Andrew R. Polk

**Curriculum Vitae**

Middle Tennessee State University

Department of History

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# Academic Positions

**2020-present** Associate Professor, Director of History Education, Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History

**2014-2020** Assistant Professor, Director of History Education, Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History

**2013-2014** Assistant Professor and Director of Social Studies Education, Arkansas State University, Department of History

# Education

**2013** Doctor of Philosophy, Florida State University – American Religious History

**2009** Master of Arts, Yale University – American Religious History

**2007** Master of Arts, Lipscomb University, Hazelip School of Theology – Biblical Studies, Second Temple Judaism

**2003** Bachelor of Arts, Lipscomb University, Department of History – Major: History (with 7-12 license), Minor: Political Science, Biblical Studies

# Research and Scholarship

## Books and Monographs

* *Faith in Freedom: Propaganda, Presidential Politics, and the Making of an American Religion* (Ithica, NY: Cornell University Press, 2021)

## Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

* “Explaining Waco: How Historians come to Different Conclusions about What *Really* Happened” in *Understanding and Teaching Contemporary American History since Reagan*, Kimber Quinney and Amy Sayward, Eds. (Madison: Wisconsin University Press, 2022)
* “Divergent Interpretation: The Conflicting Hermeneutics of Contemporary Christianity” in *Handbook of Contemporary Christianity in the United States:*

*Historical, Cultural, Theological, and Ethical Explorations*, Mark A. Lamport, Ed. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2022), 144-158.

* “Critical Analysis of Religious Sources: A Case Study of Christian Science Pamphlets,” in *Research Methods for Primary Sources* (SAGE Academic/Adam Matthew Digital, Nov, 2021) DOI: https://doi.org/10.47594/RMPS\_0193
* "The Best Knower: Mythmaking, Fard Muhammad, and the Lost-Found Nation of Islam." *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society* 10:1 (Jan, 2020), 81-93. doi:10.18848/2154-8633/CGP/v10i01/81-93.
* “A Market-based Argument for Liberal Arts Degrees,” *Forum for Values in Higher Education*, 2019:4 (July 2019) https://svheforum.com/2019/07/18/a-market-based- argument-for-liberal-arts-degrees/
* “Faith Battling Fear: U.S. Military Chaplains and the Regulation of Fear during World War II” *Journal of Academic Perspectives*, 2016: 4 (Dec, 2016)
* “’Unnecessary and Artificial Divisions:’ Franklin Roosevelt’s Quest for Religious and National Unity Leading Up to the Second World War,” *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 82:3 (Sept, 2013), 667-678.

## Articles, Book Chapters, and Essays under Editorial Review

* “Religious Propaganda and the Making of an American Religion” *Liberty Magazine* (Nov/Dec, 2021), 14-19. Online at https[://w](http://www.libertymagazine.org/article/religious-propaganda-and-the-making-)ww[.l](http://www.libertymagazine.org/article/religious-propaganda-and-the-making-)i[bertymagazine.org/article/religious-propaganda-and-the-making-](http://www.libertymagazine.org/article/religious-propaganda-and-the-making-) of-an-american-religion
* “Evangelism, Missions, and Growth: 1888-1992” in *The First 200 Years: A Bicentennial History of First United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro, Tennessee,* Ed. Evelyn Hicks (Nashville: Plumbline Publishers, 2020), 61-89.
* “Cold War,” in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, Ed. Phillip C. DiMare (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016), 180-188.
* “Lincoln, Jefferson, and the Legacies of Religion,” *Presidential Studies Quarterly*,

46.2 (June 2015), 473-495.

* “Mormon Doctrine and Covenants” in *Milestone Documents of World Religions*, ed. David M. Fahey, (Dallas: Schlager Group, 2010), 1130-1150.

