

*Strategy for U.S. Engagement with the International Criminal Court*, by David Scheffer and John Hutson | [Download PDF](#)

The first paragraph of this document:

"We know from our own professional experiences that there are risks in both diplomatic initiatives and military operations. The most logical negotiating position, strongly supported within the Washington bureaucracy, sometimes can be challenged so successfully by other governments during international talks that a search for compromise may emerge as the wiser course. American diplomats employ the same strategy with their counterparts who arrive at the table with seemingly unbendable instructions—and yet, eventually, common ground is usually found. The greatest sin during negotiations is succumbing to dogma from extremists back home that American interests can only be protected by taking unyielding and exceptionalist positions. These may reflect politically attractive opinions (however misinformed they may be), but spell doom for achieving worthy aims and keeping the United States constructively engaged on the world stage. In the long run, critical national interests risk being sacrificed if American negotiators remain foolishly rigid and unbending."