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News from the Director



By Alan McPherson

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This semester had its usual share of great scholarly talks and fascinating research projects moved ever closer to completion by Temple’s grad students. Please catch up on how the CENFAD community is doing [here](#).

Most public—and most time consuming!—was CENFAD’s “All Roads

Lead to Gettysburg” conference, held in our Center City campus on Saturday, April 6. Sixteen scholars in five panels, each chaired by a Temple faculty or graduate student, demonstrated the still-vibrant field that is Gettysburg studies.

All Roads Lead to Gettysburg

I began planning this one-day conference well over a year ago when I realized that my colleague, Dr. Greg Urwin, had one eye on his retirement. I wanted to honor his lifetime of distinguished work on military history, which has included the Civil War, and also take advantage of the draw that he would be for historians of any military topic, including the most famous battle of the Civil War.

The result was more than we expected: About 80 attendees filled the conference room, many from around Philadelphia and Gettysburg itself, but many others joining us from as far away as West Point, Alabama, Indiana, Arizona, Oklahoma, and even England. Graduate students joined seasoned scholars in hashing out the many “roads” of Gettysburg, from its traditional tactical studies to Lincolnia, memory, and international reverberations.

All in all, this successful conference will hopefully engender many publications and a continuing interest in the battle and its site. I want to thank Dr. Urwin for coming up with the concept of the conference along with helping me recruit presenters. The History and Political Science Departments at Temple were crucial financial co-sponsors, as was the Society for Military History. The chairs of each

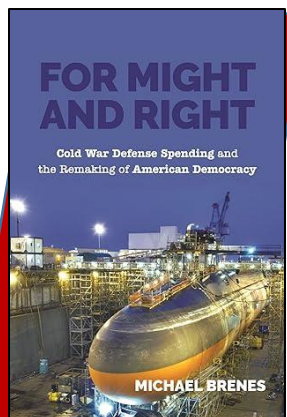
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panel went above and beyond. And finally, Davis Fellow Joseph Johnson did most of the legwork to make the conference run smoothly, and he did it all with élan and poise. The many thanks we got from participants are mostly a reflection of Joseph's hard work.

Spring 2024 Colloquium

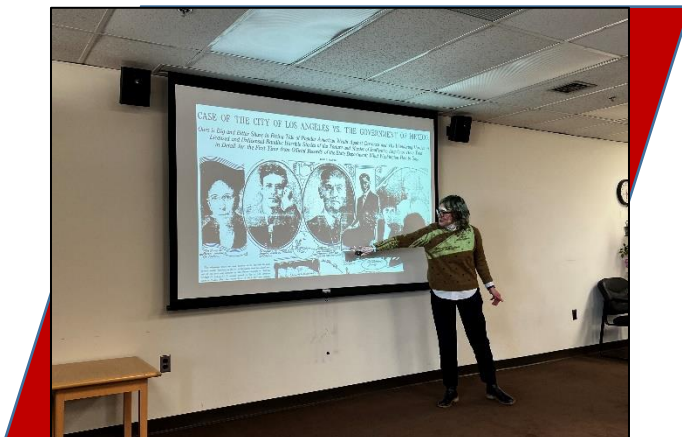
A series of high-quality speakers graced us with their presence this semester, again testifying to the variety of interests that our department nurtures.

On January 25, our first speaker was Yale University's **Michael Brenes**, whose book *For Might and Right: Cold War Defense Spending and the Remaking of American Democracy* [argues](#) that defense spending has been crucial in holding together much of American democracy in the Cold War. For more on his book, see *Strategic Visions's* interview with Dr. Brenes [here](#).



February saw three talks scheduled close together. The first was on the fifteenth, by **Jessica Kim**, historian at Cal State Northridge and author of *Imperial Metropolis: Los Angeles, Mexico, and the Borderlands of American Empire, 1865-1941*. Her [talk](#) attracted a

rare combination of students of foreign relations with students of U.S. urban history, making for one of the largest crowds seen in a while at a CENFAD talk.



Dr. Jessica Kim delivering her CENFAD lecture (Credit: Dr. Alan McPherson)

A week later, on the 22nd, **Anne Foster**, co-editor of *Diplomatic History* (produced here at Temple) and professor of history at Indiana State University, [joined us](#) to discuss *The Long War on Drugs*. Her short book about a large topic illustrated all the ways that the “war” has been mis-defined and poorly run for a century.



Dr. Anne Foster gives her lecture while C-Span records (Credit: Dr. Alan McPherson)

Barely six days after Foster, we heard about Afghanistan from **Elizabeth Leake** of Tufts University. Her new

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Afghan Crucible: The Soviet Invasion and the Making of Modern Afghanistan, [argued](#) for the long-term impact of the 1980s occupation of the crucial yet indomitable landlocked nation. Thanks to Artemy Kalinovsky for suggesting Leake's visit.



Dr. Elisabeth Leake presenting on her work (Credit: Dr. Alan McPherson)

Historian **Fabian Klose** of the University of Cologne, Germany, visited on March 21 to [discuss](#) his own book, *In the Case of Humanity: A History of Humanitarian Intervention in the Long Nineteenth Century*. There is growing interest in creating an exchange program with Cologne that might allow both departments' graduate students to benefit from expanded resources. Thanks to Petra Goedde for suggesting him.



Dr. Fabian Klose speaking at CENFAD

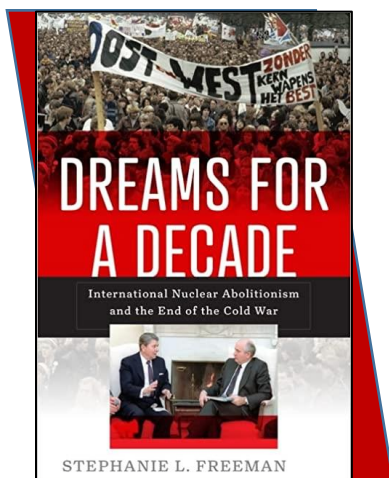
On April 3, I was particularly delighted to hear **Greg Daddis** of San Diego State University [talk](#), first because I had assigned his *Pulp Vietnam: War and Gender in Cold War Men's Adventure Magazines* to my graduate course, and second because the book contains such fascinating illustrations. He made a convincing case that men's pulp magazines from the early Cold War conditioned soldiers to feel frustrated in Vietnam and thus commit atrocities.



Dr. Greg Daddis presents (Credit: Dr. Gregory Urwin)

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Finally, on April 17, **Stephanie Freeman** of the Office of the Historian at the State Department joined us, on the advice of Joseph Johnson, to discuss her new book, *Dreams for a Decade: International Nuclear Abolitionism and the End of the Cold War*. Her book argues persuasively that those who argued for the reduction of nuclear weapons, from the streets to the summits, played an outsized role in ending the Cold War. Freeman gives more details in her [interview](#) with *Strategic Visions*. Unfortunately, due to a camera malfunction, Dr. Freeman's lecture is unavailable.

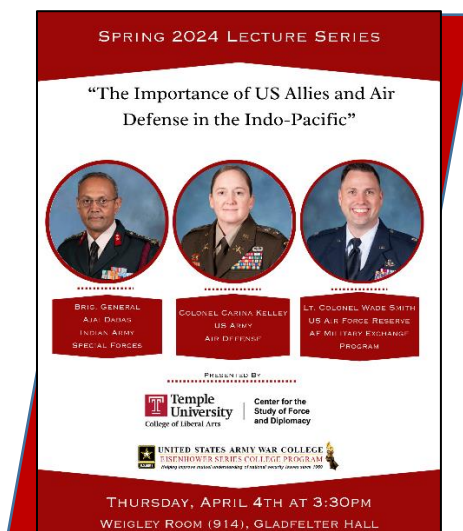


War in the 21st Century: What Can It Accomplish?

On February 23 and 24, CENFAD helped sponsor Assistant Professor of Philosophy **Lee-Ann Chae's** continuing conferences on "Challenging War." This year's theme, "War in the 21st Century: What Can It Accomplish?" touched on conflicts from Gaza to Ukraine and on topics as varied as the ethics of war, just war concepts, and "masculine ignorance." We hope it continues!