## Shorter Encyclopedia Articles

* “Religion, Politics, and War,” in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, Ed. Phillip C. DiMare (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016), 634-637.
* “Dwight D. Eisenhower,” in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, Ed. Phillip C. DiMare (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016), 269-271.
* “Jehovah’s Witnesses,” in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, Ed. Phillip C. DiMare (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016), 399-400.
* “Bible Belt,” in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, Ed. Phillip C. DiMare (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016)
* “W.D. Mohammed” in *Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, Ed. Gerhard Böwering, et al. (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2013)
* “Birth Control,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
* “Freedom Summer,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
* “Kennedy's Inaugural Address,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
* “March to Selma,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
* “Poor People's Campaign,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
* “Dean Rusk,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
* “School Prayer,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
* “Fred Shuttlesworth,” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
* “Transcendental Meditation (TM)” in *Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture*, Ed. James S. Baugess and Abbe Allen-Debolt (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2012)
* “Francis Perkins,” in *Encyclopedia of American Women at War: From the Home Front to the Battlefields*, Ed. Lisa Tendrick Frank, (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011),
* “Military Air Transport Service,” in *Encyclopedia of American Women at War: From the Home Front to the Battlefields*, Ed. Lisa Tendrick Frank, (Santa Barbara: ABC- CLIO, 2011),
* “Military Sea Transport Service,” in *Encyclopedia of American Women at War: From the Home Front to the Battlefields*, Ed. Lisa Tendrick Frank, (Santa Barbara: ABC- CLIO, 2011),
* “Salvation Army” in *Encyclopedia of American Women at War: From the Home Front to the Battlefields*, Ed. Lisa Tendrick Frank, (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011)

## Book Reviews

* Review of Carl S. Weinberg, *Red Dynamite: Creationism, Culture Wars, and Anticommunism in America* in *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* (forthcoming)
* Review of Andrew Johnstone, *Against Immediate Evil: American Internationalists and the Four Freedoms on the Eve of World War II*, in *Pacific Historical Review*, vol. 85, no. 2 (May 2016): 307-308.
* Review of Lawrence J. McAndrews, *What They Wished For: American Catholics and Presidents, 1960-2004*, in *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, vol. 45, no. 4 (December 2015): 818-819.
* Review of Clint Van Winkle, *Soft Spots: A Marine’s Memoir of Combat and Post- Traumatic Stress Disorder,* in *Michigan War Studies Review*
* Review of William Inboden, *Religion and American Foreign Policy, 1945-1960: The Soul of Containment,* in *Symposia: The Graduate Student Journal of the Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto*, vol. 3 (2011)
* Review of Efrat Ben-Ze’ev, Ruth Ginio, and Jay Winter, Editors, *Shadows of War: A Social History of Silence in the Twentieth Century,* in *Michigan War Studies Review*, 2011 volume. available online at <http://www.miwsr.com/2011-011.aspx>
* Review of Andrew S. Finstuen, *Original Sin and Everyday Protestants: The Theology of Reinhold Niebuhr, Billy Graham, and Paul Tillich in an Age of Anxiety*, in *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*, no. 30 (Fall, 2009)

## Op-Eds and Guest Essays

* “Why Politicians' Fearmongering on Immigration is not Biblically Sound” *The Tennessean*, October 2, 2022, available online at https[://w](http://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/contributors/2022/09/26/why-)ww[.t](http://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/contributors/2022/09/26/why-)e[nnessean.com/story/opinion/contributors/2022/09/26/why-](http://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/contributors/2022/09/26/why-) politicians-fearmongering-on-immigration-is-not-biblically-sound/69520663007/ Republished by *Daily News Journal*, *Yahoo News*, *Newsbreak.com*, *MSN.com*, and *Political Press Watch*
* “Andrew R. Polk's ‘Faith in Freedom’" *The Page 99 Test*, January 5, 2022, available online at <http://page99test.blogspot.com/2022/01/andrew-r-polks-faith-in-> freedom.html
* “When you hear 'In God We Trust' pay attention to what comes next” *The Tennessean*, December 6, 2021, available online at https[://w](http://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2021/12/06/religion-america-pay-)ww[.t](http://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2021/12/06/religion-america-pay-)e[nnessean.com/story/opinion/2021/12/06/religion-america-pay-](http://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2021/12/06/religion-america-pay-) attention-in-god-we-trust/8856231002/ Republished in *Knoxville Sun Sentinel*, December 12, 2021, available online at

https[://w](http://www.knoxnews.com/story/opinion/2021/12/06/religion-america-pay-)ww[.k](http://www.knoxnews.com/story/opinion/2021/12/06/religion-america-pay-)n[oxnews.com/story/opinion/2021/12/06/religion-america-pay-](http://www.knoxnews.com/story/opinion/2021/12/06/religion-america-pay-) attention-in-god-we-trust/8856231002/

