

Dr. Karin Kneissl
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Summary: analyst and author; served as independent Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria

Karin Kneissl studied law and Arabic at the University of Vienna. She completed her dissertation on the “Notion of Borders in the Middle East” via Austrian grants at the Hebrew University Jerusalem, University of Urbino/Italy and later at Georgetown University in Washington (Fulbright Scholar). She is also a graduate of the Paris Ecole Nationale d’Administration, ENA

Dr. Kneissl served as an Austrian diplomat in the office of the Legal Advisor, Cabinet of the minister, Middle East Desk and was posted among others in Paris and Madrid. In late 1998 she quitted the Foreign Service; for the next 20 years, she worked as an independent correspondent on energy affairs, analyst and university lecturer (Vienna, Beirut). She was also member of the Board of the Vienna Insurance Group until 2017. She served her country as Foreign Minister in 2017-19. Thereafter, Dr. Kneissl returned to her independent work. She has written 10 books and numerous papers and articles about geopolitics, energy and international relations while running her small farm south of Vienna.

Experience:

2019-Current

Author: Since leaving the government in June 2019 I have published two books on diplomacy and the transition of mobility. (*Diplomatie Macht Geschichte; Die Mobilitätswende und ihre geopolitische Brisanz*). In May 2020 I started contributing comments for RT and Sputnik on energy related topics and geopolitics. Due to the series of lockdowns my academic commitments in Germany and lectures for various fund managers had to be partially postponed.

2017-2019

Federal Foreign Minister and Minister of European Affairs and Integration (migration) in the cabinet of Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, as well as in the cabinet of experts of Chancellor Herwig Löger. The main priorities of my work were: Asian focus, beyond China including Bangladesh – thereby adopting a more geopolitical approach of Austrian diplomacy; new chapter with Turkey; dialogue with the Russian Federation, strategic neighbourhood dialogue with Slovenia. Demining programme for Syria. July-Dec.2018 EU chair: promoting geopolitical importance of South-East Europe. On integration of migrants: differentiated course instead of too broad audiences; women as engine of integration; fighting female genital mutilation. On development cooperation: focus on women and development, family planning.

1998-2017

TV/Radio Commentator on Middle Eastern issues, energy policy for ORF (Austrian State TV/Radio), Servus TV, Austria. Invited regularly to participate in panels, interviews on geopolitics, foreign policy and energy issues. **Lecturer** in international law, Middle East history, energy markets at the University of Vienna, Austria; Diplomatic Academy, Vienna, Austria; European Business School, Rheingau, Germany, Centre International des Sciences de l’Homme, Byblos, Lebanon; Universite St Joseph, Beirut, Lebanon. I have taught in German, French and English.

1990 - 1998

Austrian Diplomat, serving among others at foreign postings in Madrid (1996-98), Paris (1995),

International Law Office (1994), Cabinet of the Federal Foreign Minister (1993), and in the Political Section (1990/91).

Publications:

Published hundreds of articles in mainly German speaking journals, newspapers, magazines (please refer to google for published articles).

Have published 10 books in German covering topics such as diplomacy, geopolitics, Middle Eastern history and politics, energy issues.

- *Der Grenzbegriff der Konfliktparteien im Nahen Osten. Dissertation, Universität Wien, 1991.*
- *Hizbollah: Libanesische Widerstandsbewegung, islamische Terrorgruppe oder bloß eine politische Partei? Eine Untersuchung der schiitischen Massenbewegung Hizbollah im libanesischen und regionalen Kontext. Landesverteidigungsakademie, Wien 2002, ISBN 3-901328-69-6.*
- *Der Energiepoker: Wie Erdöl und Erdgas die Weltwirtschaft beeinflussen. FinanzBuch, München 2006, ISBN 3-89879-187-4; 2., überarbeitete Auflage 2008, ISBN 978-3-89879-448-0.*
- *Die Gewaltspirale: Warum Orient und Okzident nicht miteinander können. Ecowin, Salzburg 2007, ISBN 978-3-902404-39-8.*
- *Testosteron macht Politik. Braumüller, Wien 2012, ISBN 978-3-99100-068-6.*
- *Die zersplitterte Welt: Was von der Globalisierung bleibt. Braumüller, Wien 2013, ISBN 978-3-99100-086-0.*
- *Mein Naher Osten. Braumüller, Wien 2014, ISBN 978-3-99100-112-6. Third edition 2017*
- *Prinz Eugen: Vom Außenseiter zum Genie Europas. Belvedere, Wien 2014, ISBN 978-3-902805-58-4. Translated into Russian 2019*
- *Wachablöse: Auf dem Weg in eine chinesische Weltordnung. Frank & Frei, Wien 2017, ISBN 978-3-9504348-4-2.*
- *DIE MOBILITÄTSWENDE und ihre Brisanz für Gesellschaft und Weltwirtschaft. Wien. Braumüller Verlag, September 2020. ISBN 978-3-99100-307-6*
- *DIPLOMATIE MACHT GESCHICHTE: Die Kunst des Dialogs in unsicheren Zeiten. Hildesheim. Olms Verlag, Juni 2020. ISBN 978-3-487-08633 -0*

Memberships in Boards, Associations

2017 Member of the Supervisory Board of the Vienna Municipal Mutual Insurance Association Asset Management Group WKST, Vienna Insurance Group

2011-2012 Member of the Academia Superior, a think tank in Upper Austria

2011-2016 Vice-President and Founding Member, Whistleblowing Austria

2007-2010 Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Forum, Alpbach

2005-2009 elected municipal counsellor (independent) in my village Seibersdor

2003-Current Vice President of the Society for Strategic and Political Studies STRATEG

Involved in various charity activities in Austria, Lebanon and Burkina Faso.

Education:

- 1991-1992 Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), Paris, France – Promotion Gmabetta.
- 1992 Presentation of doctoral dissertation in international law on “The Concept of Borders for the Parties the Middle East Conflict”, University of Vienna, Austria.
- 1989 Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA – Fulbright Fellow at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies.
- 1989 University of Urbino, Italy – Postgraduate studies in European Law.
- 1988 Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel – Postgraduate studies in international relations.
 Graduated with a special diploma.
- 1983 - 1987 University of Vienna, Faculty of Law – Studied Law and Arabic Studies. Graduated with a master's degree in Law and a diploma in Arabic studies from the United Nations.
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Languages:

Fluent in German, English, French, Arabic. Conversational Spanish, Italian, Hungarian, Hebrew; started a Russian online course in November 2020.