



John Paul Gutman



Throughout high school, Jake was involved in a number of community service organizations in Los Angeles, including a youth philanthropy board that distributed over \$40,000 in grants to local and international organizations, and as co-president of an anti-genocide student group. In addition, he travelled to Ethiopia to document the ongoing water and sanitation crisis and later completed the short documentary “Doing Well in Ethiopia” which won acclaim at student film festivals. In the College, Jake is studying Political Science and Modern Middle Eastern Studies and has focused on understanding and addressing international issues. In 2012 he was selected for the Ibrahim Leadership and Dialogue Project, during which he travelled to three Middle Eastern countries. Jake has also spent time at NBC News and the State Department, observing and implementing defense and foreign policy. On campus he is a leader of J Street U Penn, the Penn chapter of a national student organization that advocates for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Jake hopes to channel his passions to help shape U.S. foreign policy

CAPSTONE PROJECT

“Preventing ‘A Collective Failure’: Analyzing U.S. Diplomatic Security Policy Since the 1998 American Embassy Bombings in East Africa”

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Robert Vitalis, College of Arts and Sciences, Political Science Department

The problem of protecting embassies and diplomats abroad has challenged the United States for nearly four decades, representing some of the most conspicuous and horrifying attacks on U.S. interests abroad. From the 1979 embassy takeover and hostage crisis in Tehran, Iran to the attack on the U.S. Special Mission in Benghazi, Libya in 2012, violence against U.S. diplomats overseas has historically had far-reaching effects on both American domestic politics and foreign policy. While many people assume that current diplomatic security policies and procedures are a result of the 9/11 attacks, in fact most were implemented in the wake of the 1998 bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. This paper examines the 1998 East Africa embassy bombings and the corresponding diplomatic security policy shifts through both federal legislation and bureaucratic changes by the Department of State. It analyzes data from the American Foreign Service Association, Congressional and State Department reports and testimony, as well as a limited literature on diplomatic security to argue that these reforms introduced after the bombings have largely been successful in preventing mass-casualty attacks and vehicular bombings against U.S. diplomatic targets. The study then focuses on the 2012 Benghazi attacks, maintaining that the security environment facing U.S. diplomatic posts has not changed considerably since the 1998 bombings, and that the Benghazi attack does not undermine the diplomatic security reforms introduced after the bombings. In spite of the importance of attacks against American diplomatic targets, there remains a dearth of scholarly works on the subject. This study is part of a growing literature on U.S. diplomatic security policy spanning a variety of disciplines.