

ALEXANDER BROWN BICK

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EDUCATION

- 2005–2012 **Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ
PhD, History
- 2002–2004 **London School of Economics and Political Science**, London, UK
MSc, Economic History, and *Diploma*, Economics
- 1996–1999 **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL
BA, Political Science
- 1994–1996 **Simon’s Rock College**, Great Barrington, MA
AA, Social Studies

EXPERIENCE

- March 2022–present **U.S. Department of State**, Washington, DC
Policy Planning Staff, Office of the Secretary
Senior advisor on U.S. foreign policy and strategy; representative to White House-led interagency planning efforts on Russia and the Indo-Pacific; and co-architect and co-lead of a new Department-wide, global risk and opportunities planning process.
- Jan 2021–Feb 2022 **Executive Office of the President**, Washington, DC
Director for Strategic Planning, National Security Council Staff
Led the interagency “Tiger Team” that planned the U.S. government response to Russia’s February 2022 invasion of Ukraine; carried out special projects for the National Security Advisor and other senior officials; and helped to set the strategic direction of the Biden-Harris Administration in foreign and national security policy by leading, co-leading, or contributing to the development of more than a dozen National Security Memoranda and strategies, including the National Security Strategy, the President’s Intelligence Priorities, and reviews of Afghanistan, Russia, and counterterrorism policy.
- Sept 2020–Jan 2021 **Biden-Harris Transition Team**, Washington, DC
Deputy Policy Coordinator, Agency Review Team for the National Security Council
Interviewed senior Trump Administration officials, developed interim policy guidance, and planned early presidential and cabinet-level actions to ensure a smooth transfer of power and enable President Biden to execute his national security vision on Day One.
- Jan 2017–Jan 2021 **Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies**, Washington, DC
Associate Director and Research Scholar, Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs
Launched SAIS’ premier \$50 million research institute for the study of history, strategy, and statecraft; managed center staff, budget, awards, and partnerships with donors, think tanks, and Johns Hopkins University; coordinated a multi-university consortium for international policy scholarship; and taught courses/mentored advanced graduate students.
- Sept 2014–May 2016 **Executive Office of the President**, Washington, DC
Director for Syria, National Security Council Staff
Served as the White House point person on Syria; played a key role devising and implementing the U.S. strategy to defeat the Islamic State, coordinating U.S. military and humanitarian assistance programs, and supporting diplomatic negotiations with Russia, Turkey, the UN, and others aimed at ending the war; and provided extensive written briefings for cabinet-level meetings, the National Security Advisor, and the President.
- Nov 2012–Aug 2014 **U.S. Department of State**, Washington, DC
Policy Planning Staff, Office of the Secretary

Advisor to Secretaries Clinton and Kerry on political transitions in Mali, Libya, and Syria; initiated and led a government-wide review of U.S. strategy in the Maghreb-Sahel region; supported negotiations between the Syrian government and opposition leaders at UN-led talks in Geneva; and engaged experts in the think-tank and academic communities.

Aug–Nov 2012

U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC
Presidential Management Fellow, Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations
Helped establish the policy office in a new bureau responsible for improving the U.S. government’s ability to prevent and respond to violent conflict around the world.

June–Aug 2012

The Carter Center, Tripoli, Libya
Director, Libya Election Observation Mission
Senior in-country representative for a \$2 million program to enhance the transparency and credibility of Libya’s first post-conflict elections; managed relationships with the Libyan government, UN, embassies, donors, and partners; deployed 30+ international observers under extremely challenging security conditions; and briefed U.S. and EU officials.

Aug–Dec 2011

The Carter Center, Monrovia, Liberia
Director, Liberia Election Observation Mission
Senior in-country representative for a \$1.3 million election observation program; deployed 50+ observers, managed national and international staff, briefed delegation leadership, and provided regular written analysis to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Sept–Dec 2010

Barnard College, New York, NY
Visiting Professor, History Department
Taught an advanced undergraduate seminar entitled “Capitalism and the Enlightenment,” covering topics in economics, finance, political theory, and world history.

Sept 2009–May 2010

University of Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands
Fulbright Fellow, History Department
Conducted research in two dozen Dutch archives and libraries on one of the first joint stock companies and the relationship between state, war, and trade in early modern Europe.

March–Oct 2005

The Carter Center, Monrovia, Liberia
Acting Country Director, European Commission Bilateral Elections Program
Established and managed a European Commission-funded field office to provide technical elections assistance, and served as an international observer on Election Day.

