
ROBERT A. STRONG

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA — PH.D. 1980
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY — M.A. 1977
KENYON COLLEGE — B.A. 1970

AWARDS AND HONORS

Fulbright Scholar, University College Dublin, Mary Ball Washington Chair — 2013-14
Endowed Chair, William Lyne Wilson Professor in Political Economy — 1991-present
Congressional Fellowship, American Political Science Association — 1988-89
Outstanding Advisor Award, Arts and Sciences, Tulane University — 1985-86
Student Senate Teaching Award, Tulane University — 1984-85

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR OF POLITICS — 1989-PRESENT
Interim Provost, 2011-13; Director of the Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. Program in Leadership and Integrity
and Associate Provost 2008-11; Politics Department Head 1989-2005

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, VISITING FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR — 2013-14
Visiting Professor and Holder of the Mary Ball Washington Chair, Department of History

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, OXFORD UNIVERSITY, VISITING FELLOW — 2005
Served as a research fellow at the Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University and taught in
the university's graduate program in international relations

APSA CONGRESSIONAL FELLOW — 1988-89
Worked in the offices of Congressman Lee H. Hamilton and Senator Richard G. Lugar

TULANE UNIVERSITY — 1982-88
Assistant Professor (1982-87), Associate Professor (1987-89) Department of Political Science

MILLER CENTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS — 1981-82
Research Associate and Assistant Director of the Carter Presidency Project

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF WALES, ABERYTSWYTH — 1980-81
Leverhulme Visiting Fellow and instructor in courses on American foreign policy and national security
issues

UNITED STATES NAVY — 1971-74
Officer on service force ships stationed in San Francisco, California; Sasebo, Japan; and Charleston,
South Carolina

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Department of Politics, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia 24450

Character and Consequence: Foreign Policy Decisions of George H. W. Bush (Lexington Books, 2020); paperback edition (2023).

Decisions and Dilemmas: Case Studies in Presidential Foreign Policy Making, ebook edition (Rutledge, 2015); 2nd ed. (M. E. Sharpe, 2005); 1st ed. (Prentice Hall, 1992).

Working in the World: Jimmy Carter and the Making of American Foreign Policy (Louisiana State University Press, 2000).

Bureaucracy and Statesmanship: Henry Kissinger and the Making of American Foreign Policy (University Press of America, 1986).

[Articles, Book Chapters and Review Essays](#)

“Ending the Cold War without Debate: Foreign Policy and the 1988 Election,” chapter 13, in *US Presidential Elections and Foreign Policy*, edited by Andrew Johnstone and Andrew Priest (University of Kentucky Press, 2017).

“Peacemaker’s Progress: Bill Clinton, Northern Ireland and the Middle East,” chapter 9, in *42: Inside the Presidency of Bill Clinton*, edited by Michael Nelson, Barbara Perry and Russell Riley (Cornell University Press, 2016).

“Politics and Principle: Jimmy Carter in the Civil Rights Era,” *Irish Journal of American Studies* (November 2014).

“Character and Consequence: The John Tower Confirmation Battle,” chapter 5, in *41: Inside the Presidency of George H. W. Bush*, edited by Michael Nelson and Barbara Perry (Cornell University Press, 2014).

“Deposing Dictators: The Bush Presidents, Saddam Hussein and Manuel Noriega,” *White House Studies* (November 2007). Reprinted as a chapter in *The Presidencies of George Herbert Walker Bush and George Walker Bush: Like Father Like Son?* edited by Anthony Eksterowicz and Glenn Hastedt (Nova Publications, 2008).

“Eisenhower, Reagan and Escaping the Dilemmas of Deterrence,” *White House Studies*, (January 2004). Reprinted as a chapter in *The President and Foreign Policy: Chief Architect or General Contractor?* edited by Glenn Hastedt and Anthony Eksterowicz (Nova Publications, 2005).

“Jimmy Carter and the Neutron Bomb: The Making of an Indecision,” in *The President, The Bureaucracy, and World Regions in Arms Control*, edited by Kenneth W. Thompson (University Press of America, 1998).

“Clinton’s Complexities,” *Miller Center Journal* (Spring 1996).

“Arms Control and the Presidency in the Nuclear Age,” chapter in *Presidents and Arms Control* edited by Kenneth W. Thompson (University Press of America, 1994).

“Anecdote and Evidence: Jimmy Carter’s Annapolis Address on U.S.-Soviet Relations,” *Miller Center Journal* (Spring 1994).

“October Surprises,” *Intelligence and National Security* (April 1993).

“Jimmy Carter and the Panama Canal Treaties,” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* (Spring 1991).

“Edward Luttwak and Strategy in the 1980s,” in *Trends chapter in Contemporary Conservative Thought*, edited by Mark J. Rozell and James F. Pontuso (Westview Press, 1990).

“The History of Nuclear Futures,” *Arms Control* (May 1989).