Army War College Visit

Thanks to Profs. **Jay Lockenour** and **Gregory Urwin**, CENFAD once again hosted a panel from the Army War College in Carlisle. Panelists included **Brigadier General Ajai Singh Dabas**, **Colonel Carina Kelley**, and **Lieutenant Colonel Wade Smith**. On April 4, the panelists discussed "The Importance of US Allies and Air Defense in the Indo-Pacific"



Spring 2024 prizes

In March, the following four graduate students won CENFAD research awards:

- **Joseph Johnson** won a Wachman Fellowship of \$3,300 for his dissertation research in New York, Washington, and Charlottesville.
- **Audrey Rankin** won a Wachman Fellowship of \$2,500 for her dissertation research in Spain.

- **Alex Southgate** won the Richard Immerman Research Award of \$2,000 for her dissertation research in England.
- **Jake Wolff** won a Wachman Fellowship of \$3,000 for his dissertation research in Kansas, Washington, and New York.

The following six students received CENFAD funds to present their work at academic conferences:

- **Graydon Dennison**, at the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Historians in Willemstad, Curaçao.
- **Duncan Knox**, at the Society for Military History in Arlington, Virginia.
- **Lucas Martins**, at the Congress of Brazilian Studies in San Diego, California.
- **Grace Anne Parker**, at the Society for Military History in Arlington, Virginia.
- **Alex Southgate**, at the Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference in Helsinki, Finland.
- **Jake Wolff**, at the Agricultural History Society in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Third CENFAD Emerging Scholar

For the third year in a row, thanks to the generosity of Temple History PhD Todd Davis, CENFAD helped in recruiting an incoming MA student with the Emerging Scholar Graduate Award. The award aims to support MA-level students interested in diplomatic and military history and to do so especially among underrepresented candidates, including women. The 2023-2024 incoming Emerging Scholar will be **Ella Scalese**, who is interested in combining international affairs and public history. Welcome to the CENFAD community, Ella!

Thanks to the Davis Fellow

Finally, I want to heartily thank Davis Fellow Joseph Johnson, who faced a particularly arduous workload because the Gettysburg conference fell during his tenure. But, as I wrote above, he handled it with grace, and, if academia doesn't pan out, he might have found his calling as an event organizer! Joseph's good cheer and encyclopedic knowledge of food made him a delightful attendee at CENFAD dinners!

Next year's Davis Fellow will be **Grace Anne Parker**, whose interests center on women in the military and especially those who served during the Korean War. Welcome to CENFAD, Grace Anne!

Note from the Davis Fellow



When I was chosen to be the Davis Fellow for the 2023-2024 academic year, I was not sure what to expect. Several of my colleagues from previous years told me about their experiences and helped me along the way, especially last year's fellow, Ryan Langton. We have had an extremely busy schedule this year, including our regular lecture series and the All Roads Lead to Gettysburg Conference. Organizing this litany of events has put my skill set to excellent use, and provided a dynamic environment for interacting with the academic community. It has been a whirlwind of an experience, and I can scarcely believe that my term is coming to an end.

During my tenure, I have been faced with numerous challenges. I was tasked with revitalizing the look of

Strategic Visions and I was assigned to make the majority of the arrangements for the "All Roads Lead to Gettysburg" conference. I met all of these challenges head-on and it appears that each event was a success. We have had consistently large audiences for all of our events, and the community appears to be thriving. Beyond that, I have spent the year working on my own research, completing my comprehensive exams, and attending multiple conferences. The Davis Fellowship has provided ample opportunity to expand my horizons and complete research that otherwise might have been out of reach.

I would like to thank Dr. Alan McPherson for granting me the opportunity to fulfill this role, and for serving as a tireless supporter of my academic journey at Temple. Also, I would like to extend my thanks to each of our lecturers, panelists, conference attendees, and regular audience members for making this an outstandingly successful year. Finally, I wish good luck to the incoming Davis Fellow, **Grace Anne Parker**, who I know will exceptionally perform in this role.

Sincerely,
Joseph Johnson

News from the CENFAD Community



Dr. Alan McPherson speaking at the "All Roads Lead to Gettysburg" Conference

Dr. Alan McPherson Temple University

Besides remaining Director of CENFAD, **Alan McPherson** had an active publishing year. Since spring 2023, he published three peer-reviewed single-author articles: "Sandino in Mexico: The Perils of Anti-Imperialist Alliances," in *The Latin Americanist*; "Protecting a President and Graymailing Courts: Iran-Contra and Obstruction of Justice," in *Presidential Studies Quarterly*; and "The Most Marketable Political Commodity': Oliver North, Iran-Contra, and American Domestic Politics," in *Modern American History*. He got a fourth article accepted for publication in the *Law and History Review* titled "'Above the Written Law': Iran-Contra and the Mirage of the Rule of Law." He also had two book chapters

published: "U.S. Public Diplomacy Responses to Anti-Americanism in 1960s Latin America," in [*U.S. Public Diplomacy Strategies in Latin America during the Sixties: Time for Persuasion*](#), edited by Francisco Rodríguez-Jiménez, Lorenzo Delgado, and Benedetta Calandra for Routledge, and "Prólogo," in [*El Americano imposible: Estados Unidos y América Latina entre la modernización y la contrainsurgencia*](#), edited by the same team for Sílex in Madrid. He presented at conferences in Vancouver, Canada; Arlington, Virginia; and San Francisco. In fall 2023, Catalonia Press of Chile published the Spanish-language version of *Ghosts of Sheridan Circle* titled *Matar a Letelier: el crimen que puso al banquillo el régimen de Pinochet*. Finally, he signed a contract with the University of North Carolina Press to publish his next book, *The Breach: Iran-Contra and the Assault on American Democracy*, in spring 2025.

Dr. Matthew K. Shannon Emory & Henry College

Matthew Shannon has completed a new book that will be published and available for purchase in June. The book is titled [*Mission Manifest: American Evangelicals and Iran in the Twentieth Century*](#). The book focuses on the centrality of evangelical missionaries to US-Iranian relations in the decades prior to the 1970 Iranian Revolution. In the book, Dr. Shannon outlines how US foreign relations became entangled with messianic ideals of Christian evangelicalism by examining the influence of missionaries on religion, development programs, international education, and cultural associations. Dr. Shannon's book is

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available through Cornell University Press.



Dr. Urwin with Jay D. Smith Award (Credit: Dr. Gregory J.W. Urwin)

Dr. Gregory J. W. Urwin **Temple University**

Gregory J.W. Urwin, professor of history, received the 2023 Jay D. Smith Award last June from the Little Bighorn Associates for his first book, *Custer Victorious: The Civil War Battles of General George Armstrong Custer*. The LBHA reserves the Smith Award for Custer classics that it missed honoring closer to their publication. Originally released in 1983, *Custer Victorious* has remained in print continuously for forty-one years.

Urwin organized a panel on “Image Development, Tactical Innovation, and POWs in the West: New Research on the American Revolutionary War” for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, which was held in Arlington, Virginia, April 18-21. He also presented a paper for that panel titled “Necessary to be Practiced by a

Battalion Going on American Service’: Reconstructing the Revival of the British Light Infantry.”

Finally, Urwin helped organize CENFAD’s recent successful conference, All Roads Lead to Gettysburg, held at Temple University Center City, April 6, 2024.



Brandon Kinney, PhD Candidate **Temple University**

Brandon Kinney, a former Davis Fellow and current PhD candidate at Temple, has been busy writing during the 2023-24 school year. As a recipient of the Dissertation Completion Grant for the spring semester, he is hoping to defend his dissertation, “West German-American Fête Diplomacy, 1945-1955,” during the summer. In the past school year, Brandon has had two peer-review articles published: “‘Poor Devils’: German Contributions to American Flood Relief and the Early Cold War,” in *Cold War History* and “Transnational Organizations and Canadian-American Environmental Diplomacy, 1890-1930,” in *Diplomacy and Statecraft*. He has also recently had two articles accepted for publication that are currently under production: “Fête Diplomacy and The American Military Government’s

Cultural Mission in Postwar Germany,” in the *Journal of Military History*, and “The ‘Bridge Character’: Carl Schurz and Memory in German-American Rapprochement,” in the *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*.



