

Stephen Budiansky

Writer, Independent scholar

(September 1998–present)

Author of 18 books of intellectual, scientific, and cultural biography; military and intelligence history; natural history and science, for trade and academic presses; contributor of papers in peer-reviewed history and humanities journals; regular book reviewer for the *Wall Street Journal* and *Washington Post*; recipient of Guggenheim Fellowship as writer of general non-fiction

Prior experience

The Atlantic Monthly

- Correspondent (September 1998–May 2009)

Contributed articles on science, military and intelligence policy, law, music, gardening

World War II magazine

- Editor (February 2007–February 2008)

Oversaw redesign and relaunch, brought in well-known scholars and writers as contributors

U.S. News & World Report

- Deputy Editor (September 1997–August 1998)

No. 3 editorial position; directed foreign and science coverage

- Foreign Editor (September 1996–September 1997)

Responsible for all foreign and national security coverage; supervised bureaus in Beijing, Moscow, Jerusalem, Paris, and South America

- National Security Correspondent; assistant managing editor; senior writer (July 1986–August 1996)

U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment

- Congressional Fellow (July 1985–July 1986)

Co-authored classified study of NATO conventional defense options

Nature

- Washington Editor (April 1984–July 1985)

- Washington Correspondent (June 1982–April 1984)

American Chemical Society (September 1979–June 1982)

- Radio Producer, “Man and Molecules” weekly syndicated science program

- Assistant/Associate Editor, *Environmental Science & Technology*

Education

B.S. Chemistry, summa cum laude, distinction in chemistry, Yale College, 1978
S.M. Applied Mathematics, Harvard University, 1979

Awards and professional affiliations

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow, Creative Arts, General Non-Fiction, 2011
Schorreck Memorial Lecture in Cryptologic History, National Security Agency, 2010
Caroline D. Bain Scholar-in-Residence, Smith College, 2006
Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award, 2004
Usage Panel, *American Heritage Dictionary*
Editorial Board, *Cryptologia*
Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society

Books

Journey to the Edge of Reason: The Life of Kurt Gödel (W. W. Norton, 2021)
Oliver Wendell Holmes: A Life in War, Law, and Ideas (W. W. Norton, 2019)
Code Warriors: NSA's Codebreakers and the Secret Intelligence War Against the Soviet Union (Knopf, 2016).
Mad Music: Charles Ives, the Nostalgic Rebel (University Press of New England, 2014).
Blackett's War: The Scientists Who Defeated the Nazi U-Boats and Brought Science to the Art of Warfare (Knopf, 2013).
Perilous Fight: America's Intrepid War with Britain on the High Seas, 1812–1815 (Knopf, 2011).
Murder, By the Book (Black Sheep Press, 2008).
The Bloody Shirt: Terror After the Civil War (Viking, 2008).
Her Majesty's Spymaster: Elizabeth I, Sir Francis Walsingham, and the Birth of Modern Espionage (Viking, 2005).
Air Power: The Men, Machines, and Ideas that Revolutionized War, From Kitty Hawk to Iraq (Viking, 2004).
The Character of Cats (Viking, 2002).
Battle of Wits: The Complete Story of Codebreaking in World War II (Free Press, 2000).
The Truth About Dogs (Viking, 2000).
The World According to Horses (Henry Holt, 2000).
If a Lion Could Talk: Animal Thinking and the Evolution of Consciousness (Free Press, 1998).
The Nature of Horses: Exploring Equine Evolution, Intelligence, and Behavior (Free Press, 1997).
Nature's Keepers: The New Science of Nature Management (Free Press, 1995).

The Covenant of The Wild: Why Animals Chose Domestication (Morrow, 1992; Yale University Press, 1999).

