

TAYLOR R. FAIRLESS

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES *B.A. in History with a minor in Global Studies, 2021* | 4.0 GPA

- **Relevant Courses:** Arms Control and International Security (A+), Global Cold War Seminar (A+), 20th Century China (A+), 20th Century Russia (A+), World Politics (A+), Global Studies (A+), Southeast Asia History and Politics 1850-on (A), Modern Middle East History (A+), Markets and Resources (A+), Political Economic Development (A+), Applied Research in American Politics and Public Policy Seminar (A), Statistics (A)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY *Merit Scholar, Force and Diplomacy in Eurasia, Certificate of Completion*

- Full merit scholar, RED HORIZON: Force and Diplomacy in Eurasia
- RED HORIZON provides seasoned and emerging leaders from national security, academia, and industry with a unique training space to advance their negotiation and decision-making skills.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS EXPERIENCE

December 2021 - Present
Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

MILITARY LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT | U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- Advising a Congressman on the House Armed Services Committee on voting for legislation relating to national security, international relations, defense, and veterans.
- Authoring, passing, and scrutinizing appropriations and authorizations for the Congressional Defense committees.
- Portfolio: Defense, Foreign Policy, Homeland Security, Strategic Forces (nuclear weapons, missile defense, outerspace), and Intelligence and Special Operations.

August 2021 - December 2021
Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

SENIOR LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH ANALYST (CONTRACTOR) | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- Top Secret security clearance; supporting the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) at the Pentagon.
- Supporting the Strategic Communications department by facilitating high-level congressional interaction.
 - Preparing the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and nominees for Under Secretaries for meetings held with Members of Congress on defense issues and foreign policy.
 - Parlaying my five years of experience tracking and assessing U.S. security policy at leading institutions by providing nuanced, accurate, and focused research for Pentagon officials.
 - Crafting talking points, read-aheads, status reports, and background papers for senior leadership.
 - Tracking, reviewing, and assessing U.S. defense strategy and international security trends to develop comprehensive presentations for senior leadership.
 - Subjects include hard power capabilities, such as cyber resiliency and the nuclear triad, as well as humanitarian issues, including sexual assault in the military and facilitating SIV applications.
- Preparing Under Secretary Nominees for hearings with Members of Congress.
 - Formulating comprehensive and complex defense policy questions to prepare under secretaries for nomination hearings.
 - Assessing their answers in closed, round-table discussion with 10-15 senior Pentagon officials.
- Designated as the sole cross-agency liaison for requests for information (RFIs) regarding the status of Afghanistan.
 - Handling highly sensitive information, verifying data, and coordinating with senior officials across federal agencies, including DoS, DHS, NORTHCOM & CENTCOM.
 - Presenting daily reports for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs and senior DoD leadership on the state of Afghanistan, America's capabilities in the region, and evacuation progression.
- Analyzing the NDAA, congressional issues, events, and actions to anticipate the future of U.S. defense strategy.

August 2021 - Present
Washington, D.C.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, RUSSIAN HYBRID WARFARE | NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

- Analyzing Russian hybrid warfare and gray zone strategy.
- Offering critical analysis on counterintelligence, counter-terrorism, cyber security, and nuclear policy.
- Using all source and open-source data to assess Russian mercenaries for Dr. Peter Thompson's book, "Armed Groups: The 21st Century Threat."
- Comprise weekly reviews of current Russian military trends and threats to U.S. national security. Brief senior officials.

June 2021 - August 2021
Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS INTERN | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- Anticipated and assessed congressional debate on defense policy, including the decision to remove troops from Afghanistan.
- Attended and assessed meetings with local, state, and federal government officials.
 - Wrote executive summaries that were forwarded to senior Pentagon officials, including the Secretary of Defense.
- Conducted substantial research pertaining to House and Senate floor action on U.S. defense posture and strategy.
- Crafted talking points for Pentagon officials to use when discussing defense policy with Members of Congress.
 - Subjects included counterterrorism, counter-proliferation, U.S.-Russia relations, U.S.-China relations, cyber resiliency, and land, air, and sea power.

September 2020 - March 2021
Washington, D.C.

NUCLEAR POLICY RESEARCHER | CENTER FOR AMERICAN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

- Conducted original, open-source research in English, French, and Urdu to explain why states build or forgo nuclear weapons; produced a forty-page thesis paper.
- Was among the top researchers in my cohort, resulting in the publication of my thesis paper at the University of California, Los Angeles.
- Interviewed experts in the nuclear policy field, including Fiona Hill of *The Brookings Institution*.

