

Spring 2022 Lecture Series Archive

"Robert E. Lee as Confederate Strategist, Tactician and Logistician"

Allen C. Guelzo, Senior Research Scholar, Council for the Humanities, Princeton University

Thursday, January 20, 2022, 4:00-5:00 PM

Allen C. Guelzo is Senior Research Scholar in the Council of the Humanities and Director of the Initiative on Politics and Statesmanship in the James Madison Program at Princeton University. He earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in History from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Guelzo is the author of *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President* (Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1999) and *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America* (Simon & Schuster, 2004), both of which won the Lincoln Prize, and *Lincoln and Douglas: The Debates That Defined America* (Simon & Schuster, 2008), which won the Abraham Lincoln Institute Prize. His book *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion* (Knopf, 2013) was a *New York Times* best seller and won multiple awards. Other books of his include *Reconstruction: A Concise History* (Oxford University Press, 2019), and most recently, *Robert E. Lee: A Life* (Knopf, 2021), the latter of which is the subject of his CENFAD presentation.

Additionally, he has written for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *National Affairs*, *First Things*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Weekly Standard*, *Washington Monthly*, *National Review*, the *Daily Beast*, and the *Claremont Review of Books*, and has been featured on NPR's "Weekend Edition Sunday" and "On Point," *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* (2008), *Meet the Press: Press Pass with David Gregory*, *The Civil War: The Untold Story* (Great Divide Pictures, 2014), *Race to the White House: Lincoln vs. Douglas* (CNN, 2016), *Legends and Lies: The Civil War* (FOX, 2018), *Reconstruction* (PBS, 2019) and Brian Lamb's "Booknotes." In 2010, he was nominated for a Grammy Award along with David Straithern and Richard Dreyfuss for their production of the entirety of *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates* (*BBC Audio*). In 2018, he was a winner of the Bradley Prize, along with Jason Riley of *The Wall Street Journal* and Charles Kesler of the Claremont Institute.

In this Zoom-exclusive presentation, Dr. Guelzo notes that Robert E. Lee is best-known for the military skill with which he held off the defeat of the break-away Southern Confederacy during the four years of the American Civil War. However, most analysis of his military career in the War has focused on his dignity, bearing, and personal conduct, rather than on the manner in which he exercised the command responsibilities of strategy, tactics, and operations/logistics. His lecture focuses on how assessments of Lee have clouded those questions, and open the questions themselves for examination in Lee's case.

- [Video of Dr. Allen C. Guelzo's Lecture](#)

"Oilcraft: The Myths of Scarcity and Security That Haunt U.S. Energy Policy"

Robert "Bob" Vitalis, Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 in Weigley Room 914, 9th Floor, Gladfelter Hall

Robert "Bob" Vitalis is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, and former director of the Middle East Center at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook, and Master of Science and PhD degrees in Political Science from the the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Dr. Vitalis is the author of four books: *When Capitalists Collide: Business Conflict and the End of Empire in Egypt* (University of California Press, 1995, and republished in 2020); *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier* (Stanford University Press, 2006), named Book of the Year at the time of its publication by *The Guardian* (London); *White World Order, Black Power Politics* (Cornell University Press, 2016), which won the International Theory Prize from the University of Sussex's Department of International Relations; and, most recently, *Oilcraft: The Myths of Scarcity and Security that Haunt U.S. Energy Policy* (Stanford University Press, 2020), which is the subject of this CENFAD lecture.

Vitalis aspires to offer a bracing corrective to myths that have shaped economic, military, and diplomatic policy: that the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is what guarantees access to this strategic resource; that the "special" relationship with Saudi Arabia is necessary to stabilize an otherwise volatile market; and that these assumptions in turn provide Washington enormous leverage over Europe and Asia. In this way, he aims to dispel our oil-soaked fantasies of dependence.

