



Ms. Lisa Curtis
Senior Research Fellow
The Heritage Foundation

Lisa Curtis is senior research fellow on South Asia in the Asian Studies Center, focusing on U.S. national security interests and geopolitics in the region. Her research has centered on the U.S.-India strategic and defense partnership, U.S. counterterrorism policies in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and trends in Islamist extremism and religious freedom throughout the region.

Lawmakers and journalists alike turn to Curtis for her clear-eyed research and perspective on U.S. interests in some of the most desperate, dangerous and fast-developing parts of the world. Curtis has testified before Congress on 17 occasions on topics related to India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Islamist extremism, and America's image abroad.

She has appeared on major broadcast networks, including CNN, Fox News, CBS, MSNBC, PBS, and BBC, to comment on developments in South Asia and has been quoted or cited by dozens of news publications. Her commentary has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Foreign Policy*, *The National Interest*, *The Los Angeles Times*, CNN.com and FoxNews.com, as well in South Asian publications such as *The Hindu*, *The Mint*, *Outlook*, *The Express Tribune*, *The News* and *The Friday Times*.

She regularly travels to the region to participate in conferences and has contributed chapters to books and academic journals, including a chapter on India in *Population Decline and the Remaking of Great Power Politics*, edited by Susan Yoshihara and Douglas A. Sylva (Sterling: Potomac Books, Inc., 2011) and an article on Pakistan's foreign policy in *Contemporary South Asia* (Vol.20, No.2, June 2012).

Before joining Heritage in August 2006, Curtis spent 16 years working for the U.S. government on South Asian issues. From 2003 – 2006, she was a member of the professional staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where she was in charge of the South Asia portfolio for the chairman at the time, Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.).

From 2001 to 2003, Curtis was the White House-appointed senior adviser to the assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, where she helped develop policy to manage Indo-Pakistani tensions. Before that, she worked as an analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency and in the mid-1990s, served as a diplomat in the U.S. embassies in Pakistan and India.

A native of Fort Wayne, IN, Curtis received a bachelor's degree in economics at Indiana University in 1990. She resides in Herndon, VA, with her husband and two children.