

## CURRICULUM VITA

BRIAN JAMES COOPER McKERCHER, FRHistS

**Nationality:** Canadian

**Present Position:** Professor of International History  
University of Victoria

Editor, *Diplomacy & Statecraft*

Born at Edmonton, Alberta

Entered the University of Alberta in September 1969

Graduated with the BA (Honours) Degree in History, attaining a First-class standing, in May 1973

Graduated with the MA Degree in History: course work on nineteenth and twentieth century British history, with speci

July 1995 to July 2014:

Professor of International History, Department of  
History, Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston,

## Academic.

### Monographs.

*The Second Baldwin Government and the United States, 1924-1929: Attitudes and Diplomacy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984), pp. 271.

*Esme Howard: A Diplomatic Biography* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), pp. 482.

*Transition of Power: Britain's Loss of Global Preeminence to the United States, 1930-1945* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), pp. 402.

*Britain, America, and the Special Relationship since 1941* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2017), 205 pp.

### In Preparation.

*The League of Nations and Collective Security in the Interwar Period, 1919-1939* (Westport, CT: Praeger). I have a contract for this book.

*Crown of Thorns. British Foreign Policy and Its Makers, 1919-1939* (to be submitted to Cambridge University Press – no contract yet)

### Edited Works.

with D.J. Moss, co-editor, *Shadow and Substance in British Foreign Policy, 1895-1939. Essays in honour of the late Professor C.J. Lowe* (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 1984), pp. 280.

with E.J. Errington, co-editor, *The Vietnam War as History* (New York: Praeger, 1990), pp. 196.

editor, *Anglo-American Relations in the 1920s: The Struggle for Supremacy* (London and Edmonton: Macmillans and the University of Alberta Press, 1991), pp. 242.

with K.E. Neilson, co-editor, *Go Spy the Land: Military Intelligence in History* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1992), pp. 205.

editor, *Arms Limitation and Disarmament, 1899-1939: Restraints on War* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1992), pp. 248

with A.H. Ion, co-editor, *Military Heretics: Studies in the Unorthodox in Military Leadership* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1993), pp. 246.

with L. Aronsen, co-editor, *The North Atlantic Powers in a Changing World: Anglo-American-Canadian Relations, 1903-1956* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1996), pp. 298.

with Michael Dockrill, co-editor, *Diplomacy and World Power: Studies in British Foreign Policy, 1890-1951* [a festschrift for Zara Steiner on her retirement] (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 271.

with M.A. Hennessey, co-editor, *The Operational Art: Developments in the Theory of War* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1997), pp. 220.

with R. Legault, co-editor, *Military Planning and the Origins of the Second World War in Europe* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2000), pp. 208.

E. Goldstein and B.J.C. McKercher, eds., *Power and Stability. British Foreign Policy*,

J. Burgwyn, *Italian Foreign Policy in the Interwar Period, 1918-1940* (Westport, CT, 1997), pp. 246.

Ian Nish, *Japanese Foreign Policy in the Interwar Period, 1918-1941* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2002), pp. 212.

(Timothy E. O'Connor) *Soviet Russian Foreign Policy in the Interwar Period, 1918-1941*.

Benjamin D. Rhodes, *United States Foreign Policy in the Interwar Period, 1918-1941* (Westport, CT, 2001), pp.230.

(B.J.C. McKercher),



'The Paths of Reason and Peace: Esme Howard's Unpublished Manuscript on "Paderewski. Musician – Patriot – Statesman"', *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas*, 41/1(1993), 81-100.

"'No Eternal Friends or Enemies": British Defence Policy and the Problem of the United States, 1919-1939', *Canadian Journal of History*, 28/2(1993), 257-93.

'The Politics of Naval Disarmament in Britain in the 1920s', *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 4/3(1993), 35-59.

'The Last Old Diplomat: Sir Robert Vansittart and the Verities of British Foreign Policy, 1903-1930', *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, 6/1(1995), 1-38.

'Reckoning with the Myth of the American Expeditionary Force: The United States and the Allied War Coalition, 1917-1918', *Reviews in American History*, 23/2(1995), 284-89.

