

Gregory L. Aftandilian
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Work Experience:

Center for National Policy, Washington, D.C., January 2012 to the present. Senior Fellow for the Middle East. Moderating and speaking on various panels on Middle East developments and U.S. foreign policy. Writing for the organization's security blog on events in the region and U.S. policy issues. Advising CNP's president on strategic plans.

University teacher. Boston University: Adjunct faculty member in the International Relations Department, teaching courses on "U.S. Policy in the Middle East" (fall 2007) and "The Middle East Today" (2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013). Northeastern University: Adjunct faculty member in the Political Science Department, teaching graduate-level courses on "The Government and Politics of the Middle East" (fall 2009 and summer 2007), the "Arab-Israeli Conflict" (summer 2006). Faculty co-leader of its Dialogue of Civilization's summer studies program in Armenia in 2009, 2010, and 2011. American University: Taught graduate practicum seminar on U.S. policy toward Egypt, spring 2014

UMass-Lowell. Associate of the Middle East Center. 2011 to the present. Guest lecturer to classes dealing with Middle East politics, U.S. foreign policy, and counter-terrorism. Spoke to student clubs on careers in Washington and advised students on strategies to obtain public sector jobs. Participated as a speaker in major university events on "Egypt's Future: Reflections and Dialogue"; "The 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks"; "Middle East Confrontation: A Clash of Politics and Culture?" Interviewed by Al Jazeera English, WCAP Lowell, and Egypt Independent on latest Middle East developments.

Aftandilian Consulting Services. 2008 to the present. Consultant, writer, and lecturer. Providing analytical services on Middle East affairs and counter-terrorism issues to NGOs and universities, such as Boston University (on an Office of Naval Research grant), 2008-2011, and guest lecturer at various venues including the U.S. Foreign Service Institute, the U.S. Army War College, and the National Defense University.

Office of Congressman Chris Van Hollen. 2007 to 2008. Foreign policy adviser. Duties included: advising the Congressman on international developments, including terrorism, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Iraq and Iran; preparing him for meetings with foreign dignitaries and constituents; speechwriting; and staffing him for hearings of the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Retired from the Government after 21 years of service.

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government. 2006 to 2007. Fellow with the International Security Program and the Dubai Initiative at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. Research on issues related to the U.S. democratization effort in the Middle East and economic and political reforms in the Arab world.

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, 2005 to 2006. Senior Advisor and consultant Middle East affairs. Responsible for writing analyses on Egypt's political and economic situation as well as on Iraq and Syria. Traveled to Egypt to survey the parliamentary elections and write a study of the process. Interacted with government officials, think tanks, academics and NGOs about democratization in the Middle East.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 2000 to 2004. Democratic professional staffer and foreign policy advisor to Senator Paul Sarbanes. Lead Democratic professional staff member of the International Economic Policy subcommittee. Duties included: speechwriting; organizing subcommittee hearings on international economic issues and nominations for the president of OPIC and U.S. representatives to the International Financial Institutions; monitoring international economic developments and USAID economic assistance programs such as ASHA (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad); working with USAID and the coalition of micro-enterprise NGOs to draft and successfully pass authorization legislation for U.S. assistance for microenterprise institutions; interacting with U.S. Treasury officials on international economic issues.

Office of Senator Edward Kennedy. Foreign Policy Fellow, 1999. Accepted into the Brookings Institution's Legislative Affairs Program for civil servants. Duties included: speechwriting; drafting foreign policy legislation; working on Middle East terrorism issues; preparing the Senator for meetings with foreign officials, including Egypt's President Mubarak and Jordan's King Abdullah; and assisting Massachusetts-based companies which were experiencing problems doing business overseas.

Regional Economist, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), 1986 to 1988. Economic analyst on various Middle Eastern countries. Wrote economic analyses for the Secretary of State and other high-ranking government officials. Briefed senior policymakers on economic developments in the Middle East. Participated in intelligence community meetings on international economic issues.

Middle East Analyst, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), 1988 to 2000. Responsible for writing analyses on Egyptian and general Middle East developments for the Secretary of State and other State Department principals. Covered Arab-Israeli issues, Persian Gulf developments, including the Iraq war of 1990-1991, and issues related to North Africa as the need arose. Briefed senior policymakers on Middle East developments at State, Defense, and the National Security Council. Participated in inter-departmental meetings on the U.S. approach to political Islam. Became the intelligence community's leading analyst on Egypt, and wrote analyses on Egyptian foreign and domestic politics as well as Egyptian terrorist groups. Organized academic seminars for U.S. ambassadors heading to assignments in the Middle East.

