

Benjamin H. Friedman
Research Fellow in Defense and Homeland Security Studies
Cato Institute
1000 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-789-5281

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Ph.D. in Political Science expected 2010

Concentration: International Relations/Security Studies

Dissertation: Danger and Deception: Explaining the Exaggeration of American Vulnerability

Committee: Barry Posen (Chair), Harvey Sapolsky, Stephen Van Evera

Dartmouth College

B.A. Magna Cum Laude with High Honors in Government, 2000

Study Abroad: London School of Economics, Fall 1998

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2008- Research Fellow in Defense and Homeland Security Studies, Cato Institute
2010 Member, Sustainable Defense Task Force
2009 Contractor, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (Office of the Secretary of
Defense, Net Assessment Solarium Project)
Spring 2008 Research Assistant, Professor Barry Posen, Director of the Security Studies Program
2008 Manuscript Reviewer, *International Security*
Fall 2007 Teaching Assistant for Professor Stephen Van Evera, American Foreign Policy
2005-2007 Editor, *précis* (Newsletter/Journal of MIT's Center for International Studies)
2003-2007 Research Assistant for Harvey Sapolsky, Director of the Security Studies Program
2005-2006 Writing Coach, Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, National Security
Program
2003-2004 Associate, Bipartisan Security Group.
Summer 2004 Research Assistant for Professor Chappell Lawson, MIT Political Science Department
Summer 2003 Research Assistant for Professor Barry Carter of Georgetown Law Center
2002 Intern/ Research Assistant, Center for Defense Information
2000-2001 Business Analyst, Deloitte Consulting

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2007 Selected by German Marshall Fund as participant in Manfred Woerner Seminar,
Germany, May 18-28
2006 Nominated by MIT Political Science Department for Morris Abrams Scholarship in
International Relations
2005 Energy, Technology, and International Affairs Summer Travel Research Grant for
Research in Israel, MIT's Center for International Studies, July 4-August 2.
2003-2008 MIT Graduate Fellowships
2002 Post Graduate Grant, Dartmouth College's John Sloan Dickey Center for International
Understanding

RESEARCH TRAINING

June 2007 George Washington Summer Institute on Archival Research
January 2005 Institute on Qualitative Research Methods, Arizona State University.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

US Military Innovation after the Cold War: Creation without Destruction (London: Routledge, 2009).
Co-Editor with Harvey Sapolsky and Brendan Green.

Terrorizing Ourselves: How U.S. Counterterrorism Policy is Failing and How to Fix it (Washington, DC
Cato Institute, 2010). Co-Editor with Christopher Preble and Jim Harper.

Book Chapters

“Learning the Right Lessons from Iraq,” in the *Use of Force: Military Power and International Politics*,
Robert Art and Kenneth Waltz, eds. (Rowman & Littlefield 2008). With Harvey Sapolsky and
Christopher Preble.

Edited version of Cato Institute Policy Analysis listed below.

“The Defense Budget,” *Cato Handbook for Policymakers*, 7th edition, David Boaz, ed. (Washington:
Cato Institute, 2009).

Wrote or co-wrote four chapters in *U.S. Military Innovation after the Cold War*:

“The Navy after the Cold War: Progress without Revolution”

“The Technology of the Revolution in Military Affairs,” with David Burbach and Brendan Green.

“The Missing Transformation,” and “The RMA and the Second Interwar Period” with Harvey Sapolsky
and Brendan Green

“Perception and Power in Counter-terrorism: Assessing the American Response to Al Qaeda before
September 11,” in A. Trevor Thrall and Jane K. Cramer, eds., *American Foreign Policy and the Politics
of Fear: Threat Inflation since 9/11* (London: Routledge, 2009).

“Managing Fear: The Politics of Homeland Security,” in Benjamin H. Friedman, Christopher Preble and
Jim Harper, eds., *Terrorizing Ourselves: Why U.S. Counterterrorism Policy is Failing and How to Fix It*,
(Washington DC: Cato Institute, 2010).

