How To Understand The Global Economy. Dr. Benn Steil sits at the intersection of history and economics, as both a historian with a special focus on 20th century history and an economist working to understand the impact of geopolitical events and trends on the global economy. Here, Dr. Steil looks at major geopolitical events and analyses the repercussions they’ll likely have on our economy domestically and globally. Dr. Steil also customizes his speech to each audience at hand, hitting on the challenges and opportunities they are facing and drawing on current and historic geopolitical and economist events to provide context and look to how events will likely unfold.