

THE JOHN ADAMS INSTITUTE

AMERICAN CULTURE IN THE NETHERLANDS

Introduction of Mark Landler by Tom Kleijn
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Ladies and gentlemen, good evening.

A very warm welcome to what surely will be a special event here at the John Adams Institute. Tonight we will get an inside look into the White House, into the State Department and into a partnership that defined the two for four years.

My name is Tom Kleijn, I am the America correspondent for the Dutch news and current affairs program Nieuwsuur, and I will be your host for this evening. At Nieuwsuur we closely follow American politics, White House politics and the presidential elections. And as luck would have it, all of those things are all in a day's work for tonight's speaker.

Mark Lander has been the *New York Times* White House reporter since 2011, but has lived and worked in Washington DC for many years. As an International Affairs student at Georgetown University in the eighties, and as the *New York Times* diplomatic correspondent since 2009. In the years in between, Landler was the Hong Kong bureau chief for the *Times*, the European Economic correspondent in Frankfurt and a media editor at *Business Week*.

Mark Landler has written a thorough and extensive study into the egos of two very different people with often similar goals. Reporting from high up aboard Air Force One or from within the small circle of confidants of the Secretary, to the depths of the Clinton email server. Mark Landler tells a compelling story about how an unlikely alliance formed, shaping the Obama administration's foreign policy.

An alliance between a well-travelled young politician who grew up in Hawaii and Indonesia, who developed an outsider's view of America and American policies abroad. An analytical President, who prefers thought over immediate action. On the other side a mid-western girl from a steady middle class family, who travelled outside the United States for the first time at the age of nineteen, crossing the border with Canada. A Secretary of State who was strongly in favor of a much more hands-on approach.

They started out as fierce competitors and between the two not much love was lost. But both are politicians to the core, became part of the same team and in many crises around the world, depended on one another.

Tonight, we will talk about President Obama and about Secretary Clinton. But we'll also discuss presumptive nominee Clinton and her adversary Donald Trump. In the Netherlands we watch the events as they unfold in the US with amazement, astonishment, and concern.

I hope Mark Landler can guide us through what has happened, what is happening and what may lie ahead.

So please join me in giving a warm welcome to tonight's speaker, Mr. Mark Landler.