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Outside of government, Stokes has been a senior analyst in the China program at the U.S. Institute of Peace and with the National Security Network. His writing has appeared in Foreign Affairs, The Washington Quarterly, Lawfare, Politico Magazine, War on the Rocks, Democracy, Orbis, and The Guardian. His analysis has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Financial Times, CBS News, NBC News, The Economist, Reuters, Bloomberg, USA Today, The Los Angeles Times, TIME, Newsweek, C-SPAN, Axios, and Vox. Stokes is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He holds an MA from the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and undergraduate degrees from the University of Missouri.