**Ryan Langton, PhD Candidate
Temple University**

Ryan Langton, a former Davis Fellow, was awarded the David Center for the American Revolution Predoctoral Fellowship at the American Philosophical Society for the 2024-2025 academic year. He will also have an article, titled "The Murder of Justice: Personal Networks and the Meaning of Justice in Trustee-Era Georgia," appear in the forthcoming edition of *Native South*.



**Lucas de Souza Martins, PhD Student
Temple University**

Lucas de Souza Martins (PhD Student, Temple) became a [Graduate Fellow](#) at the Wilson Center's Cold War Archives Research (CWAR) Institute last Fall. The two-semester long program trains graduate students through a combination of online seminars, discussions, and in-person research experience at Cold War archives. This coming summer, Martins is scheduled to present his research on the relationship between President Jimmy Carter's administration and Brazil at Eotvos Lorand University (Budapest, Hungary) in May, and also at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Conference in Bogotá, Colombia in June. In addition, during the past academic year, he provided commentary on the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election to major media outlets at home, such as [CNN Brazil](#), [Jovem Pan News](#), and [Radio Bandeirantes](#).

**Casey VanSise, PhD Candidate
Temple University**

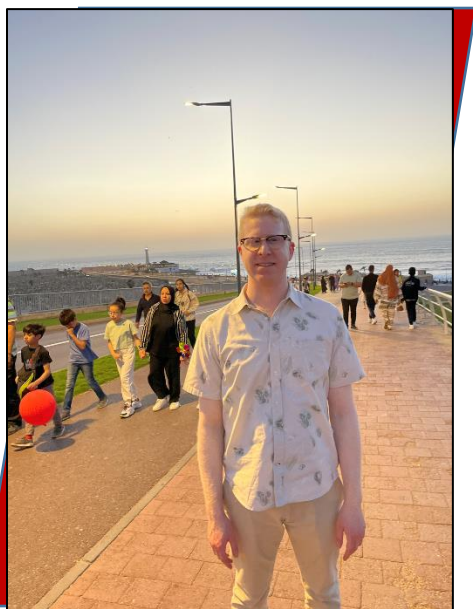
Casey VanSise, a Temple History PhD Candidate and former Davis Fellow

(2021-22), received both a Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) and a Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy from CENFAD in Fall 2023. Additionally, in March 2024, he won the Richard K. Davis and Karen L. Rylander-Davis Research Award offered by Temple University's College of Liberal Arts in support of his intended research in the Andes.

To have your news included in future editions of *Strategic Visions*, make sure to contact the current Davis Fellow via email or through social media!

Research Reports

This section contains brief reports from student who have benefitted from CENFAD provided funding in completing their research. To find out more about the funding opportunities offered by CENFAD, please look at our [funding page](#).



Ethan Cohen, PhD Candidate Temple University

I have benefitted several times from CENFAD funding, having previously received the Jeffrey Bower Endowed Research Fellowship, two Marvin Wachman Fellowships in Force and Diplomacy, and the Richard Immerman Research Award.

I am currently researching in Tangier, where a tourist brochure from 1929 matches nearly verbatim contemporary marketing for the city, stating “Here the Orient is discovered... utterly different civilizations have been drawn together... gateway of Morrocco... charm... threshold of the East.” Freudian historian like Anne McClintock would have a field day!

The idea of “utterly different civilizations” operates as the uniting theme of my chapters in progress. Also, my search for women in the archive has led me to colonial hospitals and schools. With a little creativity this archive is rich, except for the total absence of women of color in their own words.

As I connect the colonial with the metropolitan, for example through 1920s hygiene discourse around North Africa, I think I can show how profoundly colonialism affected culture.

Brandon Kinney PhD Candidate Temple University

It is due to the generous funding and incredible of donors and the Center for the Student of Force and Diplomacy that students like me are able to conduct the latest historical research in diplomatic and military history.

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As a fortunate recipient of the Richard Immerman Research Award and Mengel Family Scholarship Fund, I was able to complete the primary research in archives in both the United States and Germany in support of my in-process dissertation on West German-American cultural reconciliation after the Second World War. These awards helped to defray the costs of travel and research at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, MD, the Institute for the History of Frankfurt in Frankfurt am Main (in the shadow of St. Paul's Church, a central cultural site of my dissertation), and the Hessian Central State Archives in Wiesbaden. In these archives, I was able to discover how state and non-state actors in West Germany and the United States used shared celebrations as a means of cultural reconciliation and solidifying the ideological Atlantic world during the Cold War. In enabling me to travel widely to various archives, this funding has helped me to tell a story that is multilingual and transatlantic in scope.

Owing to the incredible support of CENFAD, this research has also resulted in two forthcoming peer-reviewed articles (derived from dissertation chapters), to be published in the *Journal of Military History* and the *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*.



Casey VanSise, PhD Candidate Temple University

As a History PhD Candidate at Temple University whose ongoing dissertation work focuses on US relations with heterodox military governments in Bolivia, Panama, and Peru during the Cold War that contributed to the development of the Reagan Doctrine, my research endeavors both within the United States and abroad have been made possible from the generous funding that I received via the Marvin Wachman Fellowship in Force and Diplomacy during the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 academic years.

In October 2022, I was able to apply around one-third of the \$3000 of Wachman funds that I received in the spring of that same year toward covering transportation, accommodation, and meal expenses while performing archival research on materials from the John Birch Society collection at Brown University's John Hay Library. Much of the remainder of those Wachman funds from Spring 2022 would later cover transportation and meal expenses while I was pursuing research on assorted collections at the Hoover Institution Library and Archives on the Stanford

University campus in March 2023. Thereafter, another Wachman Fellowship in the amount of \$2500 that I was granted in Spring 2023 (in tandem with \$720 of leftover Wachman funds from Spring 2022) allowed me to pursue extensive research in Panama during Summer 2023 at locations including the Panamanian Foreign Ministry archives, the National Library of Panama, the Simon Bolivar Inter-American Library at the University of Panama, the Panamanian Center for Research and Social Action (CEASPA), and the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal by covering my accommodation, travel, and meal expenses.

Having received a further \$2100 in Wachman Fellowship funding during the Fall 2023 semester, I look forward to applying this toward supporting planned research trips in Bolivia and Peru during the upcoming summer of 2024. I thank CENFAD for the myriad ways in which their support has facilitated my research!

Elías Gonzalez, CENFAD Emerging Scholar Graduate Award Winner

Elías Gonzalez received the 2023 CENFAD Emerging Scholar Award, which provides funding for one three-credit course per semester over two years. In the following conversation, Elías describes his research interests, how he came to Temple, and how his family has inspired his work.

JJ: Tell us a bit about your research.

EG: The research I submitted for the program was generated for the application because I hadn't really worked in the field. I was politically involved, and into history, but I didn't really have any kind of formal training. It was my chance to put my ideas together and figure out what I was going to do. So, it started with the conflict between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which is something I am still interested in, but as I got into the program I think I was able to narrow down my interest. Now I am focused on the 1965 US intervention. My parents and my grandmother come from that time period, so it drew my interest.

JJ: What got you interested in Temple? Was it because of the scholarship opportunity?

EG: Actually, the scholarship had nothing to do with it. To be honest with you, I applied to Temple because I went there for undergrad. I've always just respected Temple's academic stamp. It was a familiar place, and I had a friend who was one of the people who helped me on my reading journey. She was involved at Temple with her PhD in Anthropology. I knew there were positive elements at Temple showing they were serious about scholarship and studies.

JJ: It's cool that you were able to do that, and that you got the scholarship. You went from not having written a serious history paper to getting financial support. I can only imagine how awesome that must have felt.

EG: It felt really good. My parents were very proud.

JJ: How has your first year been? Have you had any favorite classes?