Oct 2002–May 2003

Office of Julia Drown MP, London, UK
Researcher, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Highly-Indebted Poor Countries
Conducted research, drafted talking points, and organized conferences and briefings on debt-relief and international development issues in the UK Parliament.

Jan 2000–March 2002

The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA
Research Assistant, Conflict Resolution and Democracy Programs
Supported reconciliation efforts in Liberia and established and coordinated an observation mission for Sierra Leone’s first post-conflict election; served as a short-term observer for the 2000 constitutional referendum in Venezuela; and provided research, drafted documents, and served as a facilitator for multi-year negotiations between Sudan and Uganda to end Sudan’s support to the Lord’s Resistance Army, including talks in Nairobi and Khartoum.

July–Sept 1999

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, Chicago, IL
Intern, Public Education Reform Project
Interviewed city officials, administrators, and teachers and drafted materials advocating smaller school size and greater teacher empowerment in under-privileged schools.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2019–2020

Fellow, Middle East Program and the Kennan Institute, The Wilson Center

2018

Research Fellow, Folger Shakespeare Library

2015

Award for Exceptional Service, Executive Office of the President

2014

Meritorious Honor Award, U.S. Department of State (S/P)

2013	Meritorious Honor Award, U.S. Department of State (CSO)
2012–2013	Presidential Management Fellow, U.S. Department of State
2009–2010	Fulbright Fellow, The Netherlands
2008	Brill Fellow at the Scaliger Institute, The Netherlands
2008	Political Philosophy Grant, Princeton Center for Human Values
2008	Research Grant, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
2006	Language Study Grant, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
2005–2006	Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Humanistic Studies
2005	Young Scholar, History of Economics Society
2004	Robert McKenzie Memorial Prize, London School of Economics and Political Science
1999	Phi Beta Kappa, University of Chicago
1996	Award for Academic Excellence, Division of Social Studies, Simon’s Rock College

PUBLICATIONS

<i>Forthcoming</i>	<i>Minutes of Empire: The Dutch West India Company and Mercantile Strategy, 1618-1648</i> Book manuscript under contract with Oxford University Press.
<i>Forthcoming</i>	“The Dutch West India Company and the Peace of Münster, Revisited” in <i>Ibero-Dutch Entanglements in the Seventeenth Century: Conflict and Collaboration in Global Perspective</i> , edited by Silvia Mitchell and Erica Heinsen-Roach (Palgrave MacMillan).
September 2020	“A New Cold War in the Middle East?” in Re-engaging the Middle East: A New Vision for U.S. Policy , edited by Dafna Rand and Andrew Miller (Washington, DC: Brookings Press).
April 2018	“ Strategic Dimensions of Forced Migration in Syria ,” <i>SAIS Review of International Affairs</i> , Vol. 38, No. 1 (Summer/Fall 2017), 25-32.
October 2011	“Colonial Administration,” in <i>Comprehensive Atlas of the Dutch West India Company</i> , edited by Bea Brommer and Henk den Heijer (Voorburg: Asia Maior Publishers).
Autumn 2008	“ Bernard Mandeville and the ‘Economy’ of the Dutch ,” <i>Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics</i> , Vol. 1, No. 1, 87-106.
April 2009	“ Johannes de Laet’s History of the Westindische Compagnie ,” <i>Omslag</i> , Leiden, Vol. 7, No. 1, 1-2.

POLICY PAPERS

September 2020	“Westphalia: Beyond the Myth.” After Disruption: Historical Perspectives on the Future of International Order , CSIS, Washington, DC
April 2020	“ Assad the Spoiler: Russia’s Challenge in Syria ,” <i>Viewpoints</i> , The Wilson Center
December 2018	“ Could U.S. Withdrawal from Syria Lead to Conflict Between Russia and Turkey? ” <i>Just Security</i>
July 2018	“ Trump Should Work with Putin to Develop a New Framework for Syria ,” <i>Foreign Policy</i> (with Brian Katulis)
July 2018	“ Seizing the Diplomatic Initiative in Syria ,” Center for American Progress (with Brian Katulis, Daniel Benaim, and Peter Juul)
November 2017	“ Syria Is Sliding Towards Partition ,” <i>War on the Rocks</i>
September 2017	“ It’s Time for a New Syria Peace Process ,” <i>Foreign Policy</i> (with Lisa Roman)
July 2017	“ Trump’s National Security Strategy: A New Brand of Mercantilism ,” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (with Salman Ahmed)
December 2016	“A De-Facto Partition Scenario for Syria,” National Intelligence Council Report
May 2013	“ General National Congress Elections in Libya: Final Report ,” The Carter Center
March 2012	“ National Elections in Liberia: Final Report ,” The Carter Center

