

John Sigler 1953 - 2021

John Sigler was an academic and a renowned researcher within Middle Eastern studies. He advocated for peace and conflict resolution over defence and security.

John was born in the early 1930s in Indianapolis. In 1953, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts with a major in International Relations from Dartmouth College, where he graduated as valedictorian. In 1960, he obtained his Master of Arts, majoring in Government at Georgetown University. In 1968, he earned his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Southern California (USC). He was also a Fulbright Fellow in international law at the Université Grenoble, studied Arabic and Maghreb sociology at the Université de Tunis, and was Regents Scholar in Islamic Studies at UCLA, with visiting professor Jacques Berque.

From 1955 to 1968, John served as a US Air Force intelligence officer, both on active duty and in the reserve. During his two final years in the army, he was also an instructor at the School of International Relations at USC. From 1968 to 1971, he was hired at Macalester College as an assistant professor of political science. Later during his career, he was a lecturer for the Privy Council Office's Intelligence Assessment Secretariat.

John moved to Canada in 1977, after accepting a faculty position in international relations at Carleton University. There, he specialized in Canadian foreign policy and Canada-US relations. In 1974, his dedication as an instructor made him the recipient of the Ontario Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. From 1977 to 1982, he served as the director of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton. During his posting, he met General E.L.M. Burns, a former commander of UN truce supervision and peacekeeping forces between Israelis and Arabs. This encounter sparked Sigler's interest in the Middle East, eventually leading to him becoming



increasingly interested in the matter and founding a Middle East Discussion Group in Ottawa for visiting Middle East specialists.

In 1984, John became a co-editor and a writer for CIRCA, an annual bilingual survey of international conflict. He was responsible for the Middle Eastern section until his retirement in 1998. In 1986, he became an adjunct professor of political science at the University of Ottawa, also keeping this post until his retirement. Additionally, he served on the Boards of the International Studies Association, the Social Science Federation of Canada, the Peace Science Society, and Science for Peace

During his career, John also served as an advisor to the Canadian Ministries of National Defence and Foreign Affairs and the Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. From 1983 to 1989, he was a Board member for the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament, and from 1984 to 1988, for the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. He died in July 2021 at the age of 89.