

Alexander Kirss

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CURRENT POSITION	PhD Candidate in Residence Institute for Security and Conflict Studies (ISCS), George Washington University	2018-present
EDUCATION	George Washington University , Washington, D.C. PhD in Political Science International Relations (Major), Research Methods (Minor) MPhil in Political Science University of Chicago , Chicago, IL M.A. in International Relations (w/ Honors) Williams College , Williamstown, MA B.A. in Political Science Other Majors: Sociology, Religion (Triple Major)	May 2021 (expected) 2019 2014 2013
PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS	Associate, MBO Partners Consulting Senior Consultant, Booz Allen Hamilton	2019-present 2014-2019
DISSERTATION RESEARCH/BOOK PROJECT	<i>Why Businesses Oppose War</i> <i>Committee:</i> Charles Glaser (co-chair), Yon Lupu (co-chair), Adam Dean <i>Abstract:</i> Why do businesses support or oppose wars? International political economy scholars have long studied the determinants of businesses' foreign economic policy preferences, but we know far less about businesses' foreign security policy preferences. This is problematic since businesses' security policy preferences are a key microfoundation for understanding whether, when, and why business pressure might affect a state's foreign security policy. My dissertation research/book project highlights why businesses' war preferences—their opinions about interstate conflict—vary. Specifically, I analyze how American businesses assessed and confronted the threat of interstate war across the 20th century. Based on three years of extensive archival field work, and statistical analysis of historical survey data, I find multiple factors determine a business's war preferences. Namely, I argue that a business's trade orientation and ability to profit from wartime sales combine to make them support or oppose war. In contrast to existing explanations, neither factor alone sufficiently explains business's war preferences.	
WORK IN PROGRESS	Job Market Paper: "Why Businesses Oppose War," under review "Interest or Ideology? Why Business Leaders Opposed the Vietnam War" "A Dynamic Theory of Wartime Trade Shocks and Business War Preferences" "Sovereign Bond Prices and Interstate War"	

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POLICY PUBLICATIONS	Colin Jones and Alexander Kirss, "Some Modest Proposals for Defense Department Requirements Reform," <i>War on the Rocks</i> , August 23, 2018. Alexander Kirss, "Why Damage Limitation Isn't the Answer to the North Korean Threat," <i>War on the Rocks</i> , September 19, 2017. Matthew Fay and Alexander Kirss, "The Political Forests and Technocratic Trees of Acquisition Reform," <i>Real Clear Defense</i> , June 20, 2016.
CONFERENCES & INVITED PRESENTATIONS	2020: Boston University (Political Economy of Security Workshop), Cornell University (Reppy Institute Graduate Student Conference)*, APSA, ISA*, MPSA* 2019: Peace Science, ISA, MPSA 2018: Cato Institute (Junior Scholar Symposium), APSA, ISA, MPSA * Disrupted by COVID-19 Pandemic
TEACHING	INSTRUCTOR, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY The Political Economy of War, (Undergraduate seminar, Spring 2020) TEACHING ASSISTANT, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY International Affairs Cornerstone, (Master's level, Fall 2018) w/ Henry Farrell International Affairs Cornerstone, (Master's level, Fall 2017) w/ Charles Glaser
FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS	GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY Columbian College of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) Dean's Graduate Instructorship, 2020 GW-Center for International Business Education and Research (GW-CIBER), 2020 CCAS Dean's Graduate Conference Travel Grant, 2020 PhD Candidate in Residence Fellowship, ISCS, 2019-2020 Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Grant, 2018 ISCS Summer Research Fellow, 2017-2020
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	Co-organizer, Graduate Student International Political Economy (GSIPE) Virtual Workshop Series (w/ Cleo O'Brien Udry and Paul Ko), 2020 Events Secretary, GW Political Science Graduate Caucus, 2018-20 Coordinator, ISCS Research in Progress Workshop, 2018-20 Coordinator, GW Graduate Research in Progress Workshop, 2018-20 Coordinator, GW Research Methods Workshop, 2018-19 Mentor-in-Residence, University of Chicago (Committee on International Relations), 2015, 2019
ACADEMIC REFERENCES	Charles Glaser George Washington University cglaser@gwu.edu Yonatan Lupu George Washington University ylupu@gwu.edu Adam Dean George Washington University adamdean@gwu.edu