

Ken Hughes

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EXPERIENCE

Researcher, University of Virginia's Miller Center

2000-Today

Studies the secretly recorded White House tapes of Richard M. Nixon, Lyndon B. Johnson and John F. Kennedy. Identifies historically significant conversations, prepares and annotates transcripts, writes findings for public dissemination.

Freelance Journalist

1997-1999

Researched and wrote articles on the Kennedy and Nixon White House tapes for the *New York Times Magazine*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe Magazine* and other publications.

Managing Editor, LRP Publications, Arlington, VA

1994-1999

Covered federal agencies, Congress and the courts for *Federal Human Resources Week* and *Federal EEO Adviser*. Launched daily Web news service. Generated and assigned stories. Supervised employees. Edited copy.

Writer/Reporter, Federal Times, Springfield, VA

1989-1994

Covered federal agencies, Congress and the courts for national weekly newspaper for federal employees.

Reporter, American Community Cablevision, Ithaca, NY

1987-1989

Local cable television news reporter and occasional anchor.

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Bachelor of Science, Industrial and Labor Relations

BOOKS

Chasing Shadows: The Nixon Tapes, the Chennault Affair, and the Origins of Watergate. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014.

Fatal Politics: The Nixon Tapes, the Vietnam War and the Casualties of Reelection. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2015.

BOOK IN PROGRESS

Mortal Consequences. Kennedy White House tapes and declassified documents reveal the president's hidden role in the coup plot that resulted in South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem's overthrow and assassination.

ARTICLES/PAPERS

["How Richard Nixon Stabbed America in the Back,"](#) *Salon*, 26 April 2015.

["Rory Kennedy's Vietnam Documentary Says the US Congress Abandoned Our Vietnamese Allies at War's End. Don't Believe It,"](#) *History News Network*, 24 April 2015.

["You Could Blackmail LBJ": The Other Nixon Scandal Behind the Watergate Scandal,"](#) *Salon*, 27 July 2014.

["The Paris 'Peace' Accords Were a Deadly Deception,"](#) *History News Network*, January 31, 2013

["Nixon's Biggest Crime Was Far, Far Worse Than Watergate,"](#) *History News Network*, June 15, 2012

["Nixon's 'Decent Interval' Vietnam Strategy Should Give Obama Pause,"](#) *History News Network*, July 17, 2011

["Fatal Politics: Nixon's Political Timetable for Withdrawing from Vietnam,"](#) *Diplomatic History*, June 2010. Declassified Nixon tapes and documents show how the President Richard Nixon timed military withdrawal from Vietnam to the 1972 presidential election.

["The Myth That Congress Cut Off Funding for South Vietnam,"](#) *History News Network*, April 28, 2010. It didn't.

["Nixon vs. the Imaginary 'Jewish Cabal'"](#) *History News Network*, Sept. 24, 2007. Nixon posited a conspiracy of Jewish employees of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the man he had appointed chairman of the Federal Reserve, Arthur F. Burns.

["How Paranoid Was Nixon?"](#) *History News Network*, Aug. 13, 2007. White House tapes reveal how Nixon's conspiracy theories about Jews, intellectuals, and the Ivy League drove his fateful decision to commit the impeachable

offense of creating the Special Investigations Unit, a secret police organization, in violation of the Constitution.

“Domestic Determinants of Nixon's Strategy of Détente: Vietnam,” paper delivered during conference on “NATO, the Warsaw Pact and the Rise of Détente,” Dobbiaco, Italy, Sept. 28, 2002. Nixon tapes prove that the president timed American withdrawal from Vietnam to the 1972 election.

“[Debunking Deep Throat's Debunkers](#),” *Salon*, July 1, 2002. Demonstrated errors of fact and logic in two books casting doubt on the existence of Woodward and Bernstein's most famous source.

“JFK and the Fall of Diem,” *The Boston Globe Magazine*, 1999. White House tapes revealed that JFK concealed Duong Van “Big” Minh's guilt in the murder of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem.

“[The Tapes That Destroyed Nixon](#),” *The Washington Post*, December 6, 1997. Oval Office recording captured an unsuccessful attempt by Nixon to persuade his chief of staff to remove the tapes from the White House and destroy them.

“[Nixon: Still the One](#),” *The New York Times Magazine*, August 24, 1997. Tapes proved that Nixon offered a blanket pardon to his top aides before they testified in the Senate Watergate investigation.

“Nixon Tapes Reveal '73 Plan To Audit Congress,” *The Hill*, April 16, 1997.

“[Absolutely No Sense of Humor](#),” *The American Journalism Review*, April 1997. White House tapes revealed that Nixon ordered an audit of the publisher of *The Los Angeles Times* and the persecution of an INS official in a fit of rage over bad press.

PRESENTATIONS

Fatal Politics book talk and presentation, Politics & Prose, 30 May 2015.

Presentation on the Chennault Affair and Watergate, 92nd Street Y, 7 May 2015.

“The Unmaking of a President: Watergate at Forty,” a roundtable with Beverly F. Gage, David Greenberg, Mark David Nevin, and Katherine A. Scott, American Historical Association, January 2, 2014.

Moderator for “Nixon and Vietnam” panel and presenter for “Using the White House Tapes,” Richard M. Nixon Library & Museum's “Understanding Richard Nixon and His Era: A Symposium,” July 22-23, 2011.

“Using the White House Tapes,” instructor, Summer Institute on Conducting Archival Research, George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs, 2007-2015.

“A Necessary Reinterpretation of Presidential Power and Policy Making: The Secret Tapes of Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon,” commentator on panel with Brian Etheridge, Richard M. Filipink, Luke Nichter, Rick Moss, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, June 21-23, 2007.

“(Still More) New Evidence and New Approaches on the Vietnam War,” a roundtable with Robert K. Brigham, Malcolm Byrne, James G. Hershberg, Lien-Hang T. Nguyen, and John Prados, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, June 23-25, 2005.

NEWS

“Secret Tapes Listen in on Nixon Presidency Under Grips of Watergate Scandal,” Judy Woodruff, *PBS NewsHour*;

“Nixon Tapes Show Skepticism, Distrust of Former President,” Nancy Benac, *Associated Press*; August 22, 2013.

“White House Tapes Reveal JFK Debate Haunted Nixon,” Bill Plante, *CBS This Morning*, October 8, 2012. Interviewed on Nixon's decision not to debate in 1972 reelection campaign.

“Pentagon Papers Released After 40 Years,” *CNN*, 13 June 2011. Interviewed on the declassification of Top Secret Defense Department history of the Vietnam War.

“Secret Nixon Tapes Expert Ken Hughes: At the Release of the Pentagon Papers 40 Years Ago, Richard Nixon Was ‘Gleeful and Fearful,’” *CNN.com*, 10 June 2011. Interviewed on Nixon's reaction to the leak of a Top Secret Defense Department history of Vietnam War.

“On Nixon Tapes, Ambivalence Over Abortion, Not Watergate,” Charlie Savage, *New York Times*, 23 June 2009.

“New Batch of Nixon Tapes Released,” Christopher Goffard, 24 June 2009. “Nixon Was Ready to ‘Cut Off Head’ of South Vietnamese Leader,” Shaun Tandon, *AFP*, 24 June 2009. Interviewed on Nixon's “decent interval” exit strategy for Vietnam.

“John Dean's Role at Issue in Nixon Tapes Feud,” Patricia Cohen, *New York Times*, 31 January 2009. Interviewed on experience working with Nixon tapes.