

To Jonathan's friends:

I had the privilege of being one of Jonathan's professors when he was a graduate student at MIT and served as his dissertation advisor. He came to the MIT Political Science Department already experienced in the intersection of international security studies and technology policy, which was one of the Department's main graduate specializations, and was quickly a star among the students and a favorite among the faculty.

His dissertation was a very successful application of game theory to state and firm collaboration in military aircraft and weapons, and was titled "Shifting Advantage." The model Jonathan developed, which he labeled Partner and Rival, was built around disparities in technical capabilities and was tested primarily in case studies of the relationships between France and Germany from World War Two through the 1980s. The work is well served by Jonathan's deep understanding of political economy and international relations concepts and his excellent research skills. The nine cases include the wartime occupation of France, the Transall transport aircraft, and Alpha Jet. To develop them, Jonathan had a Robert Bosch Fellowship and did internships in the West German Foreign Ministry and with Dornier GmbH, a German aerospace firm. The main lessons of the work were that states make different tradeoffs between welfare and positional goals as a function of their relative positions, and that collaborative relations are thus subject to dramatic changes as once dominant partners often misperceive their declining positions only to be jolted into awareness.

Jonathan's game theory contributions were significant, but I appreciated most his ability to temper the formal analysis with important political insights. It never left me, for example, when Jonathan pointed out that, whatever the state of the industrial advantage game in the postwar years, neither France nor Germany cared much about actual military security requirements, protected as they were from the Soviets by US military might. The preferences and needs of the French and German air forces were simply ignored. He also saw in an added case of the Japanese FSX Program that Japan would not stray far from the US no matter how strong its industrial success.

Because he grew more involved in non-proliferation studies after he graduated, I did not have as much contact with Jonathan as I would have liked post dissertation. Back at MIT my colleagues and I did glory in his professional success, proud always to link causally his growing prominence to our graduate program. I did see him occasionally at seminars, especially those related to his biological warfare and small pox work, where he always stood out for his strong scientific knowledge and his sound policy judgments. I found him to be mild mannered, a bit reserved, but fully confident in his positions. Jonathan had much to offer to our troubled world. His passing is very sad for all of us.

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