Selected Articles

“The Proliferation Security Initiative: The Legal Challenge,” Bipartisan Security Group Policy Brief
(September 2003).

“Leap Before You Look: The Failure of Homeland Security,” *Breakthroughs*, Vol. XIII, No. 1 (Spring
2004), pp. 29-40.

Translated into French as “La Sécurité Intérieure aux États-Unis,” *Futuribles*, No. 309 (June
2005), pp. 29-48.

“A Primer on Torture,” *précis*, Vol. XIII, No. 2 (Spring 2004).

“Think Again: Homeland Security,” *Foreign Policy* (July/August 2005), pp. 22-28.

Excerpted as “So What are You Afraid Of?,” *Dallas Morning News*, August 13, 2005.

“The Hidden Cost of Homeland Defense,” *Audit of Conventional Wisdom*, MIT Center for International
Studies (November 2005).

Republished as “The Real Cost of Homeland Security,” *Alternet.org*, February 9, 2006.

Excerpted as “The War on Hype: Risk to U.S. of Withering Terrorist Hit is Overblown,” *San
Francisco Chronicle*, Insight Section, February 19, 2006.

“You Never Know(ism),” *Breakthroughs*, Vol. XV, No. 1 (Spring 2006), pp. 3-11. With Harvey
Sapolsky.

“Fewer Missions: Not More Troops,” *Audit of Conventional Wisdom*, MIT Center for International
Studies (July 2007).

Republished by *Alternet.org*, July 25, 2007.

“The Terrible ‘Ifs’,” *Regulation*, Vol. 30, No. 4 (Winter 2007-2008), pp. 32-40.

Excerpted as “The Danger of Making Policy Based on the Word If,” *Australian Financial Review*, April 19, 2008.

“Learning the Right Lessons from Iraq,” Cato Institute Policy Analysis, No. 610 (February 2008). With Harvey Sapolsky and Christopher Preble.

Excerpted in the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, March 2, 2008. With Christopher Preble.

Excerpted in *Iraq Uncensored: Perspectives*, James M. Ludes, ed. (Golden: CO, Fulcrum, 2009).

“Restraining Order: For Strategic Modesty,” *World Affairs Journal* (Fall 2009). With Harvey Sapolsky, Daryl Press and Eugene Gholz.

“Budgetary Savings from Military Restraint,” Cato Institute Policy Analysis, No. 667 (September 2011). With Christopher Preble.

“Managing Fear: The Politics of Homeland Security,” *Political Science Quarterly* (Spring 2011).

Updated version of book chapter listed above.

Book Reviews

Review of Gabriel Weimann: *Terror on the Internet: The New Arena, The New Challenges*, in *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 122, No. 2 (Spring 2007), pp. 164-165.

Op-eds

“Department of Terrifying the Homeland?,” *Tech Central Station*, February 1, 2005.

Reprinted as “Twin Threats: Terror, Fear,” *Orange County Register*, February 6, 2005.

“Law of the Sea Opponents Hurt U.S. Security,” *International Herald Tribune*, April 24, 2005. With Ambassador Thomas Graham.

“To Cover Costs, Play Defense,” *Boston Herald*, October 1, 2005.

“Pentagon Should Put Money Where Its Mouth Is,” *Baltimore Sun*, February 10, 2006. With Caitlin Talmadge.

“War on Terror Bloats Defense Budget,” *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, October 4, 2006. With Caitlin Talmadge.

“No to Africa Command,” *Defense News*, April 2, 2007. With Harvey Sapolsky.

“More Troops for What?” *ForeignPolicy.com* (July 2007).

“The Politics of Chicken Littleism,” *Washingtonpost.com*, Think Tank Town, December 5, 2007.

“Don’t ‘Pull an Iraq’ in Afghanistan,” *Christian Science Monitor*, April 3, 2008.

Reprinted as “Forget about Afghanistan Surge,” *Washington Examiner*, April 9, 2008.

“Don’t Expand NATO,” *World Politics Review*, October 22, 2008. With Justin Logan.

Extended version published as “Hitting the ‘Stop’ Button on NATO Expansion,” *International Affairs Forum* (Spring 2009).