* “Can we please call a cease-fire in the supposed War on Christmas?” *The Leaf Chronicle*, December 20, 2021, available online at https[://w](http://www.theleafchronicle.com/story/opinion/2021/12/21/war-christmas-)ww[.t](http://www.theleafchronicle.com/story/opinion/2021/12/21/war-christmas-)h[eleafchronicle.com/story/opinion/2021/12/21/war-christmas-](http://www.theleafchronicle.com/story/opinion/2021/12/21/war-christmas-) according-mtsu-professor-andrew-polk/8975064002/ Republished in *Yahoo News*, December 21, 2021, at https://news.yahoo.com/mtsu-professor-please-call- cease-030045179.html

## Select Academic Presentations

Oct., 2023 “The Long View: Lessons from the History of Religious Extremism”

Reconstructing Religious Liberty in a Time of Religious and Secular Extremes

Sept., 2023 “Historical Memory and Historical Imagination”

Tennessee Council for History Education Annual Meeting 2023

Sept., 2022 “Rethinking Religion and Politics in Light of Christian Nationalism” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2022

June, 2020 “Explaining Waco: Branch Davidians, the Cult Awareness Network, and 24 Hour News” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting 2020

Apr., 2020 "Religious Action in the Social and Civil Order: Religious Propaganda and Nationalism from the Mid-twentieth Century to Today” Religion and Spirituality in Society International Conference 2020

Sept., 2019 “Historical Simulations in the Classroom: A Discussion about Best Practices” Teaching History Today 2019

Nov., 2018 “Ain’t I an Afghan Girl: Teaching about Muslim Women in American History”, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting 2018

Sept., 2018 “The Truth of the Matter?: Historical Memory in the Modern Classroom” Tennessee Council for History Education Annual Meeting 2018

June, 2018 “The Whole (Sojourner) Truth: Historical Memory in the Classroom” Teaching History Today 2018

May, 2017 “The Way it Happened: Historical Memory in the Public Imagination” Rutherford County Schools Professional Development

Aug., 2016 “Freedom from Fear: The U.S. Military’s Surprising Use of Chaplains during World War II” Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

May, 2016 “Who Killed Archie Fischer?: Teaching Historical Thinking Skills” Rutherford County Schools Professional Development

Nov., 2015 “Free-Market Religion: Selling America after the Second World War” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting 2015

Apr., 2014 “Freedom Was Better: the Advertising Council’s Quest for a National Mythos and Its Legacy in American Culture” American Culture Association Annual Meeting 2014

Dec., 2012 “For God and Country: The Challenges of Religious Unity during the Second World War Religion and World War II, Florida State University

Jan., 2012 “Faith Battling Fear: Military Chaplains and the Regulation of Fear during World War II” American Historical Association Annual Meeting 2012

Nov., 2011 "I Want You to Understand Your Book:" Mythmaking in the Lost-Found Nation of Islam” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting 2011

Nov., 2011 “The Best Knower: Mythmaking, Fard Muhammad, and the Lost-Found Nation of Islam” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting 2011

Apr., 2011 “The Demarcation of an Imagined Place: The Search for the Elusive Bible Belt” American Culture Association Annual Meeting 2011

Mar., 2011 “Where Those People Live: The Bible Belt as Cultural Myth” Southwestern Historical Association

Mar., 2011 “The Best Knower: Mythmaking, Fard Muhammad, and the Lost-Found Nation of Islam,” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion

Feb., 2011 “Praying the Fear Away: Religion and Power in the Second World War” Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium

Feb., 2010 “The Sins of (Puritan) Youth: Sex and Disrespect in Northampton, MA Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium

## Public and Guest Lectures/Interviews

Aug., 2023 “Standard Deviations: The Politics of Education in Florida and Beyond” *The Road to Now* Podcast, available online at https://theroadtonow.com/episodes/standard-deviations-w-ana-goni-lessan-andrew-polk/

Jul., 2022 “A Christian’s Thoughts on Christian Nationalism” *Broken but Beautiful* Podcast with JP Conway and Drue Clark, available online at https://anchor.fm/broken-but-beautiful/episodes/Ep--17-A-Christians- Thoughts-on-Christian-Nationalism-w-Andy-Polk-e1lsumk

