

= Max Boot =

Max Boot (born September 12 , 1969) is an American author , consultant , editorialist , lecturer , and military historian . He has been a prominent advocate of American values in foreign policy . He once described his ideas as " American might to promote American ideals . " He identifies as a conservative , once joking that " I grew up in the 1980s , when conservatism was cool " . Boot worked as a writer and editor for Christian Science Monitor and then for The Wall Street Journal in the 1990s . He is now Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow in National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations . He has written for numerous publications such as The Weekly Standard , The Los Angeles Times , and The New York Times , and he has also authored well @-@ reviewed and best @-@ selling books of military history . Boot 's most recent book , titled Invisible Armies , came out in 2013 , and it details the history of guerrilla warfare .

= = Personal life = =

Boot was born in Moscow . His parents , both Russian Jews , later emigrated from the Soviet Union to Los Angeles , where he was raised . Max Boot was educated at the University of California , Berkeley (BA , History , 1991) and Yale University (MA , Diplomatic History , 1992) . He started his journalistic career writing columns for the Berkeley student newspaper The Daily Californian . He later stated that he believes he is the only conservative writer in that paper 's history . Boot and his family currently live in the New York area .

= = Career = =

Boot is the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow in National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations , a contributing editor to The Weekly Standard and the Los Angeles Times , and a regular contributor to other publications such as The Wall Street Journal , The Washington Post and The New York Times . He blogs for Commentary Magazine on its page Contentions . He serves as a consultant to the U.S. military and as a regular lecturer at U.S. military institutions such as the Army War College and the Command and General Staff College .

Boot worked as a writer and as an editor for The Christian Science Monitor from 1992 to 1994 . He moved to The Wall Street Journal for the next eight years . He wrote an investigative column called ' Rule of Law ' about legal issues . After a short , four @-@ year career with the column , he rose to the position of editor of the Op @-@ Ed page .

Boot left the Journal in 2002 , and he then joined the Council on Foreign Relations . He became a ' Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow ' with the group . His writings with the Council appeared in several publications such as The New York Post , The Times , Financial Times , and International Herald Tribune in 2002 .

Boot wrote Savage Wars of Peace , a study of small wars in American history , with Basic Books in 2002 . The title came from Kipling 's poem ' White Man 's Burden ' . James A. Russell in Journal of Cold War Studies criticized the book , saying that " Boot did none of the critical research , and thus the inferences he draws from his uncritical rendition of history are essentially meaningless . " Benjamin Schwarz argued in The New York Times that Boot asked the U.S. military to do a " nearly impossible task " , and he criticized the book as " unrevealing " . Victor Davis Hanson in History News Network gave a positive review , saying that " Boot 's well @-@ written narrative is not only fascinating reading , but didactic as well " . Robert M. Cassidy in Military Review labeled it " extraordinary " . Boot 's book also won the 2003 General Wallace M. Greene Jr . Award from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation as the best non @-@ fiction book recently published pertaining to Marine Corps history .

Boot wrote numerous articles with the Council in 2003 and 2004 . The World Affairs Councils of America named Boot one of " the 500 most influential people in the United States in the field of foreign policy " in 2004 . He also worked as member of the Project for the New American Century (PNAC) in 2004 .

He published the work *War Made New* , an analysis of revolutions in military technology since 1500 , in 2006 . The book 's central thesis is that a military succeeds when it has the dynamic , forward @-@ looking structures and administration in place to exploit new technologies . It concludes that the U.S. military may lose its edge if it does not become flatter , less bureaucratic , and more decentralized . The book received praise from Josiah Bunting III in *The New York Times* , who called it " unusual and magisterial " , and criticism from Martin Sieff in *The American Conservative* , who called it " remarkably superficial " .

Boot wrote many more articles with the Council in 2007 , and he received the Eric Breindel Award for Excellence in Opinion Journalism that year . In an April 2007 episode of *Think Tank* with Ben Wattenberg , Boot stated that he " used to be a journalist " and that he currently views himself purely as a military historian . Boot served as a foreign policy adviser to Senator John McCain in his 2008 United States presidential election bid . He stated in an editorial in *World Affairs Journal* that he saw strong parallels between Theodore Roosevelt and McCain . Boot continued to write for the Council in several publications in 2008 and 2009 .

Boot wrote for the Council through 2010 and 2011 for various publications such as *Newsweek* , *The Boston Globe* , *The New York Times* , and *The Weekly Standard* among others . He particularly argued that President Obama 's health care plans made maintaining the U.S. ' superpower status harder , that withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq occurred prematurely while making another war there more likely , and that the initial U.S. victory in Afghanistan had been undone by government complacency though forces could still pull off a victory . He also wrote op @-@ eds criticizing planned budget austerity measures in both the U.S. and the U.K. as hurting their national security interests .

In September 2012 , Boot co @-@ wrote with Brookings Institution senior fellow Michael Doran a *New York Times* op @-@ ed titled " 5 Reasons to Intervene in Syria Now " , advocating U.S military force to create a countrywide no @-@ fly zone reminiscent of NATO 's role in the Kosovo War . He stated first and second that " American intervention would diminish Iran 's influence in the Arab world " and that " a more muscular American policy could keep the conflict from spreading " with " sectarian strife in Lebanon and Iraq " . Third , Boot argued that " training and equipping reliable partners within Syria 's internal opposition " could help " create a bulwark against extremist groups like Al Qaeda " . He concluded that " American leadership on Syria could improve relations with key allies like Turkey and Qatar " as well as " end a terrible human @-@ rights disaster " .

Boot 's most recent book , titled *Invisible Armies* , came out in 2013 , and it details the history of guerrilla warfare going through various cases of successful and unsuccessful insurgent efforts such as the fighting during the American war of independence , the Vietnam War , the current Syrian Civil War . He additionally states that traditional , conventional army tactics as employed by the American military under the administrations of President Bush and President Obama against guerrilla organizations have produced big strategic failures . Boot has discussed his book in various programs such as the Hoover Institution 's *Uncommon Knowledge* series. appearing on it in January 2014 .

= = Beliefs = =

In general , Boot considers himself to be a " natural contrarian " . He is in favor of limited government at home and American leadership abroad . He strongly opposed Donald Trump 's presidential candidacy in 2016 .