

THOMAS M. HILL

WORK EXPERIENCE

Sept. 2017-current **The Brookings Institution** Washington, DC
Visiting Fellow

- Research focused on modernization of U.S. foreign policy institutions including: Department of State, USAID, Peace Corps, and Millennium Challenge Corporation.

March 2013-Sept. 2017 **U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs** Washington, DC
Senior Professional Staff Member, Majority Staff

- Lead staffer on Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (S.1635, as amended), signed into law December 2016 and the first State Department authorization to be signed into law in 15 years.
- Lead staff member for Committee on global democratic reform efforts; matters related to State Department operations and reorganization; United Nations and international organizations; the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG); the Peace Corps; and, North Africa (the Maghreb).
- Lead staffer on efforts to combat foreign propaganda and hybrid warfare including reform of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), U.S. public diplomacy, and affiliated counter messaging entities.

July 2009 – March 2013 **U.S. Department of State** Washington, DC
Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), Strategic Planning and Resources Coordinator

- Developed a strategic planning process to aggregate and analyze a wide range of research, to identify programmatic opportunities, to respond to emerging or previously unforeseen needs, and to project regional and country specific trends. Acted as lead liaison to other departments and agencies to coordinate efforts and increase program efficacy.
- Wrote the fiscal year 2010, 2011, and 2012 operational plans which detail how foreign assistance programs and projects will support broader USG democratic reform policy priorities.
- Directed the foreign assistance budget and obligation processes for over \$200 million in programmatic funding. Managed all aspects of budget cycle for four fiscal years concurrently.

July 2008 – July 2009 **U.S. Department of State** Baghdad (Sadr City), Iraq
Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), Governance Specialist

- Instigated and directed a five year strategic planning process for local government (District Council, Neighborhood Council, and Municipality) to effectively advocate for resources from the central government.
- Organized the Jamila Market Council and directed its transition into a business co-op which now serves as a local chamber of commerce for Sadr City.
- Organized and developed numerous civil society organizations focused on: women's vocational education, rule of law implementation, micro-finance opportunities for widows, literacy for women and children, and resources for local elementary schools.

Oct. 2007 – July 2008 **U.S. Department of State** Washington, DC
Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), Freedom Agenda Coordination Team, Director

- Developed strategic plans for each country in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, compiling and analyzing data from multiple sources to identify holes in foreign assistance programming, to project future programming needs and areas of opportunity, and to outline how programming across the inter-agency could be integrated more effectively and efficiently.
- Coordinated and directed interagency working groups charged with developing democratic reform policy recommendations for senior officials. Policy papers briefly (1,000 words) outlined targets of opportunity, funding priorities, and contingency strategies.

Jan. 2007 – Oct. 2007 **U.S. Department of State** Washington, DC
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Iran Democracy Program, Deputy Director (acting)

- Directed over \$30 million in foreign assistance funding to support democratic activists, human rights, rule of law, women's empowerment, and economic freedom in Iran. At the time, this was the second largest democratic reform program implemented by the Department of State. Developed country specific strategic plans for advancing policy priorities articulated by the National Security Council (NSC).
- Acted as lead program officer for all grantees supported by the Iran Democracy Program; directing project development, providing oversight of project implementation, designing new projects, and coordinating existing projects to ensure synchronicity.

Jan. 2005 – Jan. 2007 **U.S. Department of State** Washington, DC
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Office of Regional Affairs, Strategic Planning Coordinator

- Served as Bureau coordinator for the preparation and presentation of all strategic planning documents for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA).
- Had overall program management responsibility for managing the Bureau's participation in the Joint Performance Plan. Acted as lead liaison between the Bureau and the newly created Office of the Director for Foreign Assistance.

Mar. 2002 – Dec. 2002 **Democratic Dialogue** Belfast, N. Ireland
Research and Analysis Assistant

- Acted as lead research associate on project examining power-sharing governments in Belfast, N. Ireland and Lebanon.
- Managed and coordinated all project issues including the conducting, recommendation, scheduling, and prioritizing of interviews with members of the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Dail Eireann, the Lebanese Parliament and the academic community.

Mar. 2001 – Oct. 2001 **U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees** Amman, Jordan
Volunteer Claims Writer

- Principal advocate for recognized refugees during relocation interview process – preparing, writing and recommending refugee portfolios for resettlement.
- Managed and coordinated all issues relating to refugees awaiting resettlement while in Jordan including housing, language training and financial subsidies.

EDUCATION

2009-2013 **George Washington University** Washington, DC
Ph.D. (Political Science), incomplete

- Thesis: Prerequisites to Democratization in the Middle East

- 2003 – 2005 **American University** Washington, DC
M.A. (International Peace and Conflict Resolution)
 ■ Thesis: Lessons from Lebanon: Democratic Consolidation in the Middle East
- Aug. 2000 – Dec. 2000 **Birzeit University** Birzeit, West Bank
Modern Standard and Colloquial Arabic
 ■ Intensive Arabic language studies course
- 1996 – 2000 **Santa Clara University** Santa Clara, California
B.S. (Political Science, History, Religious Studies)
 ■ Thesis: Colonialization and its impact on the agrarian Palestinian state

LANGUAGES

- Arabic – moderate spoken, written, and reading ability
- Spanish – proficient in reading, writing and spoken language
- French – minimal spoken, written, and reading ability

OTHER NOTABLES

- Council on Foreign Relations, International Affairs Fellow (2017-2018)
- Council on Foreign Relations, Term Member (2014-2019)
- American Enterprise Institute, American Internationalism Project working group
- Foreign Policy Initiative, Congressional Scholars Program (2014-2015)
- Partnership for Secure America, Congressional Partnership Program (2014)
- Foundation for Defense of Democracies, National Security Fellow (2013-2014)
- Donald H. Rumsfeld Fellow (2011-2013)
- U.S. Department of State – Meritorious Honor Award (2011)
- U.S. Department of State – Expeditionary Service Award (2009)
- U.S. Department of State – Meritorious Honor Award (2006)
- Foreign Policy Initiative Future Leader (2010-2011)
- DC Young Republicans (member)
- Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (member)
- George Washington University Graduate Teaching Assistant Certificate
- Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) clearance