Jun., 2022 “Andrew R Polk on America’s Faith in Freedom” *New Books Network* Podcast with Jackson Reinhardt, available online at https://newbooksnetwork.com/faith-in-freedom-2

Feb., 2022 Interview for “After Bible in school controversy, experts question program used in Hamilton Co. Schools” a news report from Sabrina Maggiore, News Channel 9, Chattanooga, TN, Feb. 7, 2022, online at https://newschannel9.com/news/local/more-students-in-hamilton-co-use- non-profit-bible-study-program-than-anywhere-in- country?fbclid=IwAR2TZdmveZsXgkPJOYqJLd3fC- EpwBKnXQE1CtaFhrwWeApZt\_0-cFj0s1o

Feb., 2022 “Religious Propaganda with Dr. Andrew Polk,” *MTSU On the Record* radio program on WMOT-FM Roots Radio 89.5. Two part interview, with part one first airing on Feb. 15, 2022 and part two first airing on Feb. 22, 2022. Online at https://mtsunews.com/polk-on-the-record-feb2022/

Dec., 2021 “Faith in Freedom with Andrew Polk”, *The Road to Now* Podcast, available at https://[www.theroadtonow.com/episodes/faith-in-freedom-w-andrew-](http://www.theroadtonow.com/episodes/faith-in-freedom-w-andrew-) polk/

Oct., 2021 “Propaganda and the Making of an American Religion,” Guest interview on *Freedom’s Ring* radio program, available at https://soundcloud.com/freedoms-ring/fr-2145-religious-propaganda-of- an-american-religion-andrew-polk-rel-date-11-6-21

June, 2021 “How Religion Shaped America” Library of Congress’ Teaching with Primary Sources Workshop

Aug., 2017 “The End has Come...Again: Apocalypticism in American Religious History” The Great Tennessee Eclipse, Middle Tennessee State University

April, 2015 “Racial Reconciliation in the Churches of Christ” African American History, Lipscomb University

Nov., 2014 “Universal Military Training: American Service after the War” World War II, Graduate Symposium, Middle Tennessee State University

# Teaching Experience

## Middle Tennessee State University

* + HIST 2010: Survey of United States History I
  + HIST 2020: Survey of United States History II
  + HIST 2050: Survey African American History II
  + HIST 3011: Teaching Historical Thinking
  + HIST 3020: Topics: U.S. Religion and Politics
  + HIST 3020: Topics: Race, Religion, and Rights
  + HIST 4650: Religious Experience in America
  + HIST 4760: America Divided: Race, Class, and Gender
  + HIST 4840: World War II
  + HIST 6103/7103: Readings in Modern America
  + HIST 6104/7104: Topics in U.S. History: Readings in American Religious History
  + HIST 6105/7105: Research in American History: American Religious History
  + HIST 6910: Selected Studies in U.S. History: Religion in Higher Education; Jewish History of the American South; Alternative Religions in the African American Experience; Masculinity and Sexuality in Mormon History; Martin, Malcolm, and the Long Civil Rights Movement; Nineteenth Century American Religion; Ethnographic Studies of Biblical Pre-History; History of Central America; Teaching World War II
  + HIST 7994: Special Projects in Public History

## Theses and Dissertations under Direction

* + M.A. Thesis Reader, Lane Tillner, “Not Easily Defined: A Continuum of Definitions of the ‘Museum School’”, fall, 2016
  + M.A. Thesis Chair, Phillip Morgan, “The Promise of a Second Evangelical Mind: Free Will Baptist Bible College and the Hybrid Model of Christian Higher Education”, spring, 2016
  + M.A. Thesis Chair, Robert Michael Browning, ““A Peculiar Beat: St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Decatur, Illinois: A Microcosm of ‘Traditioned Innovation’ and Adaptive Change in American Protestantism”, fall, 2017
  + M.A. Thesis Chair, Lawrence Dahl, “Pillaged Skulls and Looted Gear: The Racialization of the Japanese and its effect on United States Trophy Hunting during the Second World War”, spring, 2021
  + M.A. Thesis Chair, John Broadwell, “In God’s Own Image: LGBTQ+ Student Activism and Lived Experience at Lipscomb University”, summer, 2021
  + M.A.L.A. Thesis Reader, Keven Paul Lewis, “Manly Men of God: Masculinity and Sexuality in the History of the Latter-day Saints”, fall, 2021
  + PhD Dissertation Reader, Kathryn McClurkin, “The Troubles and Beyond: Expanding the Narrative of Northern Ireland’s Recent Past Through Collecting, Interpretation, and Programming”, spring, 2019
  + PhD Dissertation Reader, Rebecca Duke, “From Dewey to Skyline Farms: Progressive Education in New Deal Resettlement Communities”, fall, 2020
  + PhD Dissertation Chair, Jessica Roseberry, “Shiloh Voices: Race, Region, and Religion at Camp Shiloh, NY”, spring, 2022
  + PhD Dissertation Reader, Heather Scheuer, expected spring, 2022
  + PhD Dissertation Reader, Elizabeth Johnson, expected spring, 2022
  + PhD Dissertation Reader, David Bowlby, expected spring, 2023
  + PhD Dissertation Chair, Jared Bryson, expected spring, 2023

