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Passport: Newsletter of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

Principal Investigators: Peter Hahn, Mitchell Lerner

Since 1969, the newsletter for the [Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations](#) (SHAFR) has provided a forum for the discussion of issues related to the practice of American diplomacy, while also presenting historians of U.S. foreign policy with a reliable source of professional information.

In 2003, the newsletter was renamed *Passport*, and editorship passed to Peter Hahn and Mitch Lerner, with support from the Mershon Center. *Passport's* purpose is:

- to print essays on substantive issues related to the study of American diplomacy, particularly those focusing on newly opened archival materials
- to host debates among scholars
- to offer detailed information regarding new publications, scholarly competitions and awards, calls for papers and contributions, and other relevant resources

During the 2007-08 academic year, *Passport* included such articles as:

- "The Manufacture of Fear: U.S. Politics Before and After 9/11," by Scott Lucas of the University of Birmingham, addressing the "culture of fear" that has affected the making of U.S. foreign policy decisions, both currently and historically
- "Key Sources for Nixon's Foreign Policy," by Edward C. Keefer, general editor for the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series
- "Researching in the Beloved Country: Archives and Adventure in South Africa," by Eric J. Morgan of the University of Colorado at Boulder, on the little-studied archival collections of South Africa that provide insight on the Cold War and global race relations in the 20th century



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- "The Vietnam Oral History Project: A Corrective for Historical Analogies," by Christy Jo Snider of Berry College, on methods for effective use of historical analogies in foreign policy courses
- Roundtable reviews of books such as *The Birth of Development: How the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, and World Health Organization Changed the World, 1945-1965*, by Amy Staples, and *Ambassadors in Pinstripes: The Spalding World Baseball Tour and the Birth of the American Empire*, by Thomas Zeiler

In *Passport*, SHAFR distributes conference notifications, meeting notes, and survey results regarding the teaching of American diplomatic history. This society also compiles articles about methods for teaching foreign relations courses.

In producing *Passport*, Hahn and Lerner aspire to provide historians of American diplomacy with a forum that educates them about the field, the profession, and the fundamental issues surrounding U.S. foreign policy in the international arena.

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