

Nicholas Evan Sarantakes is a historian of the World War II and Cold War periods and a full professor at the U.S. Naval War College. He received his BA from the University of Texas, where the undergraduate teaching of Robert A. Divine convinced him to go to graduate school. He subsequently earned a MA from the University of Kentucky, working under the direction of George C. Herring, Jr., and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California, studying with Roger Dingman. All three degrees were in history. He taught for nine years at Texas A&M University—Commerce and received tenure. During that period, Sarantakes held visiting positions at the Air War College and the University of Southern Mississippi. He was at the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College before joining the Naval War College faculty. He is the author of six books and focuses on the strategic level and joint operations. His seventh book will be on the battle of Manila. He has won five writing awards and three teaching awards. His current research is on the World War II home front. He was the chair of the Paul Birdsall Book Prize Committee of the American Historical Association, He is also the editor of the “War on Screen” series for the University Press of Kansas. He has lived in Korea and the United Kingdom, and has done research in all 50 states and six foreign countries.

I believe the Society for Military History is one of the strongest and most robust organizations in the history business. The key to the success of the SMH has been the wise management of its financial resources and a well-functioning governing structure. The main job of the future leadership is to maintain these elements as academia faces some serious issues: the surplus of Ph.D.s, and declining undergraduate admissions. The organization has real strengths to face these problems. The SMH is international in scope. Although it is primarily based in the U.S., it has held its annual meets outside the United States several times and has had a foreign scholar as its president. Recent conference programs show that roughly 20 percent of the participants are employed outside the United States. The SMH also embodies professional diversity: roughly a third of its members hold positions outside of academia. The Society has been proactive in addressing the status of the subfield with the white paper “The Role of Military History in the Contemporary Academy.”

As a trustee, I would hope to continue this pattern with initiatives that would be nothing more than small adjustments to existing programs: doing mock interviews for new Ph.D.s at the annual meeting, seeing more historiographical essays in the *JMH*, creating teaching awards, sponsoring a study on military history course enrollments, doing some fund raising for the summer seminar, and/or helping participants at the seminar learn how to incorporate staff rides, war games, and simulations into their curriculum.

Nicholas Evan Sarantakes
Department of Strategy and Policy
U.S. Naval War College

Education

University of Southern California: Ph.D. in History; May, 1997

University of Kentucky: MA in History; December, 1991

University of Texas: BA in History, Minor in Sociology; May, 1989

Employment

2024-Present	Professor, U.S. Naval War College Associate Professor (2008-2024)	Newport, RI
2006-2008	Associate Professor, U.S. Army Command & General Staff College	Ft. Gordon, GA
2005-2006	Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Southern Mississippi	Hattiesburg, MS
2004-2005	Visiting Associate Professor, U.S. Air War College	Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
2004	Campus Visiting Fellow, University of Salford	Salford, England
1997-2006	Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University—Commerce	Commerce, TX

Books

Heroes on the Home Front: The Boy Scouts of America in World War II (In editing stage)

The Battle of Manila: Poisoned Victory in the Pacific War (New York: Oxford University Press, 2025)

Fan-in-Chief: Nixon and American Sports, 1969-1974 (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2019)

Making Patton: A Classic War Film's Epic Journey to the Silver Screen (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2012)

Dropping the Torch: Jimmy Carter, the Olympic Boycott, and the Cold War (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011)

Allies against the Rising Sun: The United States, the British Nations, and the Defeat of Imperial Japan (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2009)

Seven Stars: The Okinawa Battle Diaries of Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. and Joseph Stilwell (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2004)

Keystone: The American Occupation of Okinawa and U.S.-Japanese Relations (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2000)

Articles and Chapters—Academic Publications

“Keeping the Cold War Cold: Korea, 1966-1976,” *The Journal of American East Asian Relations* vol. 31, no. 1 (2024), 36-74.

“The Future War Literature of the Reagan Era: Winning World War III in Fiction,” *Naval War College Review* vol. 76 no. 3 (Summer 2023), 114-1334.

“Pushing Aluminum: The Boys Scouts of America, the World War II Home Front, and the Scrap Metal Collection Drive of 1941,” *Home Front Studies* vol. 2 (2022), 49-72.