“Winston Churchill and War in the Twentieth Century,” chapter in *Moral Reasoning and Statecraft*, edited by Reed Davis (University Press of America, 1988).

“Iran-Contra and the 1988 Election,” *Dialogue* (Fall 1988).

“Richard Nixon Revisited,” *The Virginia Quarterly Review* (Summer 1988).

“The Carter Administration and the Neutron Bomb,” jointly authored with Marshal Zeringue, *Southeastern Political Science Review* (Spring 1988).

- "Alexis de Tocqueville and the Abolition of Slavery," *Slavery and Abolition* (September 1987).
- "Missile Defense and Political Language," chapter in *Institutions and Leadership: Prospects for the Future*, edited by Kenneth W. Thompson (University Press of America, 1987).
- "Eisenhower and Arms Control," chapter in *Reevaluating Eisenhower: American Foreign Policy in the Fifties*, edited by Richard Melanson and David Mayer (University of Illinois Press, 1987).
- "Recapturing Leadership: The Carter Administration and the Crisis of Confidence," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* (Fall 1986).
- "Reading and Misreading Presidents," *Teaching Political Science* (Spring 1985).
- "Nuclear Protest in Britain and America," *Arms Control* (September 1983).
- "Locke and American Values," chapter in *Political Traditions and Contemporary Problems*, edited by Kenneth W. Thompson (University Press of America, 1982).
- "The Nuclear Weapon States: Why They Went Nuclear," chapter in *Nuclear Proliferation in the 1980s* edited by Christoph Bertram and William Kincade (St. Martin's, 1982). Reprinted in *Dialogue* (Spring 1991).
- "The Trouble with SALT," *Arms Control* (December 1980).

[Recent Op-Eds, Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries](#)

- "Trump's Election Lies Would Be Funny If They Weren't So Dangerous to Democracy," *Roanoke Times*, November 11, 2021.
- "Dumb and Dumber Americans," *Roanoke Times*, August 3, 2021.
- "Donald Trump and the Stress Test of American Democracy," *Roanoke Times*, February 17, 2021.
- "America's Newest Voters Look Back at the 2020 Election—and Forward to Politics in 2021," co-authored with Mary Kate Cary, *The Conversation*, December 29, 2020.
- "Hiroshima and the Dawn of the Nuclear Age," co-authored with Frank Settle, *Roanoke Times*, August 6, 2020.
- "Impeachment and Democracy," *Roanoke Times*, October 17, 2019.
- "Caldwell Butler's Watergate Wisdom," *Roanoke Times*, July 22, 2019.
- "The Virginians Who Gave Us High Crimes and Misdemeanors," *Daily Progress*, June 16, 2019.
- "Impeachment Redux," *Roanoke Times*, May 15, 2019.
- "Whiskey, Washington and Impeachment," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, May 12, 2019.
- "Collusion and Confusion," *Roanoke Times*, March 27, 2019.
- "What is the Purpose of the State of the Union?" NBC Think, nbc.news.com, February 5, 2019.
- "Bush's Surprisingly Bold Moves," *The Virginian-Pilot*, December 9, 2018.
- "Flailing Over Fake News," *Roanoke Times*, November 19, 2018.
- "George Washington's Words Still Matter," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, September 19, 2018.
- "The Tabloid Presidency," *Roanoke Times*, July 30, 2018.
- "The Presidential School of Scandals," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, June 12, 2018.
- "Narrative and Nonsense," *Roanoke Times*, April 29, 2018.
- "Trump's Twitter Habit is not very Presidential," NBC Think, nbcnews.com, February 19, 2018.
- "Founding Father Faced Familiar Parenting Challenges," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, September 24, 2017.
- "Trump Approval Rating: So Low It Has to Go Up? Don't Bet On It," *USA Today*, August 10, 2017.
- "Jimmy Carter and the Middle Class," encyclopedia entry co-authored with Lauren Howard '16, in *The Encyclopedia of the Middle Class*, edited by Robert Rycroft, ABC-Clío, forthcoming, June 2017.
- "Trump and JFK Are More Alike Than We Like to Think," *Newsweek*, May 29, 2017
- "Liar-in-Chief," *Roanoke Times*, March 26, 2017.
- "What Did George W. Tweet to Trump?" *Newsweek*, January 20, 2017.

“Somalia’s 1992 Thanksgiving: Reflections on a U.S. Humanitarian Intervention in the Horn of Africa,” *Newsweek*, November 23, 2016.

“Dead People Very Rarely Vote,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, October 29, 2016.

“Trumpsburg Address,” *Roanoke Times*, September 23, 2016.

“Trump Tipping Point Could Be Upon Us,” *USA Today* online, August 6, 2016.

“Three Ways to Explain the Republican Race,” *Roanoke Times*, May 1, 2016.

“The Trumpery Before Trump,” *Roanoke Times*, February 17, 2016.

“A Trump Triumph Runs Against All Odds,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, February 1, 2016.

“Trump, Perot and Easing Political Paralysis,” *Roanoke Times*, December 14, 2015.

