

## #USAWCBookShelf highlights USAWC authors

By Elena Patton, Public Affairs Office 19 March 2021



*Dr. Marybeth Ulrich is a USAWC professor in the Department of National Security and Strategy.*

For our last installment of #USAWCBookShelf, we will be highlighting Dr. Marybeth Ulrich in the Department of National Security and Strategy.

Ulrich was an associate professor of Political Science at the US Air Force Academy before joining

the Army War College faculty in 1999. She returned to USAFA for academic year 2021 as the USAFA Distinguished Visiting Professor of Political Science.

She received her MA and PhD in Political Science from the University of Illinois.

Her research focuses on U.S. and comparative civil-military relations, national security democratization.

In *Democratizing Communist Militaries: The Cases of the Czech and Russian Armed Forces* (2000), Ulrich explored the attitudes of the leaders of the armed forces in Russia and the Czech Republic toward the new democratic governments, and suggested ways in which the US military might encourage the development of politically neutral militaries in these states.

"The book led to a lot of things," said Ulrich. "You start with something and keep going with it in different ways."

Ulrich went on to publish widely on both US and comparative civil-military relations, including "Civil-Military Relations Norms and Democracy: What Every Citizen Should Know," chapter in *Blurred Lines: Examining Civil-Military Relations in an Increasingly Complex World*, and "Mind the Civil-Military Gap: The Republic Depends on All Citizens," in *The Hill*, among others.

She continues to explore the theme in two upcoming publications: "Democratizing Civil-Military Relations in the Midst of Conflict: A Ukraine Case Study," in *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Military in Politics* and "The Politics of Oath Taking," *Parameters Special Issue*.

"I take a journalistic approach to my writing because a lot of what I am trying to do is inform people," said Ulrich.

In addition to writing about civil-military relations and national security democratization, she has gone to foreign war colleges to introduce these topics into their curriculums, said Ulrich.

"The military is an institution has a special responsibility, I would say, to uphold the democratic institutions," said Ulrich explaining how her research correlates with and enhances the USAWC curriculum.

"The teaching, the research and the outreach all come together," said Ulrich.

---

This week we are continuing our series of author, book, and work at the war college with Dr. Tami Biddle in the Department of National Security and Strategy and the Elihu Root Chair.

Before joining the Army War College faculty in 2001, Biddle taught history in the Duke

She is a diplomatic historian, having received her MA in International Relations from Cambridge and her Ph.D. in History from Yale, said Biddle.

Biddle teaches courses in the USAWC core curriculum, Theory of War and Strategy, National Security Policy and Strategy, Introduction to Strategic Studies, and War, Policy, and National Security I and II.

As a member of a seminar faculty team, Biddle teaches two major core courses: Theory of War and Strategy, National Security Policy and Strategy, Introduction to Strategic Studies, and War, Policy, and National Security I and II.

"I feel fulfilled by the work I do," said Biddle. "It has a strong service component to it. I know that my students are going out into the world to do really difficult, challenging work, and I want to do everything I possibly can to help get them ready for that work."

*Rhetoric and Reality in Air Warfare: The Evolution of British and American Ideas about Strategic Bombing, 1914-1945* (2004) is part of Princeton Studies in International History and Politics series.

Biddle was particularly interested in writing about early nuclear theory and air force thinking and the role both played in nuclear deterrence. First, she had to the larger concept of strategic bombing: how the WWI experience influence ideas about strategic bombing during the interwar period and how those flawed ideas became known in WWII, explained Biddle.

She focuses specifically on rhetoric. "Essentially, what I wanted to get at were ideas," said Biddle. "I was fascinated by the way that people were making arguments about assumptions . . . Rhetoric is oftentimes another word for assumptions."

"There's actually a lot in the book that enables it to be useful to contemporary strategic thinkers," said Biddle. "It talks about how we make assumptions, and why we make the assumptions that we make about particular instruments of power and how they're going to gain effects on the battlefield."

"Basically, when you're coming up with a strategy, you are doing an 'if then' equation in your head," said Biddle. "That 'then' is doing a lot of work. The word 'then' has a lot of assumptions embedded within it."

More importantly, students need to understand how military leaders adjust when they discover that their assumptions are wrong, so they, students, can, in turn, be agile leaders, said Biddle.

Biddle is currently working on two upcoming publications. *Taking Command: The United States at War, 1941-1945* that will focus on various aspects of WWII, grand strategy, landpower, the Homefront, and naval war.

She is also working on a revised chapter for *On Coalition Strategy. By the Anglo Americans and Russians in World War II*, a used a lot at the war college, said Biddle.

---

#USAWCBookShelf profiles Army War College faculty expertise, this week with Dr. Frank Jones in the Department of National Security and Strategy.

Jones first came to the war college as a visiting professor in Defense Policy, 2001-2003. He then returned in 2007 and has been teaching War Policy and National Security as the course director and also teaching a strategic studies course.