- [Video of Dr. Robert "Bob" Vitalis Lecture](#)

"Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Civil War"

Elizabeth R. Varon, Professor of American History, University of Virginia

Thursday, February 24, 2022 in Weigley Room 914, 9th Floor, Gladfelter Hall

Elizabeth R. Varon is a Professor of American History at the University of Virginia. She received her PhD in History from Yale University, and has held teaching positions at Wellesley College and Temple University.

A specialist in the Civil War era and the nineteenth-century American South, Varon is the author of *We Mean to be Counted: White Women and Politics in Antebellum Virginia* (The University of North Carolina Press, 1998); *Southern Lady, Yankee Spy: The True Story of Elizabeth Van Lew, A Union Agent in the Heart of the Confederacy* (Oxford University Press, 2003), which won

three book awards and was named one of the “Five Best” books on the “Civil War away from the battlefield” in *The Wall Street Journal*; *Disunion!: The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2008); *Appomattox: Victory, Defeat and Freedom at the End of the Civil War* (Oxford University Press, 2013), which won the 2014 Library of Virginia Literary Award for Nonfiction and was named one of *NPR*’s “Six Civil War Books to Read Now”; and, most recently, *Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Civil War* (Oxford University Press, 2019), which won the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize, was named one of *The Wall Street Journal*’s best books of 2019, and is the subject of her CENFAD lecture.

Varon argues that the Union was motivated to fight not only to free the enslaved, but also to redeem white Southerners from the tyranny of the planter class and the slaveholding economy. This “politics of deliverance” helped unify the North and contributed to the Union victory, but it failed to grapple with resistance from white Southerners, who rejected the North’s terms and undermined Reconstruction. Interweaving military and social history, Varon offers new perspectives on the attitudes, goals, and frustrations of both sides.

- [Video of Dr. Elizabeth R. Varon's Lecture](#)

“What I Saw in Ukraine, and What the War Means to the World”

Trudy Rubin, Worldview Columnist at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

Monday, March 14, 2022 in Weigley Room 914, 9th Floor, Gladfelter Hall

Trudy Rubin is the award-winning Worldview Columnist at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. She is a graduate of Smith College and the London School of Economics, and in 2007, she was awarded the Smith College Medal for distinguished achievements by an alumna.

Rubin has special expertise on the Middle East, South Asia, Russia and Eastern Europe. She appears frequently on radio and television and in recent years has traveled repeatedly to Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Tunisia, Lebanon, Israel, the West Bank, Russia, Ukraine, Western Europe, and China. Before coming to *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in December 1983, Rubin was a national correspondent covering political and social issues in the United States and then the Middle East correspondent for *The Christian Science Monitor*, covering Israel and the Arab world. Prior to that, she was a staff writer on American politics for *The Economist*. In 2008, she was awarded the Edward Weintal prize for international reporting, and in 2010, she received the Arthur Ross Award for distinguished analysis of foreign affairs from the American Academy of Diplomacy. She was a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize (2001 and 2017), in the former case based on her coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict and in the latter case due to her “eloquent commentary written in world hotspots from Molenbeek near Brussels to the chancelleries of Beijing, reminding Americans of the importance of the foreign beat during a year when their tendency was to turn inward.” She is also the author of *Willful Blindness: The Bush Administration and Iraq* (The Philadelphia Inquirer, 2004).

In this special event, Rubin, who recently returned from a trip to Ukraine covering events there in advance of the Russian invasion beginning on February 24, 2022, presented on and

addressed audience questions regarding the crisis in that country and its broader implications for global geopolitics.

- [Video of Trudy Rubin's Lecture](#)

"The Atlantic Realists: Empire and International Political Thought Between Germany and the United States"

Matthew Specter, Senior Fellow at the Institute for European Studies, UC Berkeley

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 in Weigley Room 914, 9th Floor, Gladfelter Hall

Matthew Specter is Senior Fellow at the Institute for European Studies, University of California at Berkeley, and lectures in History at Santa Clara University. He earned his MA and PhD in Modern European History from Duke University, and has additionally held positions at Stanford University and UC Berkeley.