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EG: I think it's going great. This is what I needed without being able to pinpoint it. I wanted to learn how to improve my writing and read with intention. I knew I needed training. From my first methods class with Rita Kreuger, I got that sense of security that this was what I wanted to do. That class helped me narrow down what I wanted to study, along with Archives and Manuscripts with Margery Sly.

JJ: What has it been like being able to attend CENFAD lectures along with those classes? Has that helped you see what it's like to be a historian in the field?

EG: Actually, yeah! I didn't know what to expect in the lectures. I like to attend the talks, the Barnes Conference, and even the Gettysburg Conference that CENFAD just hosted. I think it helps you see that the field is not dead. There's a lot of research to be had, and there are a lot of topics to discuss. Gettysburg, for example, shows that there's multiple research angles for a singular event. It was good for me because these talks have helped me see what it takes.

JJ: I'm glad that you have had this opportunity, and I hope that your experience continues to be productive and meaningful. It's rare to get an opportunity for financial support in this way.

EG: It is. I'm thankful for it. I also want to mention the support I've received from my grandma. This is where I get emotional. That's my motivation, right? Not just her, but my family. What really drew me to this topic has been my family because I'm just so interested in us, who we are, and why we are the way that we are.

JJ: I completely understand what you're voicing. We'll make sure your parents get a

digital copy of this to read so they can see how they influence you.

EG: Okay, that sounds good.

JJ: Yeah! Thanks for taking the time to speak with me.

EG: No problem. Thanks, Joseph!

A Conversation with Dr. Michael Brenes



The following interview was conducted with Dr. Michael Brenes several weeks after his visit and lecture at CENFAD. We discussed the scope of his research, his methodological approach, plus the ins and outs of his position as Co-Director of the Brady Johnson Program at Yale University.

Michael Brenes: Hey, Joe!

Joseph Johnson: Hey, Dr. Brenes. I appreciate you taking time out of your holiday to speak with me.

MB: No worries!

JJ: I have a few questions about your work, research, and experience speaking at CENFAD this semester. But to start, could you briefly summarize the argument of your book *For Might and Right* for our readers?

MB: Yeah! I was interested in how the military-industrial complex in the United States, or how the formation of a political economy in the United States centered around producing things for the military and how it shapes democracy.

I was attracted to this because of what was happening then. Around 2011-2012, I started thinking about this project, so almost fifteen years ago. I was interested in the rise of the right, how the right had shaped the Bush administration, and the contradictions inherent in the right's call for reduced government and tax cuts. But then, spending on the military seemed fundamental in shaping the state beyond military spending.

Again, if you're interested in a political economy, military spending creates jobs and industry, which creates communities out of defense spending. I thought that was a contradiction at the time, which I don't anymore. How does that contradiction shape politics and political economy regarding military spending. And then, how does that translate to an enduring military-industrial complex and defense industry?

The defense industry has a long history in the United States, but it was never seen as a permanent expansive entity until after the Cold War. I wondered why that happened. Why is it in a democratic context like the United States? Why does it happen,

considering the United States' historical reluctance to adopt standing militaries and standing military industries?

Again, I was interested in the rise of the right and started delving into conservative literature. I began to realize that this wasn't really a conservative story. This is a history of liberalism and how

liberals mobilized behind the national security state. Liberal Democrats are the largest supporters of a greater presence for the United States abroad, but also spending at home to fulfill that promise of keeping democracy safe. So, this was a liberal story that became a conservative story.

JJ: How did you approach the chronology for the development of the military-industrial complex?

MB: I thought I'd take on the entire Cold War, which led me to an expansive research agenda to figure out where I would put my energies regarding how these chapters were built. I decided to make a series of decisions around my research, based on case studies in the book. I used a lot of newspapers and archives from senators and congress people, as well as the presidential papers of Harry Truman. I did not do so much with Eisenhower, so I did not use that.

I realized that if I want to understand the permanent military-industrial complex and how it has grown, I need to understand top-down decision-making, how that relates to people on the bottom level getting jobs, and what

that means. That meant looking into congressional archives, presidential archives, local newspapers, and correspondence between constituents and their representatives. Some of it also meant getting into the archives of labor unions to understand how labor experiences the defense industry.

If you read the book, you can see that the chapters begin with high policy-making and then go into how workers experienced the defense industry in their communities. My overall conclusion is that this is not a right-wing story, it is not a left-wing story, and it is not a liberal service story. It is a story of how American democracy is fundamentally reshaped by bipartisan support for this defense industry, and that is why it is so enduring. No party holds exclusive ownership of the defense industry. People benefit from it for all sorts of material and ideological reasons, and that's a bipartisan project.

JJ: Thank you for the summary and for digging into your book's scope. The topic is very capacious, and you tried to cover everything, which is a huge feat. Because of the book's expansive methodological approach and the various archives used, did you experience any difficulty getting into these collections? I can imagine that archives for labor unions, corporations, and some government organizations are quite tricky to access, especially if you have something critical to say.

MB: Yeah, it was the trickiest in some situations. If I wanted to do this project justice, how would I get funding for it

“No party holds exclusive ownership of the defense industry. People benefit from it for all sorts of material and ideological reasons, and that’s a bipartisan project.”

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like the general funding? I was fortunate to receive grants from my university, and I had a large external grant that allowed me to travel on the West Coast, starting with the Reagan and Nixon libraries, then San Francisco and Palo Alto for the Hoover archives, and things like that.

I organized my research agenda around what money I had and the time I had. I was fortunate to have relatives outside of the Hagley Library in Delaware, in Pennsylvania. One of my aunts worked for DuPont, so she lived in the area. I didn't have to pay for hotels, they fed me and sheltered me.

More to your question, I was concerned about bringing this together in a holistic way. It was haphazard at first. The first chapter I wrote was the second chapter, which was essential to me. I wanted to figure out the structure of the book. It's not just about the Cold War and the military-industrial complex but about these crisis moments when it looks like a drawdown in the Cold War. There's a cut in defense spending or a foreign policy crisis in the form of Vietnam that looks like it will move the enterprise somehow.

I wanted to know what happened when people mobilized for the first time around the impact of the Cuban Missile Crisis and how it influenced the idea that we maybe shouldn't carry out a Cold War in the style of the 1950s. That was built around an arms race and brinkmanship, so how do we rethink how much money we're spending on that? The military and congressional folks are thinking along these terms, and labor is thinking along these terms,

and here is a moment where they all come together.

It wasn't like I had a blueprint. And I did not have a series of books that I referenced methodologically. Instead, I had to figure this out for myself and how it made sense to me, and if it did not work, it did not work. I stirred it again and again to figure it out. I knew what I wanted to tell and how the national story reinforced the local story.

JJ: It is interesting to reflect on how you built this telescoping narrative that reinforces events at the national and local levels. Just thinking about your aunt, who worked for DuPont, shows the ubiquity of this experience and how the military-industrial complex impacts daily lives.

MB: I think that's right, and people don't necessarily think it informs their politics. Even if it doesn't, it informs their material connections regarding what they extract from this industry. I think, in some ways, that forms their opinions about things. Maybe it is not related to politics, but it is related to their community and the fact their community is dependent upon this industry. That connection forces them to mobilize in certain ways, especially when their jobs or communities are threatened with losing funds.

JJ: Since we have spoken so much about your book, I think it is important to highlight that CENFAD was the venue for your second-ever book talk. What was that experience like?

MB: My first was at Wesleyan, and I did a few podcasts because the book came out in October 2020, right in the middle of Zoom, pre-vaccines, and the height of

COVID. So everything was online and on Zoom then.

I knew about CENFAD before coming to lecture, and I knew of Alan McPherson and the work that was being done there. I didn't know what to expect. Of course, you never really know what to expect. I didn't know if I would talk to five people or twenty. I was pleasantly surprised that it seemed to be more like forty. The room was packed, and there was a really interesting, eclectic group of people. That's the kind of work I think is crucial right now for anyone who studies formulations of the US in the world. It was an interdisciplinary group with people from political science, history, economics, and philosophy. We try to do that here at the Institute for Security Studies at Yale. We bring together political scientists, economists, and historians to discuss issues of security and foreign policy.

