

Gregory Aftandilian
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Skills: Strong teaching, writing, public speaking, and briefing skills

Work Experiences

Academic: Adjunct professor at Boston University, 2006 to present, teaching courses on current Middle East politics, the Persian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula, and U.S. foreign policy; adjunct professor at George Mason University, 2018-2021, teaching graduate students on U.S. security issues in the Middle East; American University, 2013 to present (teaching practicum seminars on U.S.-Egyptian relations and graduate classes on Institutions and Processes in U.S. foreign policy); Northeastern University, 2006 to 2011, adjunct professor on Middle East politics and co-leader of foreign study abroad program in Armenia.

Consultant: Aftandilian Consulting Services—providing analytic and writing services to various clients including the Office of Naval Research on a counter-terrorism project; non-governmental organizations, consulting firms with USAID contracts, and business clients. Consultant to the Middle East Center at University of Massachusetts-Lowell, 2011 to 2016. Consultant on Middle East affairs for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, 2005-2006.

Writer: Writing monthly articles for the Arab Center, Washington, D.C. on Middle East politics and economics and U.S. foreign policy issues. Writing yearly monographs for the Strategic Studies Institute of the U.S. Army War College. Have published two books and several journal articles.

Think Tank specialist: Currently, a non-resident fellow at the Arab Center, Washington, D.C.; previously, Senior Fellow for the Middle East at the Center for National Policy, Washington, D.C., 2010-2015.

U.S. Government: Worked for 21 years as a Middle East political and economic analyst for the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the U.S. Department of State and the Defense Intelligence Agency, professional staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, lead Democratic staff member of the International Economic Policy Subcommittee and foreign policy adviser to Senator Paul Sarbanes; foreign policy fellow to Senator Edward Kennedy; and senior foreign policy advisor to Congressman Chris Van Hollen. Recipient of the State Department's Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards; recipient of the Intelligence Community's National Intelligence Certificate of Distinction. Invited by several U.S. Ambassadors to Egypt to work at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo for two month TDYs during various periods. Briefed senior civilian and military officials at the State Department, the Pentagon, and the White House on Middle East affairs.

Education

Dartmouth College – B.A. degree in History—graduated cum laude, with highest distinction in history, and was a Rufus Choate Scholar

University of Chicago – M.A. degree in Middle Eastern Studies. Recipient of the National Defense Educational Act Title VI fellowship.

London School of Economics – M.Sc. in International Relations. Course work in international politics, economics, and business.

Media appearances

January 2007 – Interviewed by the WGBH television show “Greater Boston” and Canadian Television on the implications of the U.S. troop surge in Iraq. Interviewed by Katie Clark of NPR/BBC World Program as well as the Voice of America’s Armenian Service on the role of Congress in the Iraq war situation. May 2009 - Interviewed on Armenian Television on the role of Armenian-American soldiers during World War II. February-March 2011- Interviewed by Al Jazeera English TV on the situation in Egypt and Libya. Interviewed in April 2011 and December 2011 by WCAP radio and in May 2011 by Voice of America on the situation in Syria and the broader Middle East. Interviewed by *Time* magazine for its August 16, 2013 article, "Egypt's Nightmare Scenario Draws Nearer." Interviewed by the Boston Herald for its August 18, 2013 article, "Capture boosts Egypt's leaders amid mosque raid chaos." Interviewed several times by Chelmsford, Massachusetts television program, “Current Buzz,” on Middle East developments, 2013 -2017. Interviewed by TRT World on developments in Syria and by Al-Hurra television on Iraqi and Kurdish developments as well as other Middle East issues and U.S. policy.

Lectures and fellowships

Have lectured at various seminars and conferences at Harvard University, Columbia University, American University, UCLA, USC, Northeastern University, Dartmouth College, and the Italian Institute for International Affairs. Selected as a Young Leader by the Council for the United States and Italy; Research fellow at the Belfer Center at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; International Affairs Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Foreign Languages

French—proficient; Arabic—intermediate; Armenian—intermediate

Personal

Born in Wilmington, Delaware; grew up in the Boston area; long-time resident of Northern Virginia. Extensive travel in the Middle East and Europe.