U.S. Embassy, Cairo, Egypt, autumn 1996. Invited by Ambassador Ned Walker to work in the political section and write analytical research reports on Egyptian political and economic affairs. Traveled to several Egyptian cities and rural communities.

Council on Foreign Relations, New York, International Affairs Fellow, 1991 to 1992.
Wrote a book on Egypt's new role in the Arab world in the wake of the end of the Cold War and the Persian Gulf War. Was the rapporteur for a major Council on Foreign Relations conference on political and economic change in the Arab world.

U.S. Embassy, Cairo, Egypt, summer 1989. Accepted into INR's summer-in-an-embassy program. Worked in the political section of the embassy and drafted a major analytical paper on Egyptian politics. Assisted Ambassador Frank Wisner in diplomatic meetings.

U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C., 1985 to 1986. Political-Military Analyst on Middle East affairs, specializing on Iran and Iraq, in the Pentagon. Briefed flag officers on developments in the Iran-Iraq war. Lecturer and teaching assistant for Middle East courses for U.S. military officers at the Defense Intelligence College.

Library of Congress, Federal Research Division, Washington, D.C. 1983 to 1985.
Worked as a Middle East research analyst, covering both political and economic issues.

Bank of Boston, Middle East/Africa Division, Boston, Massachusetts, 1983. Prepared macroeconomic analytical reports on various Middle Eastern countries.

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, summer 1980. Internship. Worked on Iranian affairs during the hostage crisis.

Congressman Michael J. Harrington, Washington, D.C., summer 1977. Internship. Prepared extensive report on foreign investment in New England; answered constituent mail on Middle East affairs.

Education:

London School of Economics, M.Sc. in International Relations, 1982

University of Chicago, M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, 1981

Dartmouth College, B.A. in History, 1979

School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, autumn 1977

Course work in Transcaucasian history and Middle Eastern studies

Awards:

Intelligence Community - National Intelligence Certificate of Distinction, 1993
State Department - Superior Honor Award (1999) for work on Egypt and the Middle East;
Meritorious Honor Awards (1991 and 1995) for work on Egypt; group Superior Honor Awards (1991 and 1996) for work on the Persian Gulf crisis and the peace process, respectively; group Meritorious Honor Awards (1987 and 1988) for economic analyses on the Middle East.

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Defense Intelligence College - Citation for teaching and administrative work

University of Chicago - National Defense Educational Act, Title VI fellowship

Dartmouth College - Graduated cum laude, with highest distinction in history; Rufus Choate Scholar; Citation in government course on Middle East politics

Activities:

Lectured on U.S. Policy and Middle East affairs at the Italian Institute for International Affairs, Harvard University, Dartmouth College, Georgetown University, Emory University, University of Arizona, Northeastern University, National Defense University, the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, the Center for National Policy, the U.S. Army War College, and the 55th wing of the U.S. Air Force. Participated in seminars at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and at the World Bank. Lectured on Armenian history at UCLA, Columbia University, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, the Middle East Center at the City University of New York, and the American University of Armenia.

Council for the United States and Italy - Selected as a "Young Leader" in 1995 and participated in its conference in Naples on "The United States, Europe, and Economic Cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa"

Speaker's Bureau, U.S. Embassy London, 1981-1982 - lectured to several British societies on American foreign policy

Publications:

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

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

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

Presidential Succession Scenarios in Egypt and Their Impact on U.S.-Egyptian Strategic Relations, published by the Strategic Studies Institute of the U.S. Army War College, September 2011

Looking Forward: An Integrated Strategy for Supporting Democracy and Human Rights in Egypt, Project on Middle East Democracy, May 2009

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

"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

"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

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

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"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, 2002

"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

"The U.S. presidential election and foreign policy: Romney's overreach," April 3, 2012

"Egypt and the United States: Assessing the politics of assistance," March 19, 2012

"Syria: The strength and weakness of minority support for the regime," February 28, 2012

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 boots Egypt's leaders amid mosque raid chaos."

Languages:

French, Arabic, and Armenian of various degrees of proficiency

Travel:

Extensive travel in Europe and the Middle East

Personal:

Born in Wilmington, Delaware; grew up in the Boston area