That was really fantastic. I think having that kind of community where you are all coming from different perspectives, and respective of those perspectives, is really cool. The act of giving the talk was also something I was pleased to do because I hadn't done it many times. When I got the email asking me to come give a talk I was more than thrilled. It was clear that this was a group of people who came at my topic from interesting perspectives respectfully, but also in a way that challenged what I was trying to say. Having those conversations is really important to me because I don't really find solace in

talking to the same five people who agree with the same five things I say.

CENFAD is one of those places that I think are increasingly rare, and it's important to hold steadfast to those institutions and try to build.

JJ: Thank you for that. With CENFAD in mind, could you describe more about your current position at Yale with the Brady-Johnson Program? What is that, and how does it work?

MB: I'm Co-Director of the Brady-Johnson Program. The program has been around for almost twenty-five years, starting in 2000. It was formed by Yale professors John Lewis Gaddis and Paul Kennedy, and Charlie Hill, who worked as a diplomat. The story goes that the three of them were talking about the Clinton

administration and NATO expansion, saying that there did not seem to be a grand strategy behind Clinton's foreign policy. He did not seem to understand that expanding NATO could lead to a host of repercussions that might not be good for US-Russian relations. After commiserating, they agreed that they needed to teach grand strategy.

The idea was to create a class to attract graduate students who would think these things through. They found that graduate students were not altogether interested in the topic because they were focused on narrow topics, as graduate school demands. So, they turned to undergrads, who were much more willing to take on the sort of broad thinking that they wanted to do. They

“CENFAD is one of those places that I think are increasingly rare, and it's important to hold steadfast to those institutions and try to build.”

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decided that it shouldn't be a class but a year-long program, and that is where the program is today.

The program is for one year and starts in the spring running through the fall, with a summer component included. Students have to apply to get into the program. We select around twenty students for the program. We teach the original visions using classic strategy texts, like Thucydides and Clausewitz. That is what they were teaching twenty years ago, but the program has evolved since then.

Nothing that's good stays in its place, it should evolve. It shouldn't be static. Given that strategy has changed, our ideas of teaching strategy have changed. In the spring we teach Martin Luther King Jr. as a strategist, or Marx and Lenin as strategists. The students who apply to the program aren't just interested in military history. They're interested in military strategy, climate change, or labor policy. If they're interested in mass incarceration or gender violence in a conflict zone, these students wouldn't necessarily fall into the rubric of grand strategy. But they are taking the class and we're hoping to give students a bigger sense of what problems are and how to tackle them.

JJ: It is awesome to hear everything that you are doing in terms of education and programming. I know that you have had a member of the Temple history department there this year. What has it been like having a Temple student on board?

MB: Well, we have a Temple grad who is also currently assistant director of the program, Katie O'Connell. She's fantastic. We also have a current

Temple student, Graydon Dennison, who's great. What we like about what Graydon is doing, is that he's a pre-doctoral fellow. We try to bring in people who are doing important work on US foreign relations, but might not necessarily have an Ivy League background and try to give them an opportunity to get immersed in what's happening here.

We're trying to broaden our understanding of what we do at the ISS outside of Yale. He has been fantastic and has become part of a ten- or eleven-person core we have here in grand strategy. We'd like to keep the CENFAD/Temple connection going. So, if you have more Temple students you want to send to me, please tell them to apply.

JJ: I'm sure our students would like to read that. And I'm sure that seeing one of our current students there would encourage others to apply. Thank you for all of this information. I just have one final question. Do you have any upcoming works currently in production?

MB: I just published an edited volume with Daniel Bessner called *Rethinking US World Power: Domestic Histories of US Foreign Relations*. That's an edited volume that just came out with Palgrave Macmillan a couple of weeks ago. I have a book coming out with political scientist Van Jackson that's on what's called "the rivalry peril," or how great power competition threatens peace and democracy. That will be published by Yale University Press sometime in the fall or winter. Then, I am working on a proposal for a book on a history of the War on Terror. I'm trying to take the entirety of the War on

Terror, actually pushing back against the idea that it began in 2001, but instead it began in the 1990s. That's the next project, and it is still in the research phase. Hopefully it will come out before 2030.

JJ: Well, congratulations on your recent and upcoming publications. I wish you the best of luck researching the War on Terror. Thank you again for taking this time.

MB: It was a pleasure, Joe.

Dr. Brenes's lecture can be viewed [here](#).

A Conversation with Dr. Stephanie Freeman



*This interview with Dr. Stephanie Freeman was conducted a week before her visit to CENFAD. We discuss her recent publication, *Dreams for a Decade*, and her current position at the Department of State's Office of the Historian.*

Stephanie Freeman: Hey, Joseph!

Joseph Johnson: Hey, Dr. Freeman, thank you for joining me today.

SF: Thank you for asking me!

JJ: Of course! Could you briefly summarize your research for our readers?

SF: Before we proceed, I will offer a disclaimer that “the views expressed here are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of State or the U.S. Government.” I'd also like to add that the book we'll discuss was

published before I entered government service.

My book is titled *Dreams for a Decade: International Nuclear Abolitionism and the End of the Cold*

War. In it, I examine the nuclear abolitionist influence on the course of the Cold War's last decade, which I define as 1979 to 1989. This was really a unique decade during which this radical goal of nuclear abolition

enjoyed support from grassroots movements around the world and from the leaders of the two superpowers, Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev.

When I use the term nuclear abolitionist, I'm using it to refer to both grassroots activists and government leaders who pursued the elimination of nuclear weapons. You can see that nuclear abolitionism made for strange bedfellows in the 1980s. It brings together coalitions who share this ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons. They have very different strategies and very different timetables for how to achieve this and, oftentimes, are at odds, but they do ultimately want a world without nuclear weapons.

I'm interested in the ideas of these grassroots and government nuclear abolitionists, the interactions between these actors, and how their ideas and contacts transformed US and Soviet foreign policy in the 1980s. So, the main argument I'm making in this book is that nuclear abolitionists played a significant role in ending the Cold War.

Together, abolitionists actually shifted US and Soviet nuclear arms control paradigms from arms limitation to reduction. So, instead of just limiting the increase of nuclear weapons, the superpowers focused on reducing their nuclear arsenals.

I argue that this new emphasis on arms reduction paved the way for the reversal of the US-Soviet nuclear arms race, which I say began with the signing of the 1987 Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, or

IMF Treaty. This landmark agreement eliminated an entire class of nuclear weapons. I also make the case in the book that European activists influenced Gorbachev's common European home initiative and his support for the idea of freedom of choice. This prevented Gorbachev from intervening in the 1989 Eastern European revolutions that tore the fabric of the Iron Curtain and helped end the Cold War division of Europe. The big takeaway is that you cannot understand the end of the Cold War without taking into account nuclear abolitionists.

JJ: Let's start with that term, "nuclear abolitionist." As you mentioned, these groups do not necessarily see this process unfolding the same way; even within the Nuclear Freeze Campaign, the groups coming together are eclectic. Since you're working with so many groups at odds, did you experience difficulty making your archives speak to one another?

"I'm interested in the ideas of these grassroots and government nuclear abolitionists, the interactions between these actors, and how their ideas and contacts transformed US and Soviet foreign policy in the 1980s."

SF: I'm trying to connect these grassroots activists and government officials working on nuclear issues, notably Reagan and Gorbachev, at the highest level. Luckily, I did find sources in the archives where you see government officials specifically referring to its impact on their thinking. Reagan, for example, met with Helen Caldicott, arguably the most famous anti-nuclear activist in the world in the 1980s. They met at the White House in December 1982 in a meeting arranged by Reagan's daughter, Patty Davis, who was very active in the anti-nuclear movement and critical of her father's policies. It's pretty dramatic. Reagan writes about it in his autobiography, and Helen writes about it in her memoir. It's a striking meeting where Reagan directly engages with this famous anti-nuclear activist. And later, he refers to her in National Security Council (NSC) meetings on arms control.

Reagan was very dismayed by growing support for these grassroots anti-nuclear movements because they were advocating disarmament strategies. The Nuclear Freeze in the United States and the European Nuclear Disarmament (END) campaign were very different from his "peace through strength" strategy. He thought that the Freeze and END would actually endanger US national security and that this would not help bring about nuclear arms reduction. He had to prove the merits of his "peace through strength" strategy, and you see him referring to these

grassroots activists to do it, which I found very striking.