'From Disarmament to Rearmament: British Civil-Military Relations and Policy-Making, 1933-1936', *Defence Studies*, 1/1(2001), 21-48.

with M.L. Roi, "'Ideal" and "Punch-Bag": Conflicting Views of the Balance of Power and Their Influence on Interwar British Foreign Policy', *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, 12/2(2001), 47-78.

with Catherine Krull, 'The Press, Public Opinion, Arms Limitation, and Government Policy in Britain, 1932-1934: Some Preliminary Observation', *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, 13/3(2002), 103-36.

with Erik Goldstein, 'Power and Stability in British Foreign Policy, 1865-1965', *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, 14/2(2003), 1-22.

'Austen Chamberlain and the Continental Balance of Power: Strategy, Stability, and the League of Nations, 1924-29', *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, 14/2(2003), 207-36.

'The Foreign Office, 1930-1939: Strategy, Permanent Interests, and National Security', *Contemporary British History*, 18/3(2004), 87-109.

with S. Enjamio, "'Brighter Futures, Better Times": Britain, the Empire, and Anglo-American Economic Competition in Cuba, 1898-1920', *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 18/4(2007), 663-87.

"'A Certain Irritation": the White House, the State Department, and Naval Arms Limitation, 1927-1932', *Diplomatic History*, 31/5(2007), 829-63.

'The Continental Commitment and British Foreign Policy: the Field Force and the Strategy of the National Government, 1933-1938', *English Historical Review*, 123/500(2008), 98-131.

'National Security and Imperial Defence: British Grand Strategy and Appeasement, 1930-1939', *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 19/3(2008), 391-442.

'Canada and the Second World War' [Review article], *Cercles. Revue Pluridisciplinaire du Monde Anglophone*

with Erik Goldstein, 'Introduction: Of War and Peace: Aspects of British Policy and the Treaty of Versailles', *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 30/2(2019), 194-200.

'The Quest for Stability: British War Aims and Germany, 1914–1918', *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 30/2(2019), 201-27.

'The Other German Treaty: Lloyd George and St Germain, 1919/20', *Beiträge zur Rechtsgeschichte Österreichs*, 9/2(2019), 320-31.

'Catholicism and Foreign Policy: Esme Howard and British Policy towards Poland, 1919', *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 32/2(2021), 289-309.

'Commitment to the Continent: The Foreign Office, the War Office, and the British Field Force, 1934-1938', *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 34/1(2023), 57-85.

#### **Articles in Reference Books.**

'Howard, Esme William, first Baron Howard of Penrith (1863–1939)', in C. Matthews, *The Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).

'Sir Ronald Charles Lindsay', in C. Matthews, ed., *The Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).

#### **Chapters in Books.**

with D.J. Moss, 'Introduction', *Shadow and Substance in British Foreign Policy*, pp. 1-18.

'The British Diplomatic Service in the United States and the Chamberlain Foreign Office's Perception of Domestic America: images, reality, and diplomacy', in McKercher and Moss, *Shadow and Substance in British Foreign Policy*, pp. 221-47.

'Afterword: Foreign Policy and Military Planning – The Cold War and National Defence, 1945-1960', in R.G. Haycock and K.E. Neilson, eds., *The Cold War and National Defence* (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1990), pp.185-93.

'Introduction: The Struggle for Supremacy in Anglo-American Relations in the 1920s', in McKercher, *Anglo-American Relations in the 1920s*, pp. 1-16.

'Between Two Giants: Canada, the Coolidge Naval Conference, and Anglo-American Relations in 1927', in McKercher, *Anglo-American Relations in the 1920s*, pp. 81-124.

“‘The deep and latent distrust’”: the British Official Mind and the United States, 1919-1929', in McKercher, *Anglo-American Relations in the 1920s*, pp. 208-37.

with E.J. Errington, 'Introduction: The Vietnam War as History', in Errington and



with A.H. Ion, 'Introduction: Military Heretics', in McKercher and Ion, *Military Heretics*, 1-10.

“Shield of Memory”: the memoirs of the British Foreign-Policy-Making Elite, 1919-1939’

‘Austen Chamberlain and the Continental Balance of Power: Strategy, Stability, and the League of Nations, 1924-29’, in E. Goldstein and B.J.C. McKercher, eds., *Power and Stability. British Foreign Policy, 1865-1965* (London: Frank Cass, 2003), 207-36.

