Policy Advice in the Middle East 8. Concluding Remarks 9. Data Appendix

Independent institutes conducting policy research, analysis and public dialogue, or 'think tanks' as they are more commonly known, are one of the leading catalysts for ideas and action in civil societies around the world. Examining the role of think tanks in the policy formulation process, this groundbreaking study provides the first systematically comparative and methodologically rigorous map of such organizations and the social, political, legal and economic conditions that shape their work.

Once found only in advanced industrial democracies, think tanks now provide information and advice for policymakers in countries as diverse as India, Lebanon, Chile, Bulgaria, Germany, Senegal and Thailand. **Using case studies of 20 countries across five regions of the world (Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, Europe and Asia)**, James McGann and Erik Johnson explore how the environments in which think tanks operate serve to expand or constrict their autonomy and influence. They also suggest ways donors, policymakers and international organizations can ensure the viability and sustainability of these important organizations.

With incisive analysis and cogent recommendations for how to seed and sustain independent think tanks around the world, this volume will be of great interest to those involved with think tanks themselves, as well as public policy and political science scholars, international development agencies and policymakers around the world. The Comparative dimensions of the book will have considerable appeal among students of comparative politics, public policy and international affairs.

**Order online at: *Comparative Think Tanks, Politics and Public Policy* [http://www.elgar.co.uk/Bookentry Main.lasso?id=2756](http://www.elgar.co.uk/Bookentry_Main.lasso?id=2756)**

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