On the Soviet side, we see Gorbachev directly engaging with anti-nuclear and peace activists at a three-day "Forum for a Nuclear Free World and the Survival of Humanity," which took place in Moscow in February 1987. This huge three-day conference brought activists, socialists, and left-leaning politicians together. Gorbachev goes to the conference and mingles with activists. Later, he says that his conversations with activists really shaped his decision later that month to pursue an IMF Treaty separately from agreements on strategic

arms reduction or strategic defense. And to me, this decision by Gorbachev to pursue the IMF Treaty was critical for making the IMF Treaty possible. So, I do have evidence of government leaders directly engaging with activists and referring to the impact of these engagements on their thinking and policymaking. I really try to highlight that in my book.

JJ: It feels so rare to see high-level officials discussing these citizen-level actors, even if they are transnational in their impact. Is this an oddity of this moment? Why do they seem to have Reagan and Gorbachev's ears?

SF: It kind of is an oddity of this moment. Reagan and Gorbachev have the same ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons. I think that makes them uniquely attuned to activists' ideas, arguments, and proposals, even if they're not always adopting specific

"Reagan and Gorbachev have the same ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons... They are paying attention to these movements because they share the same aim."

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proposals. They are paying attention to these movements because they share the same aim.

One of the broader points I make in the book is that, for grassroots anti-nuclear activists to have policy influence it is really important to have allies in government. I think this is one of the reasons these activists could have policy influence in a way that earlier iterations of the movement did not. One of the key things is that you have people in power in the United States and the Soviet Union who share the same goal. I think the fact that Reagan and Gorbachev were themselves nuclear abolitionists makes them sit up and pay attention to these movements.

JJ: That is an interesting generational gap to highlight. I experience this gap in my research when looking at movements in the 1950s and 1960s where the activist voice is not quite as clear and present in the politics of the time. It is interesting that it was so vibrant in the 1980s, even from government officials.

SF: Right? They're paying attention to it; they're talking about it. Reagan's talking about it in NSC meetings! When I'm in the archives, you don't get much better than that feeling that there is clear proof of Reagan grappling with activism and it is influencing his administration's policy. The same goes for Gorbachev.

JJ: I have another question about the archive for you. What was it like working with such recent material? Did you run into obstacles with classified materials? Or have you encountered criticism that your research is current affairs and not history?

SF: I was fortunate when I started working on this project – initially the dissertation. I started working on it around 2013, and we were seeing a lot of declassification of materials in the US from the Reagan administration and the George H.W. Bush administration. I drew on government archives in Europe, the National Archives of the United Kingdom in particular. They are pretty excellent at declassifying material after 25 or 30 years. I certainly benefited from the fact that it had been 25 to 30 years since these events.

In terms of declassification, I wasn't really sure what I was going to find in the archive because this was more recent and because it dealt with nuclear issues, which are obviously sensitive. However, I was fortunate to be the beneficiary of declassification requests made by other scholars, which made the material available.

One interesting thing about working in the 1980s is that when I present my work, oftentimes, there will be folks in the audience who participated in the June 12th, 1982, Anti-Nuclear March and rally in New York City or who were active at the grassroots level. Sometimes, I feel like the protagonists in my research are coming to life to argue with me in person, which is an exciting experience. Similarly, some folks served in the Reagan administration who have been at talks I've given. It's interesting to present your work about campaigns and then have people who were part of those events listen and give their reflections.

JJ: It sounds rewarding to have an ongoing dialogue on history with someone who participated in that event. It's rare to have someone in a lecture

stand up and say they were present at a historical event, no less to argue with you about it.

SF: It certainly is rewarding. One time, I had to give a presentation in front of Mary Caldor, a leading figure in the END movement and someone I deeply respect. I was quite nervous to present this work to her, but it's a wonderful opportunity to engage with these people and hear their memories and thoughts about my work, which is largely based on archival material rather than interviews. It's a great opportunity, although a little nerve-wracking when you're going into it.

JJ: Considering your interaction with government officials, I also wanted to ask about your current role in the Office of the Historian for the Department of State. Has that been central to bringing you into conversations with policymakers? Also, what has it been like transitioning from the classroom into a government historian?

SF: I'll say right off the bat that it's a wonderful position. For me, it is honestly a dream job. I work on the policy studies team within the Office of the Historian. I generate supportive policy-oriented historical research for Department of State officials in Washington, D.C. I am also posted abroad. I handle requests related to Europe and Eurasia.

I absolutely love doing historical research, which is why I became a historian. The chance to use my subject matter expertise to help policymakers grapple with today's difficult issues has been a wonderful opportunity, and I feel very lucky that I am able to do this job. Every day is a little bit different. You never know what requests will come in or the completion timeline. It has been a rewarding experience thus far.

"I absolutely love doing historical research, which is why I became a historian. The chance to use my subject matter expertise to help policymakers grapple with today's difficult issues has been a wonderful opportunity, and I feel very lucky that I am able to do this job."

I will give a shout out just in case readers are not aware of the *Foreign Relations of the United States* (FRUS) series that our office publishes. That is not something that I work on, but it is a major project that the Office of the Historian

undertakes. It is the official documentary history of US foreign policy and diplomacy. All the FRUS volumes are available online, for free, at history.state.gov. It is a really wonderful resource for research and teaching. I went back to some of the FRUS volumes from the Reagan years when I was finishing up *Dreams for a Decade*. I was working as a professor at Mississippi State, and I would regularly use FRUS documents in the classroom or assign them to my students. If anyone reading this newsletter is not familiar with FRUS, check it out!

JJ: You said that this job has been a "dream." Is this the career path you imagined during graduate school? Or was it something that you found yourself doing on the side? Finally,

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what advice would you give to graduate students seeking roles outside the traditional tenure-track academic job?

SF: When I was in grad school, I always wanted to keep my options open because the academic job market, or even federal historian jobs like mine, is very unpredictable. You don't know what will be available year to year. It also feels like COVID-19 throttled hiring in academia.

I tried to be open to different career paths, and I would certainly advise other grad students today to do the same. After leaving the University of Virginia, I had a couple of postdocs, and both of those were focused on applied history. Specifically, they focused on how history can be used to support policymakers and people working on current issues. Both programs were interdisciplinary and brought together historians and political scientists. I then did a tenure-track job at Mississippi State, which was a great position, but I'd always had my eye on the Office of the Historian.

When the opportunity to apply for my current position arose, it felt too good to pass up, so I decided to apply. I would say to current students to keep their options open and try to get as much experience as they can in different areas.

JJ: Thank you for the sound advice. In closing, do you have any upcoming projects in the pipeline? Are you working on any new publications?

SF: Right now, I am working on peace activism in the post-Cold War era. I'm interested in what some of these activists who helped end the Cold War

did after the Cold War ended. At the time, it seemed like anything might be possible.

I'm also working on a journal article on the Helsinki Citizens Assembly, and its efforts to create a peaceful, democratic, and integrated Europe. In the 1990s many of the key figures in my book, particularly those in the END movement, turned their attention to the Helsinki Citizens Assembly and were very optimistic about creating a new Europe. Assembly supporters and activists reached the heights of power in places like Poland and Czechoslovakia in 1989 and 1990. Initially it seemed like this group would be well positioned to shape the contours of the post-Cold War order in Europe. Though we know they were unable to create this Europe, I'm interested in why that is the case. It is still in the early days, but that's what I'm working on right now.

JJ: Sounds fascinating. I hope that our readers will keep an eye out for it in the future. Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me. We are all excited to meet you for your lecture next week.

SF: Thank you for asking me to do this interview! I look forward to coming to Temple next week!

The “All Roads Lead to Gettysburg Conference”: A Retrospective

On April 6, 2024, CENFAD hosted the “All Roads Lead to Gettysburg Conference” at the Temple University Center City Campus. The day was filled with exciting and varied perspectives on the Battle of Gettysburg, leading to a rich and vibrant conference for all in attendance. Below is a look back at that day, including the opening remarks offered by Dr. Gregory J.W. Urwin, a copy of the poster, a snapshot of the full program, testimonials from those in attendance, and pictures of the participants.

