Golz Fellowship: The Center on National Security Artur Kalandarov, Class of 2020

This summer, I interned at the Center on National Security (CNS) at Fordham Law School in New York City. I contributed to a number of different projects and certainly learned a great deal about research, think tanks, recent American history, and conflicts in Eastern Europe. I had the opportunity to work with a team of researchers, as well as attorneys, journalists, and former intelligence officials. My summer work centered around two different topics: the U.S. response to terrorism since 9/11 up to the present day, and the history of the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia. For the former, the director of CNS, Karen Greenberg, is nationally recognized as an expert on the changes in government policy that occurred as a result of the September 11th attacks. She has written several history books on the subject, and frequently writes articles about updates in the trials of accused terrorists and other developments in governmental policy. Throughout the summer, I had to prepare background reports and briefs on the latest developments surrounding detainees at Guantanamo Bay, and changes in U.S foreign policy that affected the detainment and prosecution of terror suspects. Dr. Greenberg is currently writing a long article on the history of modern terrorism warfare during the Bush and Obama presidencies which will be published in an edited compilation. I had to read numerous articles and several books in order to find information she had requested and fact check some details she wanted to put in her first draft. On another occasion, I spent several days researching the child separation at the border, as Dr.Greenberg worked on an article drawing comparisons between the policy and her research into the breakdown of caution inside the American security apparatus. Engaging with a prominent historian in this manner was a great experience that allowed me to put the research skills I've learned at Bowdoin to the test, and I learned a lot from the experience.

Besides the smaller assignments I have described, the summer-long project I had was to research the history of the current conflict in Ukraine, and by extension the strained U.S./E.U. relationship with Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Center is holding a conference on the conflict in October, so I was tasked with writing the brief that would be handed out during the event. While other interns and staff joined in the process later on, I'm glad I had the opportunity to create a structure for the brief and write significant portions of the report on my own. I wrote about proxy wars in Asia and Eastern Europe that bore resemblance to the current conflict, how past administrations have dealt with Russian aggression, how Putin framed the annexation of Crimea to the Russian people, the history of Ukraine's relationship with the West, corruption and revolution in Ukraine, etc. Furthermore, I created a recommended reading list consisting of books and articles on the conflict, as well as a comprehensive timeline that detailed Ukraine's relationship with Russia since the 1400s (the timeline will be shown at the President's Research Symposium during Parent's Weekend). The report was completed by the time I left, and I had the opportunity to revise my work with feedback from staff. I improved my abilities and learned a great deal of new information about several different fields of history. Beyond this, however, I also established connections with people who do this type of research for a living, and as I seek to continue this work in the future, I know I can rely upon the Center on National Security's staff for guidance. I am very grateful for the History Department and the Golz Fellowship for allowing me to undertake this endeavour.

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