

Benjamin V. Allison

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Education

PhD, History, The University of Texas at Austin (Fall 2020–Present)

- Graduate Fellow, Clements Center for National Security.

MA, History, Kent State University (2018–2020)

- Thesis: “[Through the Cracks of Détente: US Policy, the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, and the Coming of the Second Cold War, 1977–1984.](#)”
 - Committee: Mary Ann Heiss (Advisor), Timothy Scarnecchia, Shane Strate, and Walter Hixson (University of Akron).

BA, History, Grove City College (2014–2018)

Academic Publications

“The Devil’s in the Details—Or is He? The Ethics and Politics of Terrorism Data” (under review).

Seven entries in *Conflict in the Modern Middle East: An Encyclopedia of Civil War, Revolutions, and Regime Change*, ed. Jonathan Zartman (ABC-CLIO, forthcoming).

One entry in *Combatting Terrorism in the 21st Century: American Laws, Strategies, and Agencies*, ed. William J. Lahneman (ABC-CLIO, forthcoming).

Two entries in *The Federal Bureau of Investigation: History, Powers, and Controversies of the FBI*, ed. Douglas M. Charles and Aaron Stockham (ABC-CLIO, forthcoming).

Works in Progress

Die in Your Rage: The Logic of Violence in Jihadist Insurgency (working title; lead author) with Samuel S. Stanton, Jr. (forthcoming).

“Protecting American Bridges, Tunnels, and Dams from Terrorist Attacks,” *Homeland Security Policy Paper*, Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center (invited, drafting).

“Why Terrorists Do Not Attack American Bridges and Tunnels” (revising).

“‘The location of the police power’: Policing the Freedom Rides and Shattering the Reified State” (revising).

Book Reviews

Review of Tyrone Groh, *Proxy War: The Least Bad Option* (Stanford 2019), in *International Affairs* (commissioned).

Review of Lauren Turek, *To Bring the Good News to All Nations: Evangelical Influence on Human Rights and U.S. Foreign Relations* (Cornell 2020), in *Diplomacy & Statecraft* (commissioned).

Review of Vladimir Kontorovich, *Reluctant Cold Warriors: Economists and National Security* (Oxford 2019), in *Diplomacy & Statecraft* (forthcoming).

Review of Michael C. Desch, *Cult of the Irrelevant: The Waning Influence of Social Science on National Security* (Princeton 2019), in *Intelligence and National Security* 35, No. 5 (2020): 754-758.

Review of Sarah Churchwell, *Behold, America: The Entangled History of “America First” and “the American Dream”* (Basic Books 2018), for [H-Nationalism](#) (May 2019).

Review of Adam Malka, *The Men of Mobtown: Policing Baltimore in the Age of Slavery and Emancipation* (University of North Carolina Press 2018), in *Policing and Society* 29, No. 3 (April 2019): 365-367.

Opinion & Public Engagement Pieces

“[Why CHAZ/CHOP Failed](#)” (lead author), with Ayse Deniz Lokmanoglu, *Inkstick* (July 2020).

“[Disaster in the Desert: Forty Years after Operation EAGLE CLAW](#),” Institute for Faith & Freedom (April 2020).

“[The Soviet-Afghan War at Forty: The ‘Shocks of ’79’ and the Coming of the Second Cold War](#),” Institute for Faith & Freedom (December 2019).

“[Killing Baghdadi Does Not Equal Defeating ISIS](#),” Institute for Faith & Freedom (October 2019).

“[Hope Springs Eternal: Forty Years of Egyptian–Israeli Peace](#),” Institute for Faith & Freedom (March 2019).

“[Civility and the Johnson–Nixon Transition](#),” RealClearHistory (March 2019).

“[The Endless Summer: The Democrats’ Hellish Summer of 1968](#),” Institute for Faith & Freedom (July 2018).

“[Biting the Bullet: LBJ’s ‘Withdrawal Speech,’ Fifty Years Later](#),” Institute for Faith & Freedom (March 2018).

Selected Grants, Awards, and Honors

George P. Hammond [First Place] Prize (Graduate), Phi Alpha Theta National Paper Prize Competition (Fall 2019).

- Paper: “‘The location of the police power’: Policing the Freedom Rides and Shattering the Reified State.”

Research Grant, Henry B. Leonard Endowment, Kent State University Department of History (Spring 2019).

[Third Place, Three Minute Thesis Competition, Kent State University](#) (Fall 2018).