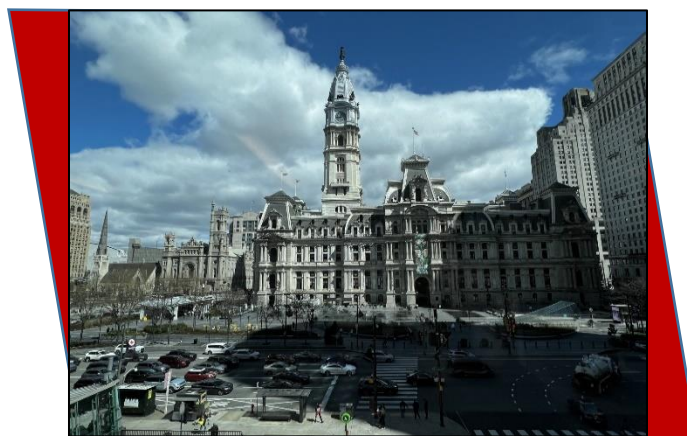
“Welcoming Remarks” by Dr. Greg Urwin

“More than a year ago, Dr. Alan McPherson, CENFAD’s director, generously offered me the funding to help him organize a conference on a theme of my choosing. My current research focuses on the American War of Independence, but Philadelphia, the birthplace of American independence, is full of institutions that offer plenty of public programs on that topic. Philadelphia also played an important role in the Civil War, which just happened to be the field in which I began my career. Two boyhood trips to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania – as much as anything else – fueled my ambition to become a military historian, and I felt irresistibly drawn – with my retirement just a few years in the future – to

return to Gettysburg in this intellectual setting.

Many consider Gettysburg the most popular topic in Civil War studies, and cynics might call it the most overworked. I, for one, would not contest either point. Nevertheless, Gettysburg continues to inspire keen-minded scholars who find ways to shed new light on America’s bloodiest battle and its place in history and memory. I am pleased and honored to find myself surrounded by such special people – both established practitioners of the historian’s art and the rising talent who will take their places among the giants. It is especially fitting that this assemblage includes Dr. Troy D. Harman, whose 2022 book, *All Roads Led to Gettysburg: A New Look at the Civil War’s Pivotal Campaign*, gave me the idea for our conference title.

With Troy and all the other folks listed in the conference program poised to illuminate us, you can be sure that this is going to be a memorable day. So, let’s get to it.”



View from the Conference Hall (Credit: Dr. Cristina Alvarez)



Conference Attendees (Credit: Dr. Gregory J.W. Urwin)



A full audience in the middle of the day (Credit: Dr. Alan McPherson)



Conference Organizers (left to right): Dr. Alan McPherson, Joseph Johnson, and Dr. Gregory J.W. Urwin (Credit: Dr. Gregory J.W. Urwin)

Testimonials

Our guests and panelists shared the following statements about the conference.

“I think the event was a wonderful success, especially given the local competition, and you did a wonderful job putting it together and balancing all sort of constituencies.” – Dr. Brooks D. Simpson, *Arizona State University*

“It was truly an honor to have been presenting alongside such an impressive group of scholars. I am so very grateful for the experience.” – Morgan Rowe, *London School of Economics*

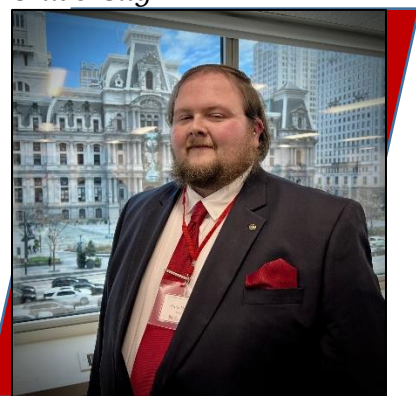
“You organized such a wonderful conference and Saturday proved to be an invigorating and energizing day! The diversity of papers and speakers was a wonderful testament to the enduring power and appeal of the Battle of Gettysburg. I was thrilled to be part of the line-up.” – Dr. Jennifer M. Murray, *Oklahoma State University*

“It was an honor to speak at the conference... I do look forward to continuing the work, and hopefully turning the research into my dissertation. On another note, my co-presenters have agreed to join me for a summer symposium at Seminary Ridge in August, focusing on Gettysburg veterans’ reunions. So the three of us will take the stage again this year.” – Peter Miele, *Pennsylvania State University*

“I will admit, I was exceptionally nervous to get up in front of that room in front of so many names whose books and articles I have read for years, whose faces I’ve seen on CSPAN and PCN for so much of my life.... With that

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being said, once I stood up there and once I started speaking, I got into the rhythm of the moment, and the nerves melted away. And I was exceptionally and immensely glad that I had made the trip. Not only because I heard immensely fascinating talks from incredible historians I grew up reading and watching, but from talented fellow graduate students – one or two of whom I’ve started communicating with in hopes of collaborating on publishing projects in the near future. So I wouldn’t be too terribly surprised if you see Dr. Urwin and Dr. McPherson thanked for bringing together some co-authors on articles in the future.” – Hans G. Myers, *Case Western University*



Panelist Hans G. Myers (Credit: Dr. Cristina Alvarez)

“All Roads Lead to Gettysburg’ was an excellently organized and managed conference that brought together experts on a wide variety of topics from varied perspectives. Because it focused on newer scholarship, it was particularly valuable for participants seeking to expand their knowledge of the Gettysburg Campaign and related topics.” Dr. James S. Pula, *Purdue University Northwest*

“Speaking with attendees, I got the impression that everyone was excited about the event – certainly the large number of participants speaks to that

point.” – Dr. Alexandre Caillot, *Temple University Alum*

The poster features the Temple University logo and the Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy (CENFAD) logo at the top. It is flanked by five red stars on each side. The main title is "ALL ROADS LEAD TO GETTYSBURG" in large, bold, black letters, with "A CENFAD CONFERENCE" underneath. Below the title is a historical painting of soldiers on horseback in a field, with a large stone archway in the background. The bottom section of the poster is a red banner with white text: "TEMPLE UNIVERSITY CITY CENTER CAMPUS", "SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024 7:30 AM - 5 PM", "ROOMS: 418 & 421", and "FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC". Below the banner, it lists "CO-SPONSORS:" with logos for Temple University College of Liberal Arts, Public Science, and Temple University History. At the very bottom, there is a small URL for more information.

ALRTG Poster (Credit: Joseph Johnson)



Participants during a Q&A session (Credit: Dr. Gregory J.W. Urwin)

Schedule

8 am – 8:35 am: Breakfast, Temple University Center City Campus (complimentary for all attendees), **room 418**

8:35 am – 8:40 am: Welcome by Dr. Alan McPherson and Dr. Gregory Urwin

8:40 am – 10 am: "The Brave Men... Who Struggled Here": Debating Issues of Significance and Recognition, **room 421**

Chair: Greg Urwin, Temple University

Brooks D. Simpson, Arizona State University, "Gettysburg: Turning Point? High Water Mark?: The Campaign and Battle in Retrospect"

Hans G. Myers, Case Western Reserve University, "The Orphic Duty of the Historian of Gettysburg: Reclaiming Truth from Mythology in the Case of Strong Vincent and Joshua Chamberlain"

Mauren Schindler, University of Alabama, "Brothers 'Redeemed' in Blood: The Impact of Gettysburg on the 'Harpers Ferry Cowards'"

10:10 am – 11:30 am: "A New Birth of Freedom": Gettysburg in Lincoln's Shadow

Chair: Peter Sicher, Temple University

Troy D. Harman, Gettysburg National Military Park, "Lincoln's Vision for a New Nation at Gettysburg"

Morgan Rowe, London School of Economics and Political Science, "The 'Great Emancipator' or 'A Dictator, Proclaimed? Tracing Honest Abe's Reputation before and after the Battle of Gettysburg'"