“The Pentagon on Defense,” *National Interest* (Online), October 31, 2008. With Christopher Preble.

“Be Wary of Using Military as Police,” *Orange County Register*, December 26, 2008. With Gene Healy.

“Don't Bet on Obama Reining in Defense Spending,” *World Politics Review*, February 18, 2009.

“The Iron Triangle vs. Small Wars,” *World Politics Review*, April 9, 2009.

“The US Should Cut Military Spending in Half,” *Christian Science Monitor*, April 27, 2009.
Reprinted as “Cut Military Spending in Half,” *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, May 3, 2009.

“Obama’s Disappointing Secrecy,” *Christian Science Monitor*, July 22, 2009.
Reprinted in *Gulf News* (United Arab Emirates), July 25, 2009.

“Fourth and Long: What the NFL Can Teach Us about the War on Terror,” *ForeignPolicy.com*,
November 24, 2009.

“Defense Cuts: Start Overseas,” *Los Angeles Times*, June 14, 2010. With Christopher Preble.
Republished in *Albany Times Union*, *Bellingham Herald*, *Bradenton Herald*, *Centre Daily Times*,
Eugene Register-Guard, *Lexington Herald-Leader*, *Modesto Bee*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Newark Star
Ledger*, *South Bend Tribune*, *Youngstown Vindicator*.

“Frank Deserves Credit for Push to Cut Defense Spending,” *New Bedford Standard Times*, July 1, 2010.

“Drop Pretension to Supremacy,” *Politico.com*, September 21, 2010. With Christopher Preble.

“A U.S. Defense Budget Worthy of Its Name,” *Globalist*, November 18, 2010. With Christopher Preble.

“Overwrought on Start,” *National Interest* (Online), December 1, 2010. With Owen R. Cote, Jr.

“New Republicans, Same Old Militarism,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 24, 2011.

Letters

Atlantic Monthly, *Washington Post* (2), *Washington Times* (2).

Testimony and Selected Presentations

“Why We Fear Terrorists Too Much,” U.S. Foreign Policy Seminar at the Weatherhead Center for
International Affairs, Harvard University, November 16, 2005.

“Why We Overreact to Terrorism,” Conference on the Politics of Fear, Institute for Global Leadership,
Tufts University, February 23, 2006.

“Why We Overreact to Terrorism,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association,
Philadelphia, PA, August 31-September 3, 2006.

“Does Torture Work?,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL,
August 31-September 3, 2007.

“Don’t Expand the Ground Forces,” The Cato Institute, October 12, 2007.

“Learning the Right Lessons from Iraq,” Cato Capital Hill Briefing, Russell Senate Office Building, May
16, 2008.

“The Strategy of Restraint,” Cato University, Capital Hill, August 28, 2008.

“Obama's National Security Policy: A New Approach or More of the Same?,” Capitol Hill Briefing,

Rayburn House Office Building, December 17, 2008.

Discussant on “Canadian Foreign Policy,” Midwest Political Science Association Conference, April 5, 2009.

“Studying Threat Inflation,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 6, 2009.

“Should the United States Slash its Defense Budget?,” Yale Political Union, November 3, 2009.

“Why is the Defense Budget so Big?,” MIT Center for International Studies, Video Audit of the Conventional Wisdom, April 2, 2010.

"Does Homeland Security Work? Evaluating DHS's Efforts to Make Us Safer," Cato Capital Hill Briefing, Rayburn House Office Building, May 25, 2010.

“Military Restraint and Defense Savings,” Testimony before the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, United States House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, July 20 2010.

“Varieties of Threat Inflation in U.S. Foreign Policy,” ISAC/ISSS Annual Conference, Providence, RI, October 15, 2010.

Blogs

Contributor to *Cato-at-Liberty* and *National Interest's*, “The Skeptics.”

Languages

Proficient in French

Selected Schools Where Syllabi Included My Work:

American, Australian National University, Bard, California, Georgetown, Harvard, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, NYU, Oregon, Ottawa, Naval War College, Polish National Military Academy, Yale.