Journal articles, chapters, reports

- “Ives, Diabetes, and His ‘Exhausted Vein’ of Composition.” *American Music* 31 (2013): 1–25.
- Review of *The Rocket’s Red Glare: The War of 1812 in Connecticut*, by Glenn S. Gordinier et al. *Connecticut History* 52 (2013): 113–14.
- “The War of 1812 and the Rise of American Military Power.” Chapter in *What So Proudly We Hailed: Essays on the Contemporary Meaning of the War of 1812*, edited by Pietro S. Nivola and Peter J. Kastor. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Press, 2012.
- “The Politics of American and British Naval Strategy in the War of 1812.” *Trafalgar Chronicle* 21 (2011): 75–85.
- “Sir Francis Walsingham.” Entry in *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 2011.
- “What’s the Use of Cryptologic History?” *Intelligence and National Security* 25 (2010): 767–77.
- “Why Study War?” Review of *The Father of Us All: War and History, Ancient and Modern*, by Victor Davis Hanson. *MHQ*, summer 2010, 94–95.
- Review of *Decoding the IRA*, by Tom Mahan and James J. Gillogly. *Cryptologia* 33 (2009): 292–94.
- “Colossus, Codebreaking, and the Digital Age.” Chapter in *Colossus: The First Computer*, edited by B. Jack Copeland. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Review of *Sabres over MiG Alley: The F-86 and the Battle for Air Superiority in Korea*, by Kenneth P. Werrell. *Journal of Military History* 70 (2006): 1104–5.
- “The Quality of Repertoire in School Music Programs: Literature Review, Analysis, and Discussion.” *Journal of the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles* 12 (2005): 17–39 [Timothy W. Foley, co-author]
- “Allied versus German Codebreakers in the Battle of the Atlantic.” *International Journal of Naval History* 1.1 (April 2002).
- “How Affluence Could be Good for the Environment.” *Nature* 416 (11 April 2002): 581.
- “Bletchley Park and the Birth of the Very Special Relationship.” Chapter in *Action This Day*, edited by Ralph Erskine and Michael Smith. London: Bantam Press, 2001.
- “Codebreaking with IBM Machines in World War II.” *Cryptologia* 25 (2001): 241–55.
- “American Music: Melodic Invention.” *Humanities*, July/August 2000.
- “The Difficult Beginnings of U.S.-British Codebreaking Cooperation.” *Intelligence and National Security* 15.2 (summer 2000): 49–73.
- Review of *Secret Messages: Codebreaking and American Diplomacy, 1930–1945*, by David Alvarez. *Wilson Quarterly*, summer 2000, 137–38.
- “Closing the Book on Pearl Harbor.” *Cryptologia* 24 (2000): 119–30.
- “A Tribute to Cecil Phillips—and Arlington Hall’s ‘Meritocracy.’” *Cryptologia* 23 (1999): 97–107.

- “Some Historical Influences on Modern Views of Nature in America.” *Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters* 86 (1998): 19–34.
- “A Special Relationship: The Coevolution of Human Beings and Domesticated Animals.” *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 204 (1994): 365–68.
- “Extinction or Miscalculation?” *Nature* 370 (1994): 105.
- “New Technology for NATO: Implementing Follow-On Forces Attack.” U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, Report OTA-ISC-309, June 1987. [co-author]

Selected journalism and opinion pieces

- Review of *War of Nerves*, by Martin Sixsmith. *Wall Street Journal*, August 12, 2022.
- Review of *The Man from the Future*, by Ananyo Bhattacharya. *Wall Street Journal*, February 25, 2022.
- Review of *Firepower*, by Paul Lockhart. *Wall Street Journal*, January 6, 2022.
- Review of *The Guarded Gate*, by Daniel Okrent. *Wall Street Journal*, May 4, 2019.
- Review of *The Spy and the Traitor*, by Ben Macintyre. *Wall Street Journal*, September 13, 2018.
- Review of *The Fair Chase*, by Philip Dray. *Wall Street Journal*, April 26, 2018.
- Review of *The Coming War for Cyberspace*, by Alexander Klimburg. *Wall Street Journal*, July 15, 2017.
- Review of *How America Lost Its Secrets*, by Edward Jay Epstein. *Wall Street Journal*, January 16, 2017.
- Review of *Why the Wheel Is Round*, by Steven Vogel. *Wall Street Journal*, November 4, 2016.
- Review of *The Secret War: Spies, Ciphers, and Guerrillas, 1939–1945*, by Max Hastings. *Wall Street Journal*, May 6, 2016.
- Review of *The Killing Compartments*, by Abram de Swann. *Wall Street Journal*, January 9, 2015.
- Review of *The Lagoon*, by Armand Marie Leroi. *Wall Street Journal*, October 18, 2014.
- Review of *Lincoln in the World*, by Kevin Peraino. *Washington Post*, December 27, 2013.
- Review of *The World Until Yesterday: What We Can Learn from Traditional Societies*, by Jared Diamond. *Wall Street Journal*, January 4, 2013.
- Review of *Nature Wars*, by James Sterba. *Wall Street Journal*, November 17, 2012.
- Review of *Change Comes to Dinner*, by Katherine Gustafson, and other new food books. *Wall Street Journal*, June 22, 2012.
- “Triumph at Kasserine Pass.” *World War II*, May/June 2011, 30–37.
- Review of *The Moral Lives of Animals*, by Dale Peterson. *Wall Street Journal*, March 12, 2011.
- “Judging George Custer.” *Civil War Times*, February 2011, 37–43.
- “Dead in the Water: The Battle of the Atlantic turned when Allied scientists joined the hunt for U-boats.” *World War II*, September/October 2010, 28–35.
- “Math Lessons for Locavores.” *New York Times* op-ed page, August 19, 2010.
- “America, This is London Calling.” [article on World War II British propaganda] *World War II*, May/June 2010, 51–57.