Tim McGrath, Independent Scholar, "Decisions, Decisions: Lincoln, Lee, and Meade at Gettysburg"

11:40 am – 1 pm: "Nor Long Remember": Gettysburg and the Vagaries of Memory

Chair: Grace Anne Parker: Temple University

Peter Miele, Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center, "A Monument to Memory: Gettysburg's Eternal Light Peace Memorial"

Jill Ogline Titus, Gettysburg College, "Fighting Civil Rights & the Cold War through Confederate Monumentation on Seminary Ridge"

Jennifer M. Murray, Oklahoma State University, "On a Great Battlefield: Gettysburg since the Sesquicentennial, 2012-2023"

1 pm – 2 pm: Lunch, Temple University City Center Campus (complimentary for all attendees), **room 418**

2:10 pm – 3:30 pm: "Altogether Fitting and Proper": Gettysburg in a Broader Perspective

Chair: Anthony Guerrero, Temple University/U.S. Military Academy

John R. Valitutto, U.S. Military Academy, "The Battle of Gettysburg in Polish History"

Brendan M. Law and Matthew Clifford, U.S. Military Academy, "*Gardes de Lafayette*: The French Experience during the American Civil War"

Rachel Barbara Nicholas, West Virginia University, "Soft Spots for Slavery in an Ambiguous Borderland: Free People of Color, Confederate Soldiers, and 'Contrabands' during the Gettysburg Campaign"

3:40 pm – 5 pm: "What They Did Here": Command Decisions and Military Medicine

Chair: Alan McPherson, Temple University

Edward J. Hagerty, Air University, "Fighting Dick Anderson: The Gettysburg Controversy"

James S. Pula, Purdue University, "Overlooked and Underappreciated: Dan Butterfield"

Monroe J. Molesky, University of North Alabama, "Battling Bloodshed: Dr. Jonathan Letterman and Gettysburg as the Proving Ground of a Military Medical Advantage"

CENFAD would like to extend its appreciation to the following co-sponsors:

Temple University History Department, Temple Political Science Department, and the Society for Military History



History



Political Science



The full schedule from the conference (Credit: Joseph Johnson)

Thank you to all who attended! And a special thanks to our co-sponsors, The Temple University History Department, the Political Science Department, and the Society for Military History.

Book Reviews

Roche, Helen. *The Third Reich's Elite Schools: A History of Napolas*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2022. ISBN: 9780198726128. pp. 544. \$125.00 hardback.

Under its totalitarian rule, the Nazi state underwent a process of *Gleichschaltung*: a coordination of all aspects of society to integrate German political and cultural life behind Nazi ideology and racial policy. Many of these efforts targeted German youth to ensure that these processes would take root for generations to come. One tool of this process, boarding schools called the National Political Education Institutes (NPEI, known popularly as Napolas) aimed at educating the next generation of Nazi elite. Founded in the first year of Nazi rule, the Napolas schools implemented a system of “total education” to train “racially suitable” future leaders of the Reich, which positioned these institutions, and their pupils, at the forefront of broader efforts at ideological education and indoctrination (2). Despite this significant role, scholars have omitted a comprehensive examination of the Napolas school system and its pupils. Helen Roche’s *The Third Reich's Elite Schools* addresses this gap. Her resulting work also offers essential contributions to a wide breadth of subfields.

The Napolas system, which would include over forty schools across the Reich by war's end, aimed at training boys over the age of ten from varied backgrounds, and eventually girls, into

future leaders of the German *Volksgemeinschaft*. Its leaders integrated formal learning with socio-political training to create a vanguard cadre in constructing the National Socialist ideal. Modeled on pedagogical elements from Prussian cadet schools and British public-school systems infused with Nazi racial ideology, these institutions provided a National Socialist education within a militarized enclosed community. Each prided itself on physical education and emphasized pre-military training, offered cultural exchanges and mission-like exchange programs, and in the process served as “instruments of the Nazi state,” with aims and principles “steeped in the tenets of Nazism” (17).

Roche’s study endeavors to tell the comprehensive story of these institutions from their inception to their legacy. This task is particularly significant since, according to Roche, the limited existing body of scholarship on the subject is outdated at best and, problematically, a victim of the very obfuscated views of the institutions’ Nazi past facilitated by its alumni in the postwar. She highlights institutional trajectories and everyday lives of the wide spectrum of pupils who attended these institutions. Her scholarship treats the history of education as contemporary history itself, since “the history of an era, a regime, or a dictatorship can indeed be written through the medium of the history of education or the history of childhood and youth,” thus treating *Bildungsgeschichte* (the history of education) as not just *Zeitgeschichte* (contemporary history), but *Alltagsgeschichte* (the history of everyday life) (8). To

accomplish this sizable task, Roche's work employs an original synthesis of primary sources "from eighty archives in half a dozen countries worldwide," including correspondence from school administrations and outside ministries, school newsletters, and private documents of instructors and pupils (5). More significant, however, is her masterful use of eyewitness testimonies collected from over a hundred former pupils. This treasure trove of material admirably provides an unmatched glimpse into everyday school life and the multifarious political projects and training regimens employed within these institutions, and intimately personalizes the subject.

This considerable venture unfolds in three parts. "Genesis" introduces the Napolas schools at their inception, traces their administrative development, and situates them in the broader landscape of Nazi mechanisms, while revealing bureaucratic competition between other institutions. This part offers a glimpse into the everyday life of Napolas pupils through their own perspectives. Roche unravels the schools' rigorous selection process, daily routines and lessons, and special occasions, including "missions" into German society and to Anglo-American public schools, all unfolding within the institution's Nazified agenda. Part 2, "Variety within Unity," explores different schools as case studies to showcase the degree of systemic variation within the full range of Napolas institutions. Roche interrogates the "Napolization" of former Prussian cadet schools who balanced traditional martial pasts with national socialist visions mobilizing this past for propagandistic purposes,

divergent trajectories of Austrian Napolas schools, the role of Napolas schools in the Third Reich's racist colonial projects, and, in the work's most intriguing chapter, the curricula and contested nature of Napolas for Girls. Part 3, "Nemesis," explores the demise of the Napolas schools, first revealing disruptive effects of total war on daily operations (from resource scarcity to institutional engagement with Nazi atrocity), and then recounting facilities' evacuations and last stands through war's end. Roche concludes by synthesizing the legacies of the Napolas schools and of their former pupils constructing and leveraging a usable past from their Napolas lives in the immediate and long postwar.

These parts provide readers with a comprehensive chronology of the Napolas schools in the broader *Volksgemeinschaft*. The sheer scale of this undertaking and breadth of sources used to accomplish it are impressive, and the author's deft writing is accessible to field experts and amateurs alike. Her integration of oral history is particularly noteworthy, offering a personal touch to her subject often missing in archive-centric accounts. The book's greatest virtue, however, comes from its contributions to scholars of the Third Reich. Roche's book posits that Napolas schools function as a "fascinating microcosm" of the broader *Volksgemeinschaft* "in which many of the Third Reich's most fundamental tendencies can be found in magnified form," in no small part due to the school's full immersion and socialization within the total education of National Socialist ideals (5). Each chapter concludes with a section situating its case study in broader

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debates in Third Reich scholarship. Throughout the book, Roche comments on scholarly arguments ranging from polycratic infighting between Nazi institutions, the complex relationship between the Nazi state's core and periphery, the regime's complicated and self-serving relationship to a martial Prussian past, a precarious parallel situation of gender politics within the *Volksgemeinschaft*, the contours of the Nazi idealized racial *Volksgemeinschaft* and its new European order, Nazi colonial ambitions and mechanisms, the deterioration of German society under total war, and the German search for a usable past and creation of collective memory in the wake of participation in Nazi atrocity.

This book succeeds not only in its goal of unearthing the story of Napolas, but also in complicating many larger ongoing conversations in Third Reich scholarship, including questions of gender, memory, empire, institutions, and violence. Essential for anyone looking to gain even a glimpse into a newly documented device of Nazi indoctrination and society, Roche's book offers much to a wide range of scholarship and should likewise facilitate further research into these schools and their pupils.

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