

JACOB SAMUEL LEVITAN

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jacob-levitan-205825bb/>

<https://jacoblevitan.com/>

JSLEVS1@GMAIL.COM

484-274-8054

Washington, DC

Foreign policy specialist with Master of Arts in International Relations (MAIR) from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) seeking to use critical knowledge and research competencies in: U.S. national security strategy; Arctic policy; post-Soviet space; Russian foreign and national security policy; nuclear non-proliferation; NATO policy; strategic analysis and foresight; and open-source research.

Demonstrated experience in monitoring foreign affairs, crafting U.S. foreign policy recommendations, strategic analysis, stakeholder relations, memoranda writing, briefing, and project-management. Professionally proficient in Russian with three years of professional experience analyzing developments in the post-Soviet space pertinent to U.S. national security.

Highly collaborative and dedicated professional motivated to take initiative in fast-paced work environments.

HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- Attended the 2023 Munich Security Conference after winning the Conference's international Junior Ambassador Essay Competition with the essay, *A Wasted Opportunity: Why the European Response to Putin's War Has Only Reinforced a Dangerous Status Quo*.
- As a researcher for the International Conflict Resolution Center during COVID, I built the think tank's media presence through the creation, organization, and execution of a series of Zoom expert interviews.
- MSNBC's *The Beat with Ari Melber* featured my 2021 article, *Russian Passportization Poses Long-Term Threat to Ukrainian Sovereignty*, on February 22, 2022.
- Won a Summer Undergraduate Research Award from Washington University in St. Louis to conduct field research on Russian nationalism and foreign policy in the Russian Federation in 2017, after designing a project proposal conforming to IRB standards.

SKILLS, EXPERTISE, & EDUCATION

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Russian | Intelligence Analysis | Team Leadership |
| Policy Analysis | Intelligence Research | Editing and Writing |
| Political Analysis | Open-Source Research | Budget & Logistic Organization |
| Strategic Foresight & Analysis | Red Teaming | Programmatic Management |
| Military Analysis | Qualitative Analysis | Event Management |
| NATO-Transatlantic Policy | Quantitative Analysis | Stakeholder Relations |

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Johns Hopkins University
School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
Master of Arts in International Relations (MAIR)

Washington, DC
May 2023

- GPA: 3.77
- Editor, SAIS Observer (2022-2023) Staff Writer, SAIS Observer (2021-2022)
- International Staff Ride Leadership Seminar Capstone: Cold War (Spring 2023)

Washington University in St. Louis
Bachelor of Arts in International and Area Studies, Eurasian Concentration

St. Louis, MO
May 2018

- Presented paper titled *Russky vs Rossissky: Negotiating Between an Ethnic and Imperial Identity* at Central Slavic Conference, October 2017
- Awarded Summer Undergraduate Research Award funded by Washington University for summer travel to Russia to research Russian ethnonationalism and foreign policy, Summer 2017

- Study abroad: *St. Petersburg State University*, Spring 2017
 - Presented paper titled *Nomads, Europeans, or Something Else: The Russian Question Explained Through the Great Game* at the Central Slavic Conference, October 2016
 - Directed crisis simulation at Washington University in St. Louis-Jawaharlal Nehru University-Fudan University National Security Conference in Shanghai, May 2016
-

HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCE

Junior Ambassador | February 2023
Munich Security Conference, Munich, Germany

Attended Munich Security Conference with Observer status as a Junior Ambassador, after winning the Munich Security Conference Junior Ambassador International Essay Competition.

- **Strategic Planning:** Worked with U.S. and Ukrainian officials to determine conditions of victory and formulate preconditions for a ceasefire agreement. Worked with officials on preparing for a Russian leadership transition.
- **Stakeholder Relations:** Met with German state and federal officials as a representative of the Junior Ambassador program. Met with former world leaders in the organization The Elders as a representative of the Junior Ambassador program.

Young Global Professional, Scowcroft Strategy Initiative | May-August 2022
Atlantic Council, Washington, DC

Summer intern for Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Strategy Initiative (SSI), providing research support to senior fellows, editorial support, and programmatic and budgetary support.

- **Research:** Provided research support to senior fellows Ash Jain and Dr. Matthew Kroenig. Conducted open-source research to update Dr. Kroenig's paper submitted to the Defense Office of Net Assessment, U.S. Department of Defense, *Paper Dragon: Why the Chinese Communist Party Will Fail*. Wrote memoranda the national security implications of synthetic biology, U.S. trade policy, U.S. energy security, U.S. public diplomacy, the state of the war in Ukraine, a threat assessment of North Korea, and a threat assessment of global terrorist networks.
- **Editing:** Edited SSI reports *Toward a Democratic Technology Alliance: An Innovation Edge that Favors Freedom* and *A Democratic Trade Partnership: Ally Shoring to Counter Coercion and Secure Supply Chains* by Ash Jain and Matthew Kroenig.
- **Administrative Support:** Used Wordpress to publish media mentions of SSI team members. Handled expense reports and reimbursement claims using Nexonia. Assisted with email blasts using Marketo. Recorded SSI meeting minutes.
- **Stakeholder Relations:** Recorded minutes of meeting of the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security Board and joint meeting of SSI and government delegations.

Researcher | January-August 2021
International Conflict Resolution Center, Washington, DC

Researcher that dual-hatted responsibilities in research and event management, using Russian-language skillset to write articles and policy memoranda analyzing the protracted conflicts of the post-Soviet space and directing the newly founded think tank's pandemic-era event program.

