



Press Information

Samuel P. Huntington died Wednesday (Dec. 24) at an Oak Bluffs, Mass., skilled nursing facility near his home in West Tisbury, Mass., on Martha's Vineyard. He was 81.

For press inquiries or for digital photos, please contact Beth Baiter by telephone at +1.617.495.4432 or by email at bbaiter@wcfia.harvard.edu.

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Statement:

Samuel P. Huntington, Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor at Harvard University, was one of the giants of political science worldwide during the past half century. He had a knack for asking the crucially important but often inconvenient question. He had the talent and skill to formulate analyses that stood the test of time.

The book that brought him to the public eye, and public controversy, *The Clash of Civilizations* (1996), painted on the broadest global canvass. It focused on the significance of religious and other cultural values as ways of understanding cohesion and division in the world. It was the intellectual foundation in 2003 for his opposition to the U.S. decision to go to war in Iraq. This book anticipated reasons for challenges and tragedies that unfolded in Iraq during the past five years.

Among political scientists, two other books were particularly influential. His *Political Order in Changing Societies* (1968) challenged the orthodoxies of the 1960s in the field of development. Huntington showed that the lack of political order and authority were among the most serious debilities the world over. The degree of order, rather than the form of the political regime, mattered most. Moreover, it was false that "all good things go together" because the relationships between political order, democracy, economic growth, and education often created complex challenges and often undercut each other. In the decades that followed, this book remained the most frequently assigned text in research university seminars to introduce graduate students to comparative politics.

Huntington's *The Third Wave* (1991) looked at similar questions from a different perspective, namely, that the form of the political regime -- democracy or dictatorship -- did matter. The metaphor in his title referred to the cascade of dictator-toppling democracy-creating episodes that peopled the world from the mid 1970s to the early 1990s, and he gave persuasive reasons for this turn of events well before the fall of the Berlin wall.

Huntington's first book, *The Soldier and the State* (1957), examined the question of civilian authority over the armed forces, or the lack thereof. Huntington's principal interest was to understand what he called professional "objective civilian control" over

the military in the United States but, in so doing, he shed much light on the successful evolution of civilian authority over the military historically in Europe and also in communist countries.

Huntington's books revealed his mind but ordinarily he made readers work harder to figure out how he felt. He was a highly disciplined author, a stylist of English language prose, and a master craftsman of arguments and their texts. Yet, in his last book, *Who Are We?* (2004), he left no doubt where he stood on the question that then concerned him. He was an American patriot, and he would like to be remembered for this faith as well.

Samuel Huntington graduated from Yale College in 1946 and earned a Ph.D. in political science from Harvard in 1951. He spent the rest of his career teaching at Harvard, except for a period at Columbia University from 1958 to 1962. He served as Chairman of the Harvard Government Department (1967-69; 1970-71) and as director of the (Weatherhead) Center for International Affairs (1978-1989). He founded Harvard's Olin Institute for Strategic Studies and served as its director from 1989-1999. He was the Chairman of the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies (1996-2004).

Mentor to generations of scholars in widely divergent fields, he was the author or co-author of a total of seventeen books, on American government, democratization, national security and strategic issues, political and economic development, cultural factors in world politics and American national identity. He wrote insightfully about war and peace, development and decay, democracy and dictatorship, cultures and structures, migration and displacement, and many other topics. His graduate students teach at the world's leading research universities and have served in governments and international organizations. Shy in demeanor, Huntington was feisty at seminars and conferences, welcoming debate, and relished the exploration, critique, and defense of complex ideas.

A life-long Democrat, he was foreign policy advisor to Vice President Hubert Humphrey in his 1968 presidential campaign and served in the Carter Administration on the National Security Council staff as Coordinator of Security Planning (1977-78). He also co-founded and edited *Foreign Policy* magazine. He served as president of the American Political Science Association (1986-1987) and received the Grawemeyer Award for Ideas for Improving World Order.

Quotation List

Reaction to Huntington's *The Clash of Civilizations* (1996):

“Sam Huntington, one of the West's most eminent political scientists, presents a challenging framework for understanding the realities of global politics in the next century. *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* is one of the most important books to have emerged since the end of the Cold War.”

- Henry Kissinger

“An intellectual tour de force: bold, imaginative, and provocative. A seminal work that will revolutionize our understanding of international affairs.”

- Zbigniew Brzezinski

Reaction to Huntington's passing:

“Sam Huntington was one of the giants of American intellectual life of the last half century. His contributions ranged across the whole field of political science, from the deeply theoretical to the intensely applied. Over the years, he mentored a large share of America's leading strategic thinkers, and he built enduring institutions of intellectual excellence. What was most rare about Sam, however, was his ability to combine intensely held, vigorously argued views with an engaging openness to contrary evidence and argument. Harvard has lost a towering figure, and his colleagues have lost a very good friend.”

- Robert Putnam, Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard

“Samuel Huntington's brilliance was recognized by the academics and statesmen around the world who read his books. But he was loved by those who knew him well because he combined a fierce loyalty to his principles and friends with a happy eagerness to be confronted with sharp opposition to his own views, if the opposing arguments were well formed, of course.”

- Stephen P. Rosen, Beton Michael Kaneb Professor of National Security and Military Affairs and Director of the John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies at Harvard

“Sam was the kind of scholar that made Harvard a great university. People all over the world studied and debated his ideas. I believe he was clearly the most influential political scientists of the last 50 or so years.”

- Henry Rosovsky, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor, Emeritus at Harvard

Samuel Huntington in his own words:

From *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (1996):

“The West won the world not by the superiority of its ideas or values or religion ... but rather by its superiority in applying organized violence. Westerners often forget this fact; non-Westerners never do.”

“In the emerging world of ethnic conflict and civilizational clash, Western belief in the universality of Western culture suffers three problems: it is false; it is immoral; and it is dangerous.”

“The underlying problem for the West is not Islamic fundamentalism. It is Islam, a different civilization whose people are convinced of the superiority of