‘The Limitations of the Politician-Historian: Winston Churchill, rearmament, appeasement, and the origins of the Second World War’, in B.J.C. McKercher and Antoine Capet, eds., *Winston Churchill: At War and Thinking of War before 1939* (London: Routledge, 2019), 127-52.

Chapter 17: ‘Chrysalis of Power: American Foreign Policy, 1919-1941’, in Christopher Dietrich, ed., *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Policy, Colonial Era to the Present*, Volume I (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2020), 345-81.

with Erik Goldstein, ‘Introduction: Of War and Peace: Aspects of British Policy and

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**Papers Read:**

'The Chamberlain Foreign Office and Its Perceptions of Republican Foreign Policy, November 1924 - May 1927', at the International History Seminar, London School of Economics, 24 February 1977.

'Robert Cecil's Criticism of the Foreign Policy of Austen Chamberlain: the Legacy of Pique'

'From Enmity to Cooperation: the second Baldwin Government and the Improvement of Anglo-American Relations, November 1928-June 1929', at the International History Seminar, London School of Economics, 21 June 1990.

“A certain irritation

‘Appeasement, 1937-1939: A Failure in Peacekeeping?’, for ‘Peacemaking and Peacekeeping in the Twentieth Century’, A Lecture Series Sponsored by the Department of History, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, 20 October 2000.

‘From Disarmament to Rearmament: British Civil-Military Relations and Policy-Making, 1933-1936’, the Military History Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, London, England, 12 December 2000.

‘Finding a Voice: Canadian Foreign Policy and British Grand Strategy in the First World War’, to the Western Front Annual National Seminar, Ottawa, Ontario, 23 September 2001.

‘The Limitations of the Politician-Strategist: Winston Churchill and the German Threat, 1933-1939’, to the First Handel Conference on Strategy, US Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, 13-14 November 2001.

‘The Impact of Radio on Inter-war Diplomatic Culture in Britain and the United States’, to the International Security Studies Conference, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, 26-27 April 2002.

‘The Reality of Power (Revisited): Anglo-American Relations in the 1930s’, **Keynote Address**, to the British International History Group Conference, University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland, 13 September 2002.

‘Winston Churchill Confronts Germany: The Conservative Party and Foreign Policy, 1933-1939’, to the British International History Group Conference, University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland, 14 September 2002.

‘Austen Chamberlain and the European Balance of Power: Stability, Strategy, and the League of Nations, 1913-1915’, to the British International History Group Conference, University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland, 14 September 2002.



'Maintaining the European Balance of Power: Britain and Germany, 1933-1939' to the War and Society Seminar, Department of History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 21 February 2011.

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‘Der andere deutsche Vertrag: Lloyd George, Versailles und Saint Germain,





Arts Faculty Representative on the Information Technology Committee,  
September 1990 to June 1996

Chairman and Department of History Representative on the Arts Division  
Research Advisory Committee, September 1993 to July 2014

Department of History Representative on the Graduate Studies and Research  
Committee, 1993-1994

Chair, Co-ordinating Committee for the Education of Canadian Intelligence Officers [composed of representatives of the RMC War Studies Programme, Kingston, the Canadian Security and Intelligence Services, Ottawa, the Directorate-General Intelligence, Department of National Defence, Ottawa, and the Assistant-Secretary to the Cabinet, Privy Council Office, Ottawa], August 1997 to June 2001

Member, Canadian Forces College [CFC] Accreditation Working Group, August 1998 to the December 2006

Inter-College Committee [RMC-CFC], August 1998 to December 2006

Ontario Chair, Organising Committee for the Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting held at the University of Alberta, May 2000, August 1998 to May 2000

Observer to the Canadian-American Permanent Joint Board on Defence 403<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, 13 October 1999 [this was the first PJBD open to outside observers]

Department of National Defence Delegate to the Canadian-Dutch Symposium on Greater Trans-Atlantic Co-operation, Clingendael Institute, The Hague, Holland, 16-17 April 2000

Department of National Defence Member, Atlantic Council Delegation, NATO Briefing Tour (Brussels, Geilenkirchen, Maastricht, Paris), 7-14 October 2000

Canadian Chair, Organising Committee for the 2006 Society of Military History Conference, April 2006, September 2005 to April 2006, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas

Co-Director, 8<sup>th</sup> Military History Working Group Conference, Partnership for Peace, v'States 516 Planning in War and Peace, Peace,