- **Research:** Conducted open-source English- and Russian-language research on Ukrainian war casualties. Wrote articles analyzing political reform and security and military issues in Ukraine and Moldova. Wrote a policy brief assessing demining in Nagorno-Karabakh, titled *Prisoners of the Caucasus: How Nagorno-Karabakh's Minefield Crisis Holds the Peace Process Hostage*.
- **Strategic Analysis:** Wrote articles and memoranda analyzing Russian Black Sea militarization, and analysis and recommendations for U.S. strategic policy in Eastern Europe and the Black Sea.

- **Intelligence Analysis:** Wrote articles and memoranda analyzing Russian active measures in the post-Soviet space, ranging from disinformation campaigns to political warfare in Ukraine, including the article *Russian Passportization Poses Long-Term Threat to Ukrainian Sovereignty*.
- **Event Management:** Created, organized, and executed a series of expert interview Zoom webinars to bolster the newly-founded Center's reputation and media presence. Designed interview topics and questions, secured cooperation of external experts for interviews, and prepared Zoom recording for contracted PR team for publication.

Program Assistant, Security and Politics Program | June-December 2020
Caspian Policy Center, Washington, DC

- **Program Management:** Oversaw Security and Politics Program (SPP) interns in writing of weekly articles and biquarterly policy briefs analyzing political and security concerns in the Caspian region relevant to the U.S. national interest. Designed the SPP research agenda for the period of 2020-2022.
- **Policy Analysis:** Wrote assessment of Republican 2020 National Security Strategy. Wrote articles analyzing political and military developments in Central Asia and the South Caucasus.
- **Editing:** Edited articles and policy briefs submitted by SPP interns to ensure they met organizational standards for publication.
- **Strategic Analysis:** Analyzed the strategic implications for great power competition as pertaining to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Assessed the state of conflicts in post-Soviet Central Asia and Afghanistan and impacts on US strategic policy for the March 2021 *Caspian Affairs Magazine* issue "U.S. Reengagement With The Caspian Region" in an article titled *Caspian Conflicts: Where are They and What Should the United States Do?*

Teaching Assistant | September 2019-February 2020
Lev Gumilyev Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan

Contracted on fixed-term with Lev Gumilyev Eurasian National University to assist faculty in conducting courses in English language and lead English-forward programming.

- **Project Management:** Worked with teachers at Eurasian National University to teach courses in English. Assisted with course auditing to ensure courses were taught in English. Led English conversational clubs for university students discussing current events in Kazakhstan, Russia, Europe, and the United States.

Research Intern, Security & Politics Program | June 2019-August 2019
Caspian Policy Center, Washington, DC

Summer intern for Caspian Policy Center that monitored developments in Central Asia, wrote articles on Central Asian political and security affairs, and developed policy briefs recommending U.S. policy towards the region.

- **Political Analysis:** Compiled security and political developments in Central Asia over the weekend for the Monday newsletter. Wrote two articles weekly recommending U.S. policy towards Central Asia and on political and security developments in Central Asia. Monitored trends of competition and cooperation between China, Russia, and Iran in Central Asia. Wrote policy brief proposing joint U.S.-Indian cooperation in Central Asia.
- **Political Trend Analysis:** Wrote informational memoranda on geopolitical trends related towards the Southern Gas Corridor, reform trends in Uzbekistan, a forecast of Putin's post-2024 election plans, the role of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Armenian foreign policy, and Azerbaijani politics and foreign policy.

Research Intern | January-May 2019
American Foreign Policy Council, Washington, DC

Summer research intern who supported senior fellows, assisting with administrative tasks, and event management.

- **Research Support:** Provided research analysis of 20th century US diplomatic, political, and economic policies to Lawrence J. Haas, for his book, *The Kennedys in the World: How Jack, Bobby, and Ted Remade America's Empire*. Researched Tajikistani and Uzbekistani laws enforcing secularism. Wrote memoranda on Russian Eastern Mediterranean Sea militarization. Tracked global ransomware attacks.

Research Intern | February-April 2019 | June-August 2018

Kennan Institute; Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Term-limited research assistant to visiting scholar Dr. Sergei Davidis of Memorial International on project analyzing global methodologies of political imprisonment in Spring 2019.

- **Research:** Provided research support to visiting scholar Sergei Davidis from Memorial International investigating practices by authoritarian governments – primarily China, North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela – in political repression and political imprisonment.

Term-limited research assistant to visiting scholar Timothy Model on project studying oligarchs from the post-Soviet space in Summer 2018.

- **Research:** Conducted research using English- and Russian-language sources tracking locations of oligarchs from the post-Soviet space, and their legal battles with the Russian government, European governments, private suits, and with the Western sanctions regime.

Program Intern; Social Expertise Exchange | June-December 2018

Eurasia Foundation, Washington, DC

Summer internship supporting Social Expertise Exchange program exchanging Russian and U.S. groups and experts for cross-cultural education and research – extended through December 2018.

- **Programmatic Support:** Evaluated submitted Monitoring and Evaluation reports from SEE grantees, promoted SEE program through Google Ads, arranged travel plans and expenses for SEE Russian and U.S. experts, handled Salesforce data entry.
- **Stakeholder Relations:** Established communications with French governmental and non-governmental organizations for Eurasia Foundation to partner with in facilitating democratic consolidation during the Armenian Velvet Revolution.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: Russian (Professional Proficiency)
Skills: Microsoft Office, Office Management, Wordpress, Marketo, Analysis, Sharepoint
Leadership: Program Assistant for SPP, ISR research team
Interests: Russian history, music, and literature; Classical history; Mythology; Cooking and baking; Food blog on my travels, policy, and food <https://foodpolitik.com/>