

William McCants - Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Princeton University, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 2006

M.A., Princeton University, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 2003

M.A., University of Arizona, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 2000

Certificate in Arabic Language Acquisition, American University in Cairo, 1999

B.S. in History, Lander University, 1997, *Summa Cum Laude*

Research Languages: Arabic, Persian

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2013- Senior Fellow and Director, Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World,
The Brookings Institution

2011-2013 Research Analyst, CNA Center for Strategic Studies

2009-2011 Senior Adviser to Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State

2009- Adjunct Faculty, Johns Hopkins University

2009 Program Manager of the Minerva Initiative for the Under Secretary of Defense for
Policy, Department of Defense

2008 Research Member, Institute for Defense Analyses

2007-2008 Senior Analyst, SAIC, Center for International Issues Research

2005-2009 Fellow, Combating Terrorism Center, West Point

2004 Adjunct Faculty, New Brunswick Seminary

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Books

Rethinking Political Islam (forthcoming Oxford University Press, 2017). With Shadi Hamid.

The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy, and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State (St. Martin's Press, 2015).

Founding Gods, Inventing Nations: Conquest and Culture Myths from Antiquity to Islam (Princeton University Press, 2012).

Book Translations

Abu Bakr Naji, *The Management of Savagery*, 256 pages (sponsored by Olin Institute at Harvard; available online at www.ctc.usma.edu/naji.asp).

Academic Articles

“Saudi Arabia: Islamists Rising and Falling.” With Jon Alterman. In *Religious Radicalism after the Arab Uprisings*. Edited by Jon Alterman (CSIS, 2015): 144-75.

“The Lesser of Two Evils: The Salafi Turn to Party Politics in Egypt,” *Middle East Memo*, The Brookings Institution, May 1, 2012, <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-lesser-of-two-evils-the-salafi-turn-to-party-politics-in-egypt/>.

“Stealing Al-Qa'ida's Playbook.” With Jarret Brachman. In *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 29, no. 4 (2006): 309-321.

Magazine and Online Publications

“Joining the Fray: Salafi Politics after the Arab Spring,” *World Politics Review* (January 22, 2013), <http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/authors/908/will-mccants>.

“Al-Qaeda's Challenge: The Jihadists' War with Islamist Democrats.” *Foreign Affairs* (Sept/Oct 2011).

Militant Ideology Atlas (West Point, N.Y.: Combating Terrorism Center, 2007). 383-page study of militant Islamist intellectual networks available online at www.ctc.usma.edu/atlas/atlas.asp.

Book Reviews

“Review of Joas Wagemakers, *A Quietist Jihadi*,” *Journal of Church and State*, March 2014.

“Review of John Kelsey's *Arguing the Just War in Islam*,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 2008 76(4): 1028-1031.