Dr. Specter has been the associate editor of the journal *History and Theory* since 2014. He has authored two books on German intellectuals in the twentieth century, alongside the global movement of political and legal ideas: *Habermas: An Intellectual Biography* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), and more recently, *The Atlantic Realists: Empire and International Political Thought Between Germany and the United States* (Stanford University Press, 2022), which is the subject of his CENFAD lecture.

Challenging the common view of realism as a set of universally binding truths about international affairs, Specter argues that its major features emerged from a century-long dialogue between American and German intellectuals beginning in the late nineteenth century. Specter uncovers an "Atlantic realist" tradition of reflection on the prerogatives of empire and the nature of power politics conditioned by *fin de siècle* imperial competition, two world wars, the Holocaust, and the Cold War. Focusing on key figures in the evolution of realist thought, his book traces the development of the realist worldview over a century, dismantling myths about the national interest, *Realpolitik*, and the "art" of statesmanship.

- [Video of Dr. Matthew Specter's Lecture](#)

"With Masses and Arms: Peru's Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement"

Miguel La Serna, Professor of History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Monday, March 21, 2022 in Weigley Room 914, 9th Floor, Gladfelter Hall

Miguel La Serna is a Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of California at Davis in 2002, before proceeding to earn a Master of Arts in History (2005) and subsequently a PhD in History (2008) at the University of California at San Diego.

Dr. La Serna is interested in the relationship between culture, memory, and political violence in twentieth-century Latin America, devoting especial attention to conflict and insurgency in late-twentieth century Peru and the Andes. He is the author of multiple publications, including three books: *The Corner of the Living: Ayacucho on the Eve of the Shining Path Insurgency* (UNC Press, 2012); *The Shining Path: Love, Madness and Revolution in the Andes* (WW Norton & Company, 2019), co-authored with anthropologist Orin Starn; and, most recently, *With Masses and Arms: Peru's Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement* (UNC Press, 2020), which is the primary subject of his CENFAD lecture.

La Serna chronicles the rise and fall of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), a Peruvian Marxist insurgent organization active during the 1980s and 1990s (operating in rivalry with both the Maoist Shining Path and Peruvian state-aligned forces as part of the internal conflict in that country). His narrative provides vital insight into both the history of modern Peru, and the link between political violence and the culture of communications in Latin America more generally. The history of the MRTA is the story of the euphoric draw of armed action and the devastating consequences that result when a political movement succumbs to the whims of its most militant followers.

- [Video of Dr. Miguel La Serna's Lecture](#)

"No Globalization Without Representation"

Paul Adler, Assistant Professor of History, Colorado College

Monday, April 4, 2022 in Weigley Room 914, 9th Floor, Gladfelter Hall

Paul Adler is an Assistant Professor of History at Colorado College. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Politics from Brandeis University in 2004, before then earning his PhD in History from Georgetown University in 2014. Prior to attending graduate school, he worked on global economic policy at the non-profit consumer advocacy think tank Public Citizen.

From 2014-18, Dr. Adler was a lecturer for the Harvard University History and Literature Concentration, before moving to Colorado College as a faculty member thereafter. His research focuses on the intersections of political and social movement activism, political history more broadly, and histories of the world economy since the Second World War. His first book, *No Globalization Without Representation: U.S. NGOs and Global Inequality* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021), is the subject of his CENFAD lecture.

Histories of the spread of neoliberal politics and economics around the world is a well-told one. Less examined have been histories of international resistance to neoliberalism's emergence. In his book, Dr. Adler chronicles the emergence of U.S.-based and global networks/coalitions of nonprofit advocacy groups, labor unions, and other groups dedicated to challenging neoliberalism. From organizing boycotts of Nestlé in the 1970s to lobbying against NAFTA to the "Battle in Seattle," he traces the ebbs and flows of conflicts over the future of the world economy that stretch to the current moment.

- [Video of Dr. Paul Adler's Lecture](#)