He was also featured in our Great Decisions lecture series on "Strategic Issues," where he deviled a presentation entitled Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future? In 2019.

Before coming to the war college, Jones was the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations Policy and Support. He has his Ph.D. in Political Science from Griffith University in Queensland, Australia.

*Sam Nunn: Statesman of the Nuclear Age* (2020), his recently published book, is part of a University of Kansas Press series, "Congressional Leaders."

"The book is an examination of Sam Nunn, a Democratic Senator from Georgia ... who was considered the Senate expert of defense issues, said Jones.

He delves into Nunn's career and its impact on U.S. national security policy and strategy and congressional leadership.

The book aligns with the War Policy and National Security course Jones teaches.

"Many ideas that we teach in that course are represented in the book. For example, we do have lessons on nuclear strategy and theory ... and NATO enlargement," said Jones. We talk about the instruments of power." The book also addresses arms control theory and nuclear weapon and strategy.

The book fills a gap in scholarship, said Jones. "The role of congressional role in foreign policy and national security has been overlooked, viewed entirely as a presidential role."

That, however, was not the most critical aspect of this project.

"Leadership mattered to me in the end," said Jones.

"As an author, as a writer, I wanted to capture the breadth of one person's experience and how that experience can be understood not only in the context of the time, but also can be understood as leadership competencies and skills which are useful for any senior leader, said Jones.

---

#USAWCBookShelf highlight Army War College faculty member on Twitter and Facebook. This Friday series expands the discussion of author, book, and work at the war college.

Dr. Heather Gregg joined the war college last year to teach in the Department of Military Strategy, Planning and Operations. In addition to core courses, Gregg also teaches an elective on Terrorism, Counterterrorism, and Encountering Violent Extremism and co-teaches a class on Special Operations. Her background is in religiously motivated violence, and her research focuses on how religious ideas shape violent conflict.

In her recently published book, *Religion and Terrorism: A History of Violence* (2020), Gregg shows that, when combined with certain political and social circumstances, religion provides powerful resources for justifying and motivating terrorist acts against civilians.

"The book is an excellent primer for thinking about terrorism broadly and also thinking about this one aspect of terrorism which is religiously motivated terrorism," said Gregg.

It provides working definitions of terrorism and religion and looks at religious terrorism from an interdisciplinary perspective, addressing the physiological, social, and economic, political, and identity politics aspects. Gregg uses five case studies to examine the relationship between religion and terrorism.

"Two of the wars we've fought in the last 20 years have both involved religiously motivated violence," said Gregg. "We have given 20 years of military lives, treasures, and talent to these conflicts."

Although this book is particularly relevant to students at the war college, Gregg's target audience was the general population.

"My experience is that people are very curious about these topics," said Gregg.

Gregg recalls when she was at a hair salon in 2014, right after ISIS went into Iraq. There, surrounded by all women, Gregg's stylist asked a general question about what was happening with ISIS.

"Before I knew it, the others had stopped what they were doing and came over to listen to what I had to say and began asking questions," said Gregg.

"One of the challenges is where to start," said Gregg. "The book aims to provide an introduction."

Dr. Gregg earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She also holds a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School, where she studied Islam.

---

Dr. Kevin Weddle, who has been at the war college since 2001, teaches the core course War & Military and all other first year courses in the distance education program. As the department historian, he leads the staff rides to Gettysburg and Antietam battlefields.

His book, *The Complete Victory*, was published this year, and it offers a narrative history of the complete Saratoga campaign from the Revolution.

Ten years in the making, this book is part of Oxford's University Press "Pivotal Moments in American History" series.

*The Complete Victory* builds on other books about Saratoga. Unlike like previous books, this book covers the campaign from beginning to end, explained Weddle.

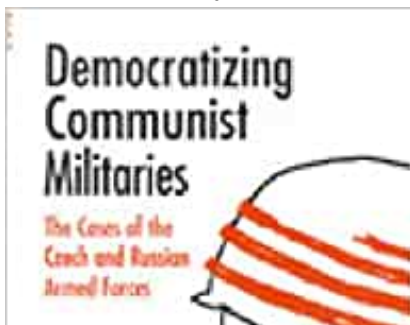
"My focus in the book is strategy and leadership," said Weddle. "I think the books that have been written in the past about Saratoga focused on the low-level stuff -- the battles and how the battles were fought."

For war college students, the book's emphasis on strategy formulation and the importance of setting clear objectives is particularly relevant.

Weddle noted, more important is the examination of the interactions between the senior leaders of the Saratoga campaign.

"As senior leaders, one of the most important things that you have to do is to develop these close, personal relationships with your fellow senior leaders, both above and below . . . close, professional relationships of trust and understanding, and empathy," said Weddle.

It is as true today as it was in 1777, said Weddle.