Partial list of publications:

Monographs and books:

Maneuvering the Saudi-Iranian rivalry in the Middle East. How the United States can preserve and protect its long-term interests in the region, Strategic Studies Institute ERAP monograph, December 2018

A Security Role for the United States in a Post-ISIS Syria? Challenges and Opportunities for U.S. Policy, Strategic Studies Institute Working Paper, September 2018

Can Egypt lead the Arab world again? Assessing opportunities and challenges for U.S. Policy, Strategic Studies Institute ERAP monograph, May 2017

The New Arab Regional Order: Opportunities and Challenges for U.S. Policy,” Strategic Studies Institute ERAP monograph, May 2017

The New Arab Regional Order: Opportunities and Challenges for U.S. Policy,” Strategic Studies Institute, November 2015

Assessing Egyptian Public Support for Security Crackdowns in the Sinai, Strategic Studies Institute, ERAP monograph, February 2015

Maneuvering the Islamist-secularist divide in the Arab world. How the United States can preserve its interests and values in an increasingly polarized environment, Strategic Studies Institute ERAP monograph, October 2014

Egypt's New Regime and the Future of the U.S.-Egyptian Strategic Relationship, published by the Strategic Studies Institute of the U.S. Army War College, April 2013

Presidential Succession Scenarios in Egypt and Their Impact on U.S.-Egyptian Strategic Relations, Strategic Studies Institute, September 2011

Egypt's Bid for Arab Leadership: Implications for US Policy. New York: Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1993

Political Change in the Arab World. Contents of a Meetings Program Conference. New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 1993

"United States Policy Towards the Arab Spring," thought paper published by the UMass-Lowell Middle East Center for Peace, Development, and Culture, June 2012

Looking Forward: An Integrated Strategy for Supporting Democracy and Human Rights in Egypt,

Project on Middle East Democracy, May 2009

Armenia: Vision of a Republic. The Independence Lobby in America, 1918-1927. Boston: Charles River Books, 1981

Journal articles and op-eds:

“Myopia and hypocrisy from the Trump team on immigration,” Baltimore Sun, July 22, 2018

“The Myth of Iraqi Reconciliation,” The National Interest, June 20, 2014

"Dilemmas for US Strategy: Pitfalls in Egypt," Parameters, Vol. 43, no. 3 (Autumn, 2013)

"World War II as an Enhancer of Armenian-American Second Generation Identity," Journal of the Society of Armenian Studies, Volume 18, no. 2, December 2009

“The Paris killings and the need not to alienate moderate Muslim allies,” *Global Policy* online edition, January 16, 2015

“My Uncle ‘Keri’ and the Immigration Debate,” Op-ed piece, Lowell Sun, July 20, 2007

“Numbers Game Inconsequential,” Op-ed piece, Orlando Sentinel, January 15, 2007

Online articles for the Arab Center, Washington, D.C., 2017-2020

Gulf States Still Worried about US-Iran war

The Trump Administration Tries a New Policy

Closer Egyptian-Russian Relations Causing a Headache in Washington

Algeria’s Standoff between Protestors and the Regime

Positive Economic Growth in Egypt Belies Mounting Problems

Various Players Maneuver for an Uncertain Future in Syria

Sudan’s Military: Following Egypt’s Playbook?

Can a GCC Reconciliation Summit at Camp David Succeed?

Middle East Concerns of American Strategic Planners

The Future of Iraqi-Kuwaiti Relations: Overcoming a Troubled History

Hodeida and the Changing American Position

Iraq will Remain a US-Iran Point of Contention

Has Trump Opted for a Longer US Presence in Syria?

