

Sarah Chayes, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and author of *Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security*, is an international authority on corruption and its implications. Her work explores how it exacerbates international crises such as terrorism, revolutions and their violent aftermaths, and environmental degradation.

In May 2016, Chayes participated alongside UK Prime Minister David Cameron, Secretary of State John Kerry and world leaders from more than 40 countries at the first ever international summit devoted to tackling corruption.

Before joining Carnegie, she served as special assistant to the top U.S. military officer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen. She participated in Cabinet-level decision-making on Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Arab Spring, traveling with Mullen frequently to these regions. He tapped Chayes for the job after her work as special advisor to two commanders of the international troops in Afghanistan (ISAF). She contributed her unique knowledge of the Afghan south to the ISAF command.

It was a sense of historic opportunity that prompted Chayes to renounce her journalism career in early 2002, after covering the fall of the Taliban for National Public Radio, and to remain in Afghanistan to help rebuild the country. She chose to settle in the former Taliban heartland, Kandahar.

In 2005, Chayes founded [Arghand](#), a start-up manufacturing cooperative, where men and women working together produce fine skin-care products. The goal was to revive the region's historic role in exporting fruit and its derivatives, to promote sustainable development, and expand alternatives to the opium economy. Running Arghand in downtown Kandahar proved to be an extraordinary vantage point for observing the unfolding war.

From 1996-2001, Chayes was NPR Paris correspondent. For her work during the Kosovo crisis, she shared the 1999 Foreign Press Club and Sigma Delta Chi awards.

Along with *Thieves of State*, which won the 2016 L.A. Times Book Prize, Chayes is the author of *The Punishment of Virtue: Inside Afghanistan After the Taliban* (Penguin, 2006).

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