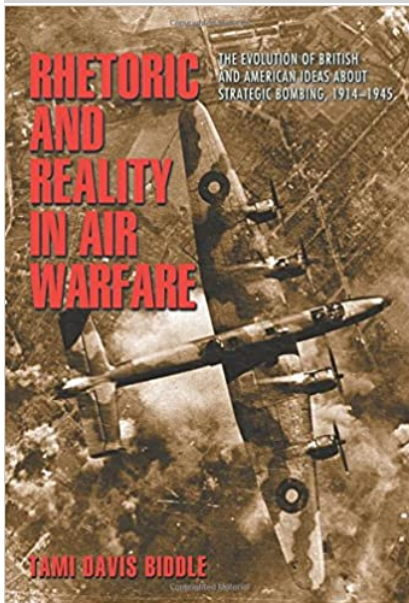




*In Democratizing Communist Militaries: The Cases of the Czech and Russian Armed Forces (2000), Ulrich explored the attitudes of the leaders of the armed forces in Russia and the Czech Republic toward the new democratic governments.*



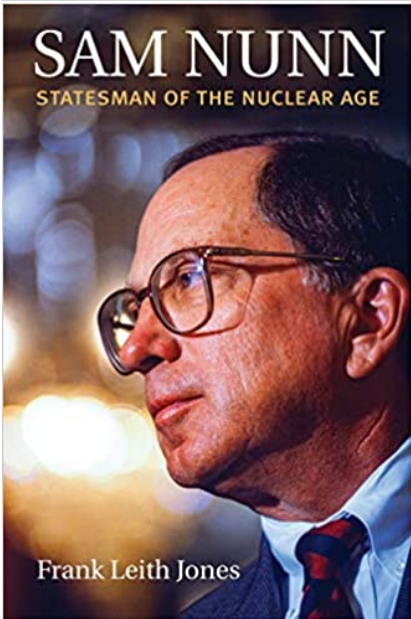
*1. Dr. Tami Biddle is a USAWC professor in the Department of National Security and Strategy and the Elihu Root Chair.*



*Rhetoric and Reality in Air Warfare: The Evolution of British and American Ideas about Strategic Bombing, 1914-1945 (2004) is part of Princeton Studies in International History and Politics series.*



*Dr. Frank Jones is a professor in the Department of National Security and Strategy.*



*Sam Nunn: Statesman of the Nuclear Age (2020), Dr. Jones recently published book, is part of a University of Kansas Press series, "Congressional Leaders."*



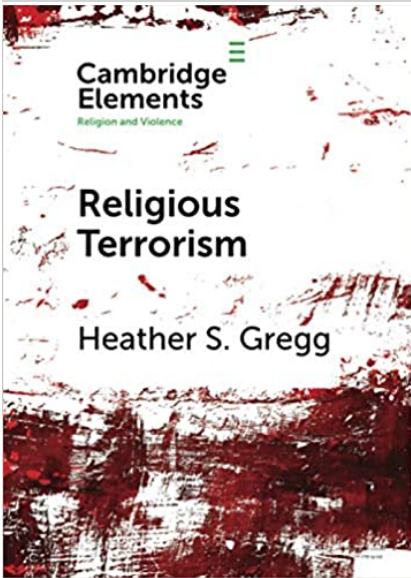




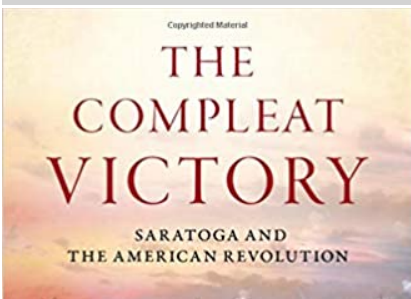
*Dr. Gregg, a USAWC professor, teaches an elective on Terrorism, Counterterrorism, and Encountering Violent Extremism and co-teaches a class on Special Operations.*

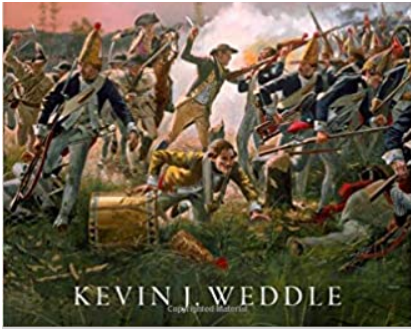


*Dr. Kevin Weddle is a professor of Military Theory and Strategy at the war college.*



*Religious Terrorism (2020) shows that, when combined with certain political and social circumstances, religion provides powerful resources for justifying and motivating terrorist acts against civilians.*





*ii iiiiiiiii iiiiiiiii: iiiiiiiii iii  
ii iiiiiiiii iiiiiiiii (iiiiiii  
iiiiiii ii iiiiiiiii iiiiiii) offers  
the most authoritative history of the  
Battle of Saratoga to date.*

U.S. Army War College News Archives