External Actors Complicate Resolving the Yemeni Conflict

Egyptian-Sudanese Relations on the Mend, but Tensions Remain

Pompeo Unlikely to Press for Human Rights in the Arab Region

US-Syria Policy: Juggling Contradictory Interests

Is There a US Policy Towards the Kurds in Iraq and Syria?

Jordanian-Iraqi Relations on the Mend, but Problems Remain

Egypt’s Presidential Election Shaping Up as a Non-Contest

Egyptian and Jordanian Relations with Israel under Strain
Putin in Egypt as the United States Retreats
Egypt Still Banking on Libya's Haftar While Reaching Out to Other Leaders
Trump Embraces the Saudi Vision of the Yemen Conflict
Bilateral Disagreements Aside, Jordan and Israel Agree on Syria
Egypt's Security Challenges in the Sinai Belie the Government's Rhetoric
The Kurdish Referendum and Cross-Communal Dynamics in Iraq
The Trump Administration's Wishful Policies in the Yemen Conflict
Egypt's Extremist Groups and Shrinking Political Space
The Realities and Challenges of a New US SOFA with Iraq
The Arab Peace Initiative is Back on the Table; Netanyahu is Not Budging
Youth Unemployment Remains the Main Challenge in the Gulf States
The Yemen Conflict and Its Elusive Political Solution
Egyptian-Saudi Relations: Managing a Difficult Marriage

Blog articles for the Truman National Security Project and the Center for National Policy:

"Iraq: Maliki's resignation is not the silver bullet," Truman National Security Project blog, August 18, 2014

"Egypt: Parliamentary Elections are the Key Contest," Truman National Security Project blog, May 23, 2014

Blog pieces for the Center for National Policy's website www.cnponline.org:

"Egypt: United States searches for leverage as the crackdown and violence continues," August 19, 2013

"Egypt: Muslim Brotherhood dilemmas in the face of a potential crackdown," August 1, 2013

"Cutting U.S. aid to Egypt would be counter-productive," July 12, 2013

"Egypt: Military seeking grand compromise but the two camps remain bitterly divided," July 2, 2012

"Iran: Election results show dissatisfaction with status quo but nuclear issue uncertain," June 20, 2013

"Egypt: NGO ruling likely to impact U.S. aid," June 5, 2013 "Egypt: Deep societal divisions show no signs of abating," May 16, 2013

"With the U.S. image in Egypt waning, Secretary Kerry is likely to press President Morsi on

democratization," February 28, 2013

"Egypt: Two years after the revolution, authoritarianism lingers on," February 13, 2013

"Egypt: More instability ahead as each side digs in," February 5, 2013

"Israeli elections and U.S. peace process opportunities," January 24, 2013

"Syria: Alawite dilemmas in the aftermath of Assad's speech," December 10, 2012

"Egypt: Morsi's partial retraction of decree fails to mollify opposition," December 10, 2012

"Egypt: Morsi overplays his hand on the home front," November 26, 2012

"Regional implications of the renewed Israeli-Gaza confrontation," November 16, 2012 "Egypt: New draft constitution generates heated controversy," October 12, 2012

"Egypt: Morsi's speech straddles several fences but is geared mostly to the home audience," September 28, 2012

"Egypt: Morsi takes a gamble but with some limitations," August 14, 2012 "Egypt: A Brotherhood win and a probable backroom deal," June 25, 2012

"Egypt: Confusion and military machinations in the aftermath of the presidential vote," June 18, 2012

"Syria: Growing sectarianism hinders ending the crisis with a leadership departure," June 17, 2012

"Egypt: Mubarak verdict cuts both ways but may be a wash politically," June 4, 2012

Egypt: Presidential elections and uncertain presidential power," May 22, 2012

"U.S. presidential contest: gloves are off over foreign policy," April 30, 2012

"Egypt: Tensions between Islamists and secularists heat up as political uncertainties abound," April 17, 2012

In addition, I have written numerous articles for The Arab Weekly from 2015 to the present