- January 2007 “Foreword” to *When I Wished I Was Here: Dispatches from Fallujah*. New York: The Crumpled Press
- November 2004 “Liberia: Political and Economic Forecast,” *Economist Intelligence Unit*
- August 1999 “Small Schools = Great Leaders: Enhancing Teacher Leadership Through Smaller Schools,” Business and Professional People for the Public Interest

PRESENTATIONS

- July 2022 “War in Ukraine: What Have We Learned So Far?” International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network, Minnowbrook, New York
- December 2021 “‘Securing This State’: Rethinking Success and Failure in the History of the WIC.” New Perspectives on the Establishment and Functioning of the Dutch West India Company 400 Years Ago. Koninklijk Zeeuwsch Genootschap, Middelburg, the Netherlands
- September 2020 “U.S. and the Middle East: Lessons from the Obama and Trump Administrations.” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, DC
- September 2020 “After Disruption: Historical Perspectives on the Future of International Order.” Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC
- August 2020 “History and Policymaking: A Case Study.” Summer Institute on Conducting Archival Research, CSIS and the Wilson Center, Washington, DC
- March 2020 “The Growing Conflict between Syria, Turkey, and Russia and Implications for U.S. Policy.” Briefing for Members of Congress, Aspen Institute Congressional Program, Washington, DC
- February 2020 “The Diplomatic Landscape in Syria.” U.S.-Israel Working Group on Russia in the Middle East, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC
- June 2019 “What Did the United States Get Wrong About Russia in Syria?” Academic Exchange Annual Alumni Retreat, Lake George, NY
- February 2018 “Obstacles to Russia’s Goals in Syria.” Analytical Exchange on *Russia’s Endgame in Syria*, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC
- January 2018 “Policy Memo Master Class.” American University, Washington, DC
- November 2017 “In Service of the State: The Uses of History for Policy” and “The War in Syria: What Does It Mean for Assad to Win?” University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- July 2017 “Turkey and Syria.” *Workshop on Turkey’s Foreign Policy*, RAND Corporation, Arlington, VA
- April 2017 “Roads to Raqqa: U.S. Strategy to Defeat the Islamic State.” DACOR, Washington, DC
- March 2017 “Syria: A View From the White House.” *Inside Washington During the Obama Years*, Kendal, Lexington, VA
- December 2016 “Strategic Challenges for the New Trump Administration in Syria.” Amherst College, MA
- May 2016 “President Obama’s Approach in Syria.” U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD
- February 2015 “U.S. Strategy in Syria.” *The Implications of Asad Holding On*, Washington Institute on Near East Policy, Washington, DC
- March 2012 “Imaginary Economies: Dutch Efforts to Calculate the Value of the New World, 1635–1645.” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, *The Political Arithmetic of Empires in the Early Modern World*, University of Maryland College Park, MD
- January 2012 “Free Trade and African Slavery.” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- June 2011 “‘We Dare Not Stick Our Noses Outside the Fort’: Commercial Intelligence, State Policy, and the 1645 Revolt in Dutch Brazil.” *The Global Dimensions of European Knowledge*, Birkbeck College, London