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

September 2019 - June 2021
Los Angeles, CA

SENIOR FOREIGN POLICY WRITER & PRINT DIRECTOR | BURKLE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- Confidently directed interviews with Presidential Advisers, CIA Directors, and renowned scholars
 - Interviewees included Dr. Joseph Nye, *CFR's* Richard Haass, and *Brookings's* Fiona Hill.
 - These interviews were parlayed into focused and astute articles that received 1,000+ views.
- Wrote scholarly think-pieces pertaining to international security threats, primarily maritime security in the Indo-Pacific and nuclear policy in the transatlantic.
- Assiduously oversaw the publication of all articles, from the initial pitch to the final publication, both for print and digital platforms.

June 2020 - PRESENT
Los Angeles, CA

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF | THE JOURNAL ON WORLD AFFAIRS

- Created a non-partisan policy forum that fosters youth-driven global dialogue on world affairs through critical scholarly research.
 - The JWA comprises 54 members, including B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. candidates from highly-acclaimed universities globally, including Oxford University, Columbia University, the University of Sydney, and the University of South Africa.
- Obtaining and directing interviews with world-renowned scholars, CIA analysts, and WTO specialists, including Jennifer Hillman.
- Writing scholarly think-pieces and op-eds pertaining to global security and arms control, primarily in the Indo-Pacific and Europe.
- Soliciting, editing, and overseeing the publication process for all articles (about 60 articles every 10 weeks) and all guest submissions (about 15 submissions per week).
 - Meticulously scrutinize for grammatical errors; fact-check to ensure legitimacy of all claims and assumptions.
 - Offer critical and focused suggestions and counterarguments to increase depth and percipience of analyses.
- Apply strategic communication skills to reach large and diverse audiences with a specific interest in foreign affairs, foreign policy, daily news, and global events.
- Creating effective and detailed spreadsheets to manage pitches and edits, and to meet daily and monthly publication goals.

March 2021 - June 2021
New York, N.Y.

PITCH AUTHOR | COLUMBIA POLITICAL REVIEW

- Assessed international economic trends under the foreign policy division.
- Conducted substantial research on domestic and global economic trends; reviewed sources in both English and Chinese to develop a holistic and comprehensive understanding of how economic initiatives were being addressed.

January 2021 - August 2021
Oxford, United Kingdom

PITCH AUTHOR | OXFORD POLITICAL REVIEW

- Thoroughly assessed international security threats under the Indo-Pacific and Eurasia divisions.
- Intimately collaborated with editors who write for *the Atlantic*, *the Washington Post*, and *the New Yorker* on crafting insightful analyses of complex foreign affairs subjects.
- Each piece I produced received some of the highest viewership since OPR's founding.

January 2021 - June 2021
Los Angeles, CA

SENIOR WORLD EDITOR | UCLA'S BRUIN POLITICAL REVIEW

- Guided a cohort of 40 writers towards producing analytical think-pieces on complex foreign policy subjects.
- Worked one-on-one with writers to solicit articles and approve pitches.
- Enthusiastically oversaw the editing process by providing proficient guidance on world affairs, particularly those surrounding security policy; ensured that each article maintained BPR's nonpartisan stance and supported its mission of producing cold-cut scholarly analyses.
- Assisted the Director of Communications in maintaining social media accounts by assessing viewership statistics and forging ways to strategically reach target audiences.
- Created and selected accompanying art for all articles to ensure the overall quality of each publication.

NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

"It's Like Playing a Game of Chess: Russia's Nuclear Modernization Program Threatens Nuclear War," *Oxford Political Review*, 17 January 2021

"Grand Strategy in the Age of Hubris," *The Journal on World Affairs*, 10 August 2021

"Nuclear Weapons Are, and Have Been, the Greatest Emerging Threat to Peace and Security," *The Journal on World Affairs*, 06 November 2021

"America and Japan Should Prepare for a Contingency with China over Taiwan," *Oxford Political Review*, 05 March 2021

"Now is the Chance for Biden to Reverse One of the Most Disputed Trade Initiatives in Recent Decades," *Columbia Political Review*, 29 June 2021

"Reassessing Why States Build or Forgo Nuclear Weapons," *The Journal on World Affairs*, 31 March 2021

"From the 'New Frontier' to the 'New Arena' For An Arms Race: What the US, China, and Russia are Doing to Prompt the Weaponization Of Space," *Burkle Center for International Relations' Foreign Affairs Magazine*, 01 June 2020