Benjamin V. Allison

Lynn W. Turner [First Place] Prize (Undergraduate), Phi Alpha Theta National Paper Prize Competition (Fall 2018).

- Paper: “Constrained by Reality: Tactical Nuclear Weapons under Truman and Eisenhower.”

Graduate Student Senate Domestic Travel Award, Kent State University (Fall 2018).

Joseph F. Mahoney Research Award in New Jersey Catholic History, New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission (Fall 2017).

- Paper: “‘No matter what religion we may profess’: Protestants, Catholics, and the Spanish-American War in New Jersey’s Gateway Region.”

Nels Andrew Cleven Founder’s [Second Place] Prize (Undergraduate), Phi Alpha Theta National Paper Prize Competition (Fall 2017).

- Paper: “‘The nucleus of the Arab peoples’ struggle’: Relations of the Soviet Union and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.”

Selected Conference Presentations

“Drawing the Arc of Crisis: The Rejectionist Challenge to Carter’s Middle East Policy, 1978–80,” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA (June 2020).

- Co-organized panel with Dr. Carl Forsberg (Harvard Kennedy School).
- Conference canceled due to COVID–19.

“Through the Cracks of Détente: US Policy, the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, and the Renewal of Soviet-American Competition, 1977–1980,” The Society for Military History Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA (May 2020).

- Conference canceled due to COVID–19.

“‘The location of the police power’: Civil Rights, Law Enforcement, the Kennedys, and the Perils of Reifying the State,” Commemorating Violent Conflicts and Building Sustainable Peace, Kent State University, OH (October 2019).

“Constrained by Reality: Tactical Nuclear Weapons Under Truman and Eisenhower,” The Society for Military History Annual Meeting, Ohio State University, OH (May 2019).

- Co-organized panel with Dr. Ian Ona Johnson (Yale, now at Notre Dame).

“Understanding Violence in Radical Ideological Insurgency,” with Samuel S. Stanton, Jr., Paper Session, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (April 2019).

- Unable to attend; presented by Dr. Stanton.

“‘The location of the police power’: Policing the Freedom Rides and Shattering the Reified State,” Northeast Ohio Graduate Student Symposium on History, Kent State University, OH (March 2019).

- Awarded Best MA Paper.

“Endowments, Organization, and Violence in the Islamic State,” (lead author) with Samuel S. Stanton, Jr., Paper Session, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (April 2018).

“‘The nucleus of the Arab peoples’ struggle’: Relations of the Soviet Union and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front,” Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention, New Orleans, LA (January 2018).

Relevant Experience

Historical Research Consultant to Rick Cofer, Esq. on Girl Scout Camp Blanco Historic Landmark Applications (Fall 2020).

Volunteer Interviewer, Oral History Project Team, Special Collections and Archives, Kent State University (Spring 2020).

Graduate Teaching Assistant, History Department, Kent State University (Fall 2018–Spring 2020).

- HIST 31074: History of Espionage with Dr. Brian M. Hayashi (Spring 2020)
- HIST 11051: World History, Modern with Dr. Timothy Scarnecchia (Fall 2019)
 - Lecture, “Quagmire: America’s Vietnam War, 1964–1973.”
 - Mini-Lecture, “War by Other Means: Transnational Terrorism in the Cold War and Beyond.”
 - Mini-Lecture, “Struggle: Proxy War and Insurgency in the Cold War.”
- HIST 11050: World History, Ancient–Medieval with Dr. Shane Strate (Spring 2019)
 - Lecture, “*Vikings*: Raiding, Trading, and Globalizing.”
- HIST 12070: Early America with Dr. Leonne M. Hudson (Fall 2018).
 - Lecture, “The Election of 1800 and the Jefferson Administration.”

Representative, Graduate Student Advisory Committee, History Department, Kent State University (Fall 2019–Spring 2020).

Research and Writing Assistant to Robert Orlando, Nexus Media, Princeton, NJ (Summers 2018–2019).

- Researched, edited, and wrote pieces of several articles, books, a postscript, and a book proposal.

Archival Assistant, Grove City College Archives, Grove City, PA (Fall 2017–Spring 2018).

Language Proficiency

Russian: Intermediate

Spanish: Novice

Academic and Professional Memberships

American Historical Association (2019–2020).

International Studies Association (2019–Present).

Midwest Political Science Association (2016–2020).

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New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ (2015–2019).

Organization of American Historians (2019–Present).

Phi Alpha Theta History Honorary (2016–Present).

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (2018–Present).

Society for Military History (2018–Present).