

Walter Isaacson
President and CEO of the Aspen Institute

Walter Isaacson is a Professor of History at Tulane and the president and CEO of the Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan educational and policy studies institute based in Washington, DC. He has been the chairman and CEO of CNN and the editor of *TIME* magazine.

Isaacson's most recent biography, *Leonardo da Vinci* (Oct. 2017), offers new discoveries about Leonardo's life and work, weaving a narrative that connects his art to his science. He is the author of *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution* (2014), *Steve Jobs* (2011), *Einstein: His Life and Universe* (2007), *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* (2003), and *Kissinger: A Biography* (1992), and coauthor of *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made* (1986).

Isaacson was born on May 20, 1952, in New Orleans. He is a graduate of Harvard College and of Pembroke College of Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He began his career at *The Sunday Times of London* and then the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. He joined *TIME* in 1978 and served as a political correspondent, national editor, and editor of digital media before becoming the magazine's 14th editor in 1996. He became chairman and CEO of CNN in 2001, and then president and CEO of the Aspen Institute in 2003.

He is chair emeritus of Teach for America. From 2005 to 2007 he was the vice-chair of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, which oversaw the rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina. He was appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate to serve as the chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which runs Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, and other international broadcasts of the United States, a position he held from 2009 to 2012. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and serves on the board of United Airlines, Tulane University, the New Orleans City Planning Commission, the New Orleans Tricentennial Commission, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Society of American Historians, the Carnegie Institution for Science, and My Brother's Keeper Alliance. He is also an advisory partner at Perella Weinberg, a bank and financial firm based in New York City.

He has honorary degrees from Tufts University, Cooper Union, Franklin College in Switzerland, University of New Orleans, University of South Carolina, City University of New York (Hunter College), Pomona College, Lehigh University, Washington College, and Duke University.

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