

## Biography

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Speaker: Ambassador (Ret.) Joseph C. Wilson  
Position: Chief Executive Officer  
Company: JC Wilson International Ventures, United States

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Ambassador Joseph Wilson (ret.) is a member of the Symbion Power Advisory Board. Ambassador Wilson has extensive experience in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. As an American diplomat, he served as Ambassador to Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe in the administrations of Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton. He also served as Special Assistant to President Clinton in charge of African Affairs at the National Security Council. As acting Ambassador to Iraq in the first Gulf War, he was responsible for the successful evacuation of several thousand Americans, including 150 hostages held by the Iraqi government, from Kuwait and Iraq before the launching of Desert Storm. On his return to Washington, Wilson was lauded by President Bush as a "true American hero."

During the administration of the second President Bush, Ambassador Wilson was asked to investigate reports that Iraq had attempted to purchase uranium yellowcake from the West African nation of Niger. He reported back that the allegation was baseless but the administration nonetheless made the charge public in the President's State of the Union address. When Ambassador Wilson publicly charged the administration of having skewed the intelligence and misled the American people, senior White House officials and the Deputy Secretary of State betrayed the identity of a covert CIA officer, Valerie Plame Wilson, the Ambassador's wife.

In 2004, Ambassador Wilson published a New York Times best selling book, "The Politics of Truth," recounting his career as a diplomat and his dispute with the Bush administration. In addition to Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe, he has also served in Niger, Togo, South Africa, Burundi, and Congo (Brazzaville).