

Title: Security, Sovereignty, and Slavery
Speaker: Robert A. Sanders, LP.D., J.D., LLM
Date: 9 March 2023
Time: 1200-1315
Where: Virtual
POC: Prof. Ed Hernandez

SYNOPSIS:

This LOO lecture introduces students to the challenges, objectives, and outcomes that defined the environment in which US/North American national security was born. First, the lecture summarizes the contrasting and complementing notions of Security, Sovereignty, and Slavery from the Colonial Period into the period before the American Civil War period. Second, we will consider what elements of the national security structures established then remain in America's security infrastructure and architecture. At the birth site of American security, the competing challenges of Security, Sovereignty, and Slavery pushed and pulled the colonial landscape into an American Civil War. The lecture will examine this to determine if today, these elements are the potential substrate upon which America's national security structures were established. Were there significant and identifiable laws and principle institutions established to contain the masses of Black bodies imported to these shores, eradicating the caste and culture of the first inhabitants, Native Americans, and directed toward the European armed completion for dominance in the US/North America? Are roots of the colonial Security, Sovereignty, and Slavery conundrum core components of modern national security? If so, are they the genesis of certain failures of law and security while seeking sovereignty? The lecture will address the nature of several select Colonial period through Civil War doctrine, laws, and regulations that sought security through establishing justice, ensuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessings of liberty and posterity using African enslavement as a key component.

BIO:

Education

Law

LP.D Law and Policy Northeastern University, 2013
LLM U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's School, 1995
JD Catholic University, Columbus School of Law, 1988

National Security

MS Strategic Intelligence, National Intelligence University (Joint Military Intelligence College),
2007

MA National Security and Strategic Studies, U.S. Naval War College, 2002

MS International Relations, Troy State University, 1997

Engineering

BS Electrical Engineering, Northeastern University, 1983

About

Dr. Robert A. Sanders is a retired U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps) Captain, a legal/national security educator, a former federal government organization counsel and private industry military communications and weapons systems engineer. For more than two decades he developed the critical thinking of diverse groups of global leaders and supported the international human rights, international law, military, and diplomatic objectives of the United States. He has served as a staff attorney and legislative director working with the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, as a federal civil defense counsel, and as a federal criminal prosecutor and defense counsel in the United States, afloat on Navy ships, and overseas. He was previously a U.S. Naval War College Military Law and Operations Professor (2014-2019); Director, U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Institute of International Legal Studies (2011-2014); Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Legal Service Office, North Central (2007 and 2009-2011); Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Military Personnel) (2007-2009); and the in-country legal mentor for the Afghan National Army's 1st Judge Advocate General and the Ministry of Defense's 1st General Counsel equivalent (2004-2005). Dr. Sanders has served on several Boards of Directors including prior service on the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society Board; on the U.S. Secretary of Defense's Recovering, Wounded, Ill and Injured Members of the Armed Forces Task Force; and on multiple youth sports organization boards. Dr. Sanders began his current service on the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island Board of Directors in September 2016. He is a former MIT Seminar XXI Fellow, a DEOMI TRIP Intern, and a Leadership Rhode Island program participant.