## Arkansas State University

* + Methods and Materials for Social Studies Teachers
  + Computer Technologies for Social Studies Teachers
  + Social Studies Teaching Internship

## Lipscomb University

* + World Religions and Cultures
  + Story of the Christian Church
  + American History to 1870

## Florida State University

* + Religion in American Political History
  + American Religious History
  + The Islamic Tradition (Graduate Assistant)
  + The Christian Tradition (Graduate Assistant)

# Professional Development

* “Toward a MT Engage Major Pathway,” Faculty Learning 2019-2020

Community, MTSU

* “MT Engage Summer Institute,” Professional Development 2019

Workshop, MTSU

* “Religion, Politics, and History,” Teaching History Today Conference 2019
* “Students as Knowledge Creators,” Faculty Learning Community, 2018-2019

MTSU

* “General Education Design Retreat,” Professional Development 2018

Workshop, MTSU

* “Text, Pictures, and Stuff: Teaching Through Multiple Sources,” 2017

Teaching History Today Conference

* “Using Reacting to the Past in the Classroom,” LT&ITC Professional 2015

Development Workshop, MTSU

# Select Grants, Awards, and Honors

* + MTSU President’s Leadership On Deck Institute Fellow (2021)
  + MTSU Outstanding Teaching Award Winner (2019)
  + MTSU College of Liberal Arts Faculty Teaching Award Winner (2019)
  + MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee Faculty Research Grant (2019)
  + MTSU University Outstanding Teaching in General Education Award Nominee (2018, 2019,2021)
  + MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee Faculty Research Grant (2015)
  + Dissertation Research Grant, Florida State University (2011-2012)
  + Conference Presentation Grant, FSU Congress of Graduate Students (4 grants from 2010-2012)
  + Dean’s Fellowship, Florida State University (2009-2012)
  + Hooker-Dwight Fellowship, Yale University (2008-2009)
  + Outstanding Future Scholar Award, *Stone-Campbell Journal* (2007)

# Select Academic and Community Service

* + Acting Chair, History Department, MTSU 2022, 2023
  + MTSU, History Department, Lecturer Seach Committee (chair) 2023
  + MTSU, History Department, DE Lecturer Seach Committee (chair) 2023
  + MTSU, History Department, Department Chair Search 2021-2022

Committee

* + MTSU, History Department, Liaison Committee (chair) 2022-2023
  + Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center of Rutherford Cty, 2020-present Board Member
  + Teaching History Today Conference, Co-Founder and Organizer 2017-present
  + Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center of Rutherford Cty, 2015-present Emergency OP, Hospital and Crisis Line Advocate
  + MTSU, Council on Teacher Education 2015-present
  + Tennessee Council for History Education, Board Member 2015-present
  + MTSU, History Department, Director of History Education 2014-present
  + MTSU, History Department, Undergraduate Committee 2014-present
  + Middle Tennessee Regional History Day Coordinator 2014-2021
  + MTSU, History Department, Race, Gender, and 2019

Sexuality Search Committee

* + MTSU University CAEP Core Advisory Committee 2017-2021
  + MTSU, History Department, FTT Search Committee 2018
  + MTSU, History Department, Student Awards Committee 2015-2017
  + MTSU, University NCATE/CAEP Advisory Council 2014-2017
  + ASU, History Department, BSE Undergraduate Committee (Chair) 2013-2014
  + ASU, College of Education, Curriculum Task Force 2013-2014