- April 2011 “Monopoly Politics: The Debate Over Free Trade to Brazil, 1636-38.” *The Low Countries and Beyond*, Columbia University, New York, NY
- December 2010 “The Costs of Conquest: The Dutch West India Company and the Crisis of Imperial Administration, 1643-46.” Early Modern History Workshop, Princeton University, NJ
- November 2010 “Brazil, the Dutch Atlantic, and Early Modern Globalization.” *Globalization and De-Globalization*, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
- October 2010 “In the Service of Merchants: Tensions within the Dutch Elite over the Selection of a New President and High Council for Recife, 1643-45.” Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Montreal, Canada
- June 2010 “The Joint-Stock Company and the State: Competing Drafts for the Charter of the Dutch West India Company, 1618-1621.” History of Economics Society, Syracuse University, NY
- April 2010 “A Council of the Indies for the Dutch Republic? The Heren XIX and the Politics of Imperial Administration, 1618-1645.” Financial History Working Group, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands
- January 2010 “The Boardroom and the Empire: A Mirco-History of the Dutch West India Company.” Workshop in Early Modern European History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- October 2009 “Manifold Gifts, Daily Bribes: Evidence for Changing Patterns of Exchange at Dutch Forts on the Gold Coast, 1640-1665.” Syracuse University, NY
- July 2009 “Gifting Empire? Presents, Bribes, and Dutch Power on the Gold Coast, 1640-1665.” *Africa, Europe, and America, 1500-1700*, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Accra, Ghana
- January 2009 “History Counts: the Dutch West India Company and the Rhetoric of Numbers.” Workshop in Early Modern European History, Princeton University, NJ
- November 2008 “Writing Mercantile History: Johannes de Laet and the Dutch West India Company.” *Brill Lecture at the Scaliger Instituut*, Leiden, The Netherlands
- April 2008 “Notes on Print and Printing in the Digital Age.” Center for the Study of Books and Media Princeton University, NJ
- January 2008 “Africa: Old World, or New?” Workshop in Early Modern European History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- December 2007 “Sir William Temple and the Politics of Observation.” Seminar in the History of Economic Thought, Tinbergen Institute, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- October 2007 “Political Economy in the Anglo-Dutch Moment: the Long(er) Durée,” Princeton-Yale British Studies Workshop, New Haven, CT
- January 2007 “False Gold or None at All: Limits to European Imperialism in West Africa in the late Seventeenth Century.” Annual New York Area African History Workshop, Princeton University, NJ
- June 2005 “A Pattern to Others: Bernard Mandeville and the Economy of the Dutch.” History of Economics Society, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
- December 2004 “Sudan: An Inside and Out View.” Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
- May 2002 “Finding a Way Forward: Children in the Nairobi Agreement between Sudan and Uganda.” (with J. Alex Little), Sudan Studies Association, Reading, PA
- January 2002 “The Role of International Observers in the 2003 Liberian Election Process.” Movement for Democratic Change Conference, Silver Spring, MD
- June 2001 “Conflict Resolution and U.S. Policy Toward Africa.” Foreign Policy Association Lecture Series, Anderson, SC
- March 2001 “Mediating Proxy War: The Case of Sudan and Uganda.” Mendel Family Lecture Series, Dunwoody, GA

May 1999 “The Logic of Local Politics in Liberia: 1989-1998.” Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science, Normal, IL

CONSULTANCIES AND AFFILIATIONS

June 2020–Jan 2021 Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC
Aug–Sept 2020 Senior Advisor, Crisis Management Initiative, Helsinki, Finland
2016–2020 Consultant, The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA
October 2018 Consultant, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, DC
2017–2018 Associate, National Intelligence Council, Washington, DC
February 2012 Consultant, The Carter Center, Freetown, Sierra Leone
July 2010 Volunteer, Syracuse University Department of Archaeology, Komenda, Ghana
February 2003 Expert Referee, Bail for Immigration Detainees, Atlanta, GA
2002–2004 Founder and Co-Director, LSE Africa Forum, London, United Kingdom
February 2002 Participant, USAID Electoral Assessment Mission, Monrovia, Liberia
December 1999 Volunteer, Turimiquiré Foundation, Cumaná, Venezuela

CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE

May–Sept 2020 Middle East Working Group, Biden for President
July–Nov 2020 Volunteer/Fundraiser, Sara Tindall-Ghazal for Georgia State House
November 2018 Volunteer, Andy Kim for Congress, Marlton, NJ
June–Nov 2016 Middle East Working Group and Volunteer, Hillary for America, Philadelphia, PA
Oct–Nov 2012 Volunteer, Barack Obama for President, Columbus, OH
Oct–Nov 2008 Volunteer, Barack Obama for President, Fairfax, VA

EDITING AND PUBLISHING

2012–2015 Associate Editor, *Itinerario: A Journal of the History of European Expansion*
2011–2012 Manuscript Reviewer, *Erasmus Journal of Philosophy and Economics*
2004–2012 Manuscript Reviewer, *African Studies Review*
2004–2011 Founding Editor and Publisher, *The Crumpled Press*
2006–2008 Graduate Student Editor, *The Princeton Report on Knowledge*

MEDIA EXPERIENCE

Interviews for radio, print, or television for AP, BBC, CBC, CNN, Defense One, The Economist, The Financial Times, Fortune, France-Inter, The Guardian, al-Hura, al-Jazeera, al-Monitor, Mother Jones, The National Interest, The New York Times, PBS, Politico, Reuters, Voice of America, War on the Rocks, The Washington Post, and various local media in the U.S. and abroad; podcasts hosted by the Center for New American Security and War on the Rocks.

LANGUAGES

English (native); Dutch (advanced); French (conversational); Spanish (conversational); Portuguese (beginner)

TRAVEL

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zimbabwe