“Jimmy Carter, Reconsidered,” *Roanoke Times*, October 1, 2015.

“Donald and the Dictionary,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, September 26, 2015.

“How to Depose a Dictator,” *The Virginian-Pilot*, December 28, 2014.

“Fulbright Funding Folly,” co-authored with Harry S. Laver, *Boston Globe* online, June 10, 2014.

“A Moderate’s Manifesto,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, May 23, 2014.

Review of *Buried in the Sands of the Ogaden: The United States, the Horn of Africa, and the Demise of Détente* by Louise Woodroffe, *The Journal of American History*, Summer 2014.

“Washington’s Advice to the Political Class Still Apposite Today,” *The Irish Times*, February 21, 2014. (revised version of “What Would George Do?” below).

“American South Has Its Own Struggle with Flags,” *Belfast Telegraph*, January 17, 2014.

“Boston Tea Party Still Stirs, But Not in Republicans,” *The Irish Times*, December 16, 2013.

“JFK Applauded Poetry as a Potent Antidote to Power,” *The Irish Times*, October 26, 2013.

“It’s a Pretty Inspiring Quote, But Did it Come From WB Yeats?” *The Irish Times*, October 15, 2013. (revised version of “Advice on Lighting Fires,” below).

“Liberal Arts and Pre-Professional Education Intertwined,” co-authored with Elizabeth Knapp, *The Hechinger Report*, August 6, 2013.

“A Few Words at Commencement,” *Huffington Post*, July 6, 2013.

“MIICs, Not MOOCs, at Washington and Lee,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, June 19, 2013.

“What Would George Do?” *Huffington Post*, September 18, 2012.

“Advice on Lighting Fires,” *Huffington Post*, September 9, 2012.

Review of *Dropping the Torch: Jimmy Carter, the Olympic Boycott, and the Cold War*, by Nicholas Evan Sarantakes, *Journal of American History*, Fall, 2011.

Review of *An Outsider in the White House: Jimmy Carter, His Advisors, and the Making of American Foreign Policy*, by Betty Glad, *H-Diplo Roundtable Review*, Volume XII, No. 6, March, 2011.

Review of *Policy Unraveled: The Foreign Policy of the Carter Administration*, by Scott Kaufman, *The Journal of Southern History*, February, 2010.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Presented papers at various professional meetings including the American Political Science Association, the Southern Political Science Association, the Center for the Study of the Presidency, the International Studies Association, Southwestern Social Science Association, and the American Bar Association.

Guest lectures at Oxford University, British Foreign Office, Hampton-Sydney College, Lynchburg College, the University of Virginia, Ohio University, Gettysburg College, Roanoke College, Miller Center of Public Affairs, St. John’s Episcopal Church in Washington, DC and the Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges.

Attended conferences or workshops on Teaching Strategic Studies (The Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies, SAIS), Nonproliferation (University of North Carolina at Asheville), Summer Program on Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control (Harvard), and other programs at Colorado College, the Army War College, the Carter Presidential Library, the Bush Presidential Library, the Council on Foreign Relations, James Madison University and the Naval War College.

Participated in NATO Discussion Series sponsored by the Atlantic Council in Washington, Brussels & Naples (June-July, 1991).

Presented a paper to an international conference on "Nuclear Proliferation in the 1980s" in Bellagio, Italy (May 1978).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Associate Editor, *White House Studies*, (2005-2011).

Regular reviewer for *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* (over 50 reviews).

With Professor Frank Settle and funding from the US Institute of Peace, organized summer faculty workshop on teaching nonproliferation (2005).

Member of the editorial board for *The Miller Center Journal* (1994-1998).

Contributing editor, *AmericanPresidency.org*.

Participated in oral history interviews with Jimmy Carter, Colin Powell, Madeleine Albright, James Baker, Tony Blair, John Major, Gerry Adams, Bertie Ahern, James Woolsey, Samuel Berger, Richard Haass, Hamilton Jordan, Jody Powell, Tony Blinken and other officials in the Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and Obama presidencies.

Consultant and outside reviewer for the Compton Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library Foundation, ALSOS, the Fulbright Commission of Ireland and the Center for the Study of World Politics.

Administrator of the William Lyne Wilson II Lectureship series including public lectures and faculty/student seminars with Garry Wills, Francis Fukuyama, Gertrude Himmelfarb, William Julius Wilson, Stanley Fish, William Lee Miller, Taylor Branch, David Brooks, Peter Baker and Richard Norton Smith.

Manuscript reviewer for McGraw-Hill, University of South Carolina Press, LSU Press, Rowman & Littlefield, Oxford University Press, Westview Press, Cornell University Press, University of Virginia Press *International Security*, *Polity*, *Journal of American History*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Cold War Studies*, *White House Studies*, *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*, and *Studies in American Culture*.

Expert commentator in the documentary film *Carterland*, released in 2021.

Selected videos, speeches and political commentary at:

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