- “Telling the Story and Telling the Story Not: U.S. Army-Media Relations During the Battle of Manila,” *American Journalism* vol. 37, no. 2 (Spring 2020), 1-26
- “Hidden Island: Military-Media Relations on Okinawa, 1945-1972,” in Hal Friedman, ed., *War in the American Pacific and East Asia, 1941-1972* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2018), 201-230
- “The United States and the Second World War,” N.A.M. Rodger and Christian Buchet, *The Sea in History: The Modern World* (Suffolk, England: Boydell & Brewer, 2017), 521-530
- “Eisenhower in World War II: A Historiography,” Chester Pach, ed., *A Companion to Dwight D. Eisenhower* (Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishing, 2017), 26-56
- “Warriors of Word and Sword: The Battle of Okinawa, Media Coverage, and Truman’s Re-evaluation of Strategy in the Pacific Theater,” *The Journal of American East-Asian Relations* vol. 23 (2016), 334-367.
- “The Military Occupations of World War II: A Historiography” Thomas Zeiler, ed., *A Companion to World War II* (Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishing, 2013), vol. I, 368-386
- “History Still Matters: Contemporary South Korean Strategy and Diplomacy,” Amit Gupta, ed., *Strategic Stability in Asia* (London: Ashgate, 2008), 87-104
- “The Last Days of the Royal Navy: Learning Lessons from the British Strategic Retreat from the Pacific,” Toshi Yoshihara and James R. Holmes, eds., *Asia Looks Seaward: The Emerging Dynamics of Regional Sea Power* (Westport, Connecticut: Praeger Security International, 2008), 32-45
- “Word Warriors: Information Operations During World War II,” James Jay Carafano and Richard Weitz, eds., *Mismanaging Mayhem: How Washington Responds to Crisis* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing, 2008), 27-45
- “President of the Historians: Theodore Roosevelt and the American Historical Association,” *White House Studies* vol. 6, no. 1, (2006), 63-81
- “One Last Crusade: The British Pacific Fleet and its Impact on Anglo-American Relations,” *English Historical Review*, vol. 121 (April 2006), 429-466
- “Cold War Pop Culture and the Image of U.S. Foreign Policy: The Perspective of the Original *Star Trek* Series,” *The Journal of Cold War Studies* vol. 7 (Fall 2005), 74-103
- “Dead Beef and Live Soldiers: Lyndon Johnson, Keith Holyoake, and U.S.-New Zealand Relations in the 1960s,” *Agriculture History*, vol. 78, no. 1 (Winter 2004), 50-77
- “The Unfinished War: Korea, 1950-Present,” *The New England Journal of History*, vol. 60, no. 1-3 (Fall 2003-Spring 2004), 293-308
- “The Royal Air Force on Okinawa: The Diplomacy of a Coalition on the Verge of Victory,” *Diplomatic History*, vol. 27, no. 4 (September 2003), 477-500.
- “The Quiet War: Combat Operations in the Korean Demilitarized Zone, 1966-1969,” *The Journal of Military History*, vol. 64 (April 2000), 439-458
- “Lyndon Johnson, Foreign Policy, and the Election of 1960,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, vol. 103, no. 2, (October 1999), 147-174

“Alliance in Doubt: American Reaction to the 1960 US-Japanese Security Treaty Crisis,” *American Diplomacy*, vol. 4, no. 3 (Autumn 1999)

“In the Service of Pharaoh? The United States and the Deployment of Korean Troops in Vietnam, 1965-1968,” *Pacific Historical Review*, vol. 68, no. 3 (August 1999), 425-449

“Continuity through Change: The Return of Okinawa and Iwo Jima, 1967-1972,” *The Journal of American East-Asian Relations*, vol. 3, no. 1 (Spring, 1994), 34-53

Articles—Magazines/Websites

“Making Good Once More,” *Naval History* (February 2024)

“The Short but Brilliant Life of the British Pacific Fleet,” *Joint Forces Quarterly* (Issue 40, 1st Quarter, 2006), 85-91

“One Last Crusade: The US-British Alliance and the End of the War in the Pacific,” *The Royal United Services Institute Journal*, vol. 149, no. 4 (August 2004), 62-67

“Baseball: The Great Political Equalizer,” ESPN.com, March 12, 2002
•(<http://espn.go.com/page2/wash/s/2002/0312/1349955.html>)

“Interservice Relations: The Army and the Marines at the Battle of Okinawa, April-June, 1945,” *Infantry*, (January-April, 1999), 12-15

Editorial Work

Series Editor, “War on Screen,” University Press of Kansas, 2024-Present

History Book Review Editor, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 2009-2017

Grants and Fellowships

2001 Teachers’ Workshop, Center for Strategic Education, Nitze School for Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University

2000 Fellow, Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy, Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University

1999 Fellow, West Point Summer Seminar in Military History

1995-1996 Marine Corps Dissertation Fellowship

Service

American Historical Association, Paul Birdsall Book Prize Committee, 2007-2010
Chair, 2009-2010

Writing Awards

2007 Kiley Prize for best article in the Recall Section of *Joint Forces Quarterly*

2007 Silver Pen Award given to CGSC Faculty for distinguished writing of an article (two awards)

2007 Bronze Pen Award given to CGSC Faculty for distinguished writing of reviews

1999 H. Bailey Carroll Award for the best article in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*

Teaching Awards

2021, 2022 Naval War College, Thank a Prof Certificate (Three Awards)

Service Award

2021 Meritorious Unit Commendation, U.S. Navy (awarded to all Naval War College faculty)

Honors

Eagle Scout, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society