

# MERSHON CENTER

## for International Security Studies



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## THE SHAFR REVIEW

### Principal Investigators:

Mitchell Lerner, Associate Professor of History, and Peter Hahn, Professor of History

In 1969, San Jose State University launched the Newsletter of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, designed to support the work of scholars in American diplomacy. When its longtime editor retired in 2003, the newsletter moved to the Mershon Center, where it was renamed *Passport* and has published three times a year under the editorship of Mitchell Lerner and Peter Hahn.



In 2012-13, the newsletter was renamed *The SHAFR Review* to reflect its growing prestige in the field, and editorship passed to Andrew Johns of Brigham Young University. The publication still resides at the Mershon Center, with Hahn and Lerner acting as senior editors.

Through the years, however, the newsletter has retained the same fundamental purposes:

- to print essays on substantive issues related to the study of U.S. diplomacy, particularly those focusing on newly opened archives and other research-related topics
- to host scholarly debates on topics related to force and diplomacy
- to offer detailed information about new publications, scholarly competitions and awards, calls for papers, and other information

*Passport* has served a variety of specific roles. It has offered a forum for scholars to air thoughts and opinions relevant to the field, enhancing the field's vitality and openness. It has allowed historians to debate different approaches and methodologies, along with the most significant and controversial works of relevance. But perhaps its most significant role has been to keep scholars abreast of research developments throughout the world.

For example, when the collapse of the Soviet Union opened the archives of former communist-bloc nations, SHAFR published the findings of experts who examined these new materials, leading to a more comprehensive understanding of international diplomacy. *Passport* also carries essays from experts evaluating the latest declassified releases through the Foreign Relations of the United States series, and from government officials discussing the process of reclassification.

In 2012-13, features in *The SHAFR Review* included:

- "Imperial and Financial Overstretch Under Nixon and Obama: Are There Any Lessons to be Learned?" by Klaus Larres

- Roundtable on the convergence of military and diplomatic history
- “PHOENIX and the Drones,” by John Prados
- “The Foreign Relations Series: A Sesquicentennial Estimate,” by Stephen P. Randolph and Kristin L. Ahlberg
- Roundtable on Richard Nixon and the Vietnam War
- “Spiderman, Shakespeare, and Kennan: The Art of Teaching Biography,” by John Lewis Gaddis
- “Human Rights and U.S. Foreign Relations: A Historiographical Review,” by Sarah B. Snyder
- Roundtable on Ryan M. Irwin’s Gordian Knot: Apartheid and the Unmaking of the Liberal World Order
- “Two Views on Foreign Policy in Obama’s Second Term,” by Robert David Johnson and Jeremi Suri
- “A Historian Goes to Washington: The Merits of Taking a Working Vacation from the Ivory Tower,” by Jonathan R. Hunt

For more information and to download back issues, visit [shafr.org/publications/review](http://shafr.org/publications/review).

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