- “Rising Up Against a Rich Man’s War.” Review of *The State of Jones*, by Sally Jenkins and John Stauffer. *Washington Post*, September 27, 2009.
- “The South Did Rise Again: Lewis Merrill and the 7th Cavalry's fight against terror in the post-Civil War South.” *Civil War Times*, June 2009, 50–55.
- “Dark Days in the Southland: A reporter's 1865 trip through the defeated Confederacy revealed a ravaged landscape and bitter people.” *Civil War Times*, December 2008, 46–53.
- “Churchill’s Secret Army: Britain's last resort against a Nazi invasion was a guerrilla force trained to carry out suicidal missions of terror and sabotage.” *World War II*, October/November 2008, 28–35.
- “How a War of Terror Kept Backs Oppressed Long after the Civil War.” *American History*, April 2008, 30–36.
- “A Prayer for the Dying.” Review of *This Republic of Suffering*, by Drew Gilpin Faust. *Washington Post*, February 24, 2008.
- “Military Justice Goes AWOL.” [essay on military commissions] *New York Times* op-ed page, February 11, 2007.
- “Brand U.” [essay on university marketing practices] *New York Times* op-ed page, April 26, 2006.
- “Intelligence: Truth Extraction” [article on POW interrogation techniques and torture] *The Atlantic Monthly*, June 2005.
- “A Proven Formula for How Many Troops We Need.” [op-ed on situation in Iraq] *Washington Post* Outlook section, May 9, 2004.
- “The Right Kind of Second Guessing.” [essay on September 11 terrorist attacks and intelligence failure] *Washington Post* Outlook section, May 26, 2002.
- “The Future of Life.” Review essay of *The Future of Life*, by E. O. Wilson. *Prospect*, April 2002: 30–35.
- “The Sky Has Its Limits: Why Bombs Defeat Armies More Effectively Than Cities.” [essay on history of strategic bombing] *Washington Post* Outlook section, December 16, 2001.
- “The Law: Rescuing Search and Seizure.” [article on Fourth Amendment jurisprudence] *The Atlantic Monthly*, October 2000.
- “Sport: Tallyho and Tribulation.” [personal essay on fox-hunting] *The Atlantic Monthly*, September 2000.

Lectures and conference papers

- “Writing About Cryptology and Intelligence,” panel discussion, National Security Agency Cryptologic History Symposium. Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland, October 20, 2017.
- “The Friedman-Hagelin Connection and NSA Cryptologic ‘Back Doors.’” Paper presented at National Security Agency Cryptologic History Symposium. Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland, October 22, 2015.

- “The Release in Context.” Paper presented at symposium for the National Security Agency’s declassification and release of William Friedman’s official papers. Marshall Library, George C. Marshall Foundation, Lexington, Virginia, April 23, 2015.
- “What’s the Use of Cryptologic History?” Fourth Schorre Memorial Lecture in Cryptologic History, National Security Agency. Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, May 26, 2010.
- “The Politics of American and British Naval Strategy in the War of 1812.” Paper presented at the Society for Military History Conference. Lexington, Virginia, May 21, 2010.
- “Military Counter-terrorism Operations in the Reconstruction South.” Paper presented at the Society for Military History Conference. Frederick, Maryland, April 20, 2007.
- “Post–World War I Strategic Bombing Surveys.” Lecture to the graduate student class at the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Alabama, November 15, 2004.
- “The Future of Conflict after Operation Iraqi Freedom.” Lecture to the U.S. Air Force National Security Forum. Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, May 29, 2003.
- “A Few Deliberately Naïve Lessons of SIGINT History.” Lecture to the National Security Agency field chiefs’ meeting. Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, November 4, 2002.
- “Codebreaking with IBM Machines in World War II.” Paper presented at History of Cryptography Conference, British Society for the History of Mathematics. Cambridge University, June 24, 2000.
- “Pearl Harbor and the Breaking of JN–25.” Paper presented at National Security Agency Cryptologic History Symposium. Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, October 27–29, 1999.
- “Capturing the Horse in Art.” Sunday Gallery Lecture, National Gallery of Art. Washington, D.C., May 31, 1998.

Partial list of media appearances

- National Museum of Mathematics, Volumes online book club, “Journey to the Edge of Reason,” June 15, 2022
- CSPAN Book-TV, “Oliver Wendell Holmes,” July 2019
- CSPAN Book-TV, “Code Warriors,” July 2016
- CSPAN Book-TV, “Blackett’s War,” March 2013
- CSPAN Book-TV, “The Bloody Shirt,” July 2008
- PBS-TV, “Warplane” series, parts I & II, 2006
- CSPAN Book-TV, “Her Majesty’s Spymaster,” September 2005
- CSPAN Book-TV, “Air Power,” April 2004
- History Channel, “Secrets of War: Breaking the Japanese Code”
- History Channel, “Modern Marvels: Codes”
- PBS-TV, “NOVA: Secrets, Lies & Atomic Spies,” February 2002