

# CHAPTER 14

Chapter 14 of the book opens with a behind-the-scenes look at the routine of international summits, highlighting the choreographed entrances of world leaders, the setup of the conference room, and the long hours spent listening and discussing global matters. The narrative quickly transitions to the author's personal experience at his first G20 summit in London, emphasizing his sensations of being the new participant on the global stage and his interactions with key global figures, including British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy. Their distinct personalities and political predilections are detailed, with Brown described as thoughtful but lackluster compared to his predecessor Tony Blair, Merkel as methodical and skeptical of emotional outbursts, and Sarkozy as driven by charm and impulse.

The discussions at the G20 summit encompass topics like the fight against protectionism, fiscal stimulus, and tackling economic crises, revealing the intricacies of international diplomacy and the challenges of reaching a consensus among diverse nations. The author acknowledges the strategic importance of BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and shares his impressions of their leaders, casting a light on the geopolitical dynamics and their bearing on global economic policies.

The narrative also delves into the author's efforts to foster cooperation on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, specifically with Russia, underlining the complexities of U.S.-Russia relations and the strategic considerations surrounding missile defense in Europe.

The author reflects on broader trends affecting global democracy and the rise of nationalism, highlighting his concerns about the durability of democratic values in various regions, including Europe and Turkey. An encounter with Czech dissident and former President Václav Havel provides a sobering reminder of the ongoing struggle for maintaining democratic principles and freedoms in the face of rising autocracy and nationalism.

Finally, the chapter concludes on an unexpected note, with the author learning about a contemporary piracy issue off the coast of Somalia, indicating the wide range of challenges faced by world leaders.

This chapter offers an insightful glimpse into the world of international politics, the personal dynamics among global leaders, and the myriad challenges encountered on the world stage, from economic crises to the foundational struggle for democracy and rule of law.