

Benjamin R. Gilbert

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Objective

Policy analyst and former journalist with 20-years experience covering national security, business, and foreign affairs for NPR, the BBC, and other international news organizations. Seeks to apply analytical skills, research and reporting experience, and international affairs and economics education to a policy position at a consulting firm.

Education

Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), M.A. **May 2023**

- **Strategic Studies concentration** with focus on Intelligence, Statecraft, Security and Emerging Technology
- **International Economics Certificate:** Macro and Microeconomics, Statistics, Trade and Monetary Policy
- **Minor:** Energy, Geopolitics, and Environment | | | **Language:** Arabic Intermediate High Levantine and MSA
- **Distinctions:** Truman National Security Fellow and SAIS Dean's Scholarship Recipient

Boston University, M.S. Journalism

Earlham College, B.A. Sociology and Anthropology

Relevant Experience

RESEARCH CONSULTANT

May-October 2024

Political Intelligence Group / John Jenkins, Washington, D.C. - Part Time

- Conduct research and analysis for journalist John Jenkins's forthcoming book titled: "Summer of '71: Five Fateful Months in U.S. History." Write concise summaries of findings and coordinate with the author on objectives.
- Research primary historical documents at the Library of Congress's Manuscript Division focused on Pentagon Papers and other Supreme Court national security arguments and decisions.

GOOGLE CONSULTANT - JOHNS HOPKINS' SAIS PRACTICUM

Jan-May 2023

SAIS Graduate Capstone Consultancy on National Security and Emerging Technology, Washington D.C. - Part Time

- Produced memo and oral briefing for Google's security chief about how Google can manage geopolitical risk with emphasis on regulatory and reputational risks posed by global security events like Russia's war in Ukraine.
- Conducted research with a five-person team and assembled a 15-page memo and PowerPoint presentation to inform internal Google stakeholders about minimizing exposure to strategic global security challenges.
- Proposed organizational framework for planning for and dealing with future geopolitical risks.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR MID-CAREER PROFESSIONALS

2019-2020

Johns Hopkins SAIS, Washington, D.C. - Part Time

- Represented US and foreign diplomats, military officers, and other mid-career professionals to SAIS's administration during mid-semester 2020 COVID-19 crisis, lockdown, and transition to online learning.
- Advocated for students and negotiated with senior SAIS administration officials to reach compromises that satisfied students and administration on several issues, including grades and tuition reimbursement.

EDITOR AND REPORTER

2014-2019

[VICE News](#) & *Freelance* – New York and US Midwest - Full Time

- Reported on US foreign policy and national security, including the FBI's use of informants in [terrorism investigations](#); civilian [casualties](#) in the US air war against the Islamic State and in Saudi Arabia's US-backed war

in Yemen; the 2016 Democratic National Committee [hack](#) and attempt by Russia to [influence](#) the US presidential election; and 2016 presidential candidates' top-secret intelligence [briefings](#).

- Assigned breaking, feature, and enterprise news stories to writers and shepherded articles from assignment to publication, with particular focus on the Middle East, defense, foreign policy, and national security.
- Conducted research on key Midwestern swing states that voted for Barack Obama and Donald Trump.

MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

2011-2014

BBC/PRI's [The World](#) - Full Time

- [Covered Syria conflict](#) from March 2011 to 2015 from [Lebanon](#), [Jordan](#), and [Turkey](#).
- One of the first journalists to report on the Syrian government's indiscriminate use of "[barrel bombs](#)" to attack opposition-held areas in 2014 and the civilian exodus from Aleppo to Turkey.
- Investigated and reported on Saudi Arabia's [funding](#) of violent Islamist Syrian opposition groups.
- Reported on the 2011 Egyptian uprising from Tahrir Square, and anchored [live](#) rolling coverage of former President Hosni Mubarak's resignation and the subsequent military [rule](#) and [elections](#).
- Covered the 2011 uprising in Libya from [Benghazi](#) and [Eastern Libya](#).
- Reported public radio series on Islamist political movements in the [Tunisian](#) and [Egyptian](#) political processes.
- Wrote about the impact of Syria's conflict on [minority](#) Christian, Armenian, and Druze communities.
- Detailed effects of [Hezbollah's](#) involvement in Syria, including impact of retaliatory [attacks](#).

LEBANON, IRAQ, AND AFGHANISTAN CORRESPONDENT

2009-2011

[Global Post](#) - Full Time

- Reported on the "surge" into Afghanistan, with a focus on [counterinsurgency](#) warfare and [challenges](#) facing NATO and the US-led coalition in [establishing security](#) and [governance](#).
- Covered 2010 Iraqi parliamentary [elections](#) from Baghdad and Kirkuk; analyzed possible [conflict](#) between Kurds and Baghdad-based government over energy resources and security.
- Investigated Lebanon's corrupt [election](#) system, [hashish](#) industry, and Hezbollah's [Bernie Madoff](#).

MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT (FREELANCE)

2006-2010

Christian Science Monitor, US News and World Report, The World, Marketplace, NPR, NBC - Full Time

- Covered rise of Iraqi militias, sectarian violence and the beginning of Iraq's civil war. Oversaw coverage of Iraq's first parliamentary elections and Saddam Hussein's trial in 2005-06.
- Reported on the July 2006 Lebanon war and subsequent political turmoil in Lebanon.
- Detailed the 2008 global financial crisis' [effects](#) on the United Arab Emirates' economy.

EDITOR, MANAGER, BUREAU CHIEF, TRAINER

2009-2014

[Al-Monitor.com](#); [Institute for War and Peace Reporting](#)

Beirut, Lebanon - Full Time

- Hired and managed a team of editors and reporters. Commissioned and edited reportage, opinion and analysis. Identified breaking and developing news stories and collaborated with editors and reporters to write, edit, and publish stories and updates, for example, the [murder](#) of the U.S. Ambassador in Benghazi. Oversaw and grew social media engagements and represented the organization to universities and think-tanks around the region.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, IRAQ PRODUCER & CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

2002-2006

[National Public Radio's](#) *Iraq Bureau and All Things Considered* - Full Time

Washington, D.C. and Baghdad, Iraq

- Member of NPR Team that won the 2005 Peabody award for coverage of Iraq.
- Producer at NPR's flagship daily news programs, *All Things Considered* and *Morning Edition*.