



Sir Alex Younger

Sir Alex Younger, former Chief of MI6, helps business audiences make sense of today's volatile geopolitical climate. With expertise in cyber threats, global power shifts, and intelligence, he decodes how disruption impacts corporate decision-making.

KEY TOPICS

- Geopolitical Risks: Essential Strategies for Global Companies
- Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Threats
- Leadership and Resilience in High-Stakes Environments
- Economic Warfare as a Strategic Weapon
- Ethical Leadership in Intelligence and Security

BIOGRAPHY

Interpreting Global Turmoil for Business Leaders

Sir Alex Younger is one of the most respected voices in the realm of international intelligence and security. As the longest-serving chief of MI6 in half a century, his experience offers a rare blend of operational insight and strategic foresight. From the frontlines of conflict to advising prime ministers, Sir Alex's unique perspective is now crucial for business audiences facing global uncertainty. He led the UK's Secret Intelligence Service from 2014 to 2020, a period marked by rapidly evolving threats—from cyber warfare and hybrid attacks to disinformation and political instability. Under his leadership, MI6 underwent a sweeping transformation to adapt to technological disruption, turning innovation into a strategic edge rather than a liability. Corporate leaders today are navigating a world reshaped by exactly the kinds of dynamics Sir Alex managed throughout his career: digital threats, shifting alliances, and rising authoritarianism. His keynote presentations help organisations understand these forces and their real-world business implications.

From Battlefield to Boardroom: A Strategic Interpreter of Conflict

Before joining MI6, Sir Alex Younger served as an officer in the British Army's Scots Guards, with deployments across Europe and the Middle East. This foundation of military discipline and international experience laid the groundwork for his intelligence career. His early years in MI6 placed him in volatile regions like the Balkans during the 1990s conflicts—firsthand exposure to the complexities of ethnic, political, and regional instability. He later served in Afghanistan as Head of Station during one of the most turbulent chapters in modern intelligence. There, he led UK intelligence efforts in a landscape defined by counter-terrorism, tribal politics, and international coalition dynamics. These roles shaped his deep understanding of conflict environments—knowledge he now brings to business audiences grappling with global risk. For corporate decision-makers, Sir Alex's experience is more than historical—it's instructional. The same patterns he observed in unstable regions now appear in trade disputes, cyber attacks, and supply chain disruptions. His ability to decode these patterns makes him a vital voice for leaders looking to anticipate and adapt.

Understanding Modern Risk: Technology, Intelligence, and Strategy

A defining aspect of Sir Alex Younger's leadership at MI6 was his commitment to technological transformation. He understood that the digital revolution wasn't just disrupting commerce—it was reshaping the battlefield of global power. From cyber espionage to AI-enabled surveillance, technology had become both a threat and an opportunity. As Chief of MI6, he led efforts to modernise the agency's use of technology, harnessing its power while defending against its weaponisation by hostile states. He emphasised that liberal democracies must confront adversaries who use hybrid tactics: cyber attacks, economic manipulation, and disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining institutions and trust. Today, these are not just issues for governments—they're boardroom concerns. Cybersecurity breaches, geopolitical uncertainty, and misinformation now directly affect bottom lines. Sir Alex translates this complexity into actionable insights for business audiences, helping them assess vulnerabilities, manage reputational risk, and develop more resilient strategies.

Championing Open Intelligence in a Changing World

While MI6 is known for its secrecy, Sir Alex Younger broke new ground by advocating for more openness and public accountability. In a landmark speech at the University of St Andrews—his alma mater—he called for 21st-century intelligence to align with democratic values while staying ahead of adversaries. He spoke of the need for partnerships between government, tech, and private sectors to uphold freedom and transparency. This shift from a traditionally covert role to a public-facing advocate speaks volumes about his understanding of today's interconnected world. Businesses now find themselves at the crossroads of diplomacy, data, and defence. Sir Alex's guidance offers clarity in this tangled web, enabling companies to align ethical practices with strategic advantage. His public presence and willingness to engage with civilian sectors demonstrate his belief that intelligence is no longer confined to spies and diplomats. It's a shared concern—and shared opportunity—for anyone leading an organisation through complexity.

A New Role: Helping Business Decode Global Disruption

Since stepping down from MI6, Sir Alex Younger has turned his focus toward helping the private sector understand the consequences of global instability. He believes that the tools and tactics of intelligence—once used exclusively by states—are now critical to business resilience and foresight. His keynotes are rich with lived experience, strategic depth, and clarity. He doesn't just talk about events—he interprets what they mean for business. Whether addressing cyber escalation between global powers, the rise of authoritarianism, or the weaponisation of data, Sir Alex helps business leaders connect the dots between headlines and their own risk exposure. He often emphasises that the trends he saw while running MI6—competition over data, disruption by design, and blurred lines between war and peace—are now visible everywhere. For executives, investors, and risk managers, his insights offer more than context—they offer a strategic framework for navigating uncertainty.

Strategic Foresight for the C-Suite

Sir Alex Younger's impact extends beyond the stage. As a strategic adviser and thought leader, he works with boards, leadership teams, and investment groups to help them integrate geopolitical foresight into their decision-making. His sessions often involve real-world scenarios, asking tough but vital questions:

- How could geopolitical shifts impact your supply chain?
- Are your cybersecurity strategies aligned with the threats states now face?

- Is your business prepared for a disinformation campaign targeting your brand or industry?

These are the kinds of high-level questions Sir Alex helps answer. His talks are not abstract—they're grounded in case studies, intelligence models, and leadership frameworks developed over a 30-year career. He offers leaders the mental tools to manage complexity and stay ahead in a world defined by change.

Why Sir Alex Younger Is In Demand for Corporate Events

Global corporations, financial institutions, and even technology companies have turned to Sir Alex Younger to help them understand the intersection of geopolitics and business. His audiences value his precision, calm authority, and ability to synthesise risk into insight. Whether speaking to a room of executives or a global workforce, he bridges the gap between elite intelligence and practical decision-making. His presence at an event signals a commitment to understanding global trends with rigour and clarity. He's not just a speaker—he's a strategic lens on the world. [Contact us](#) now to learn more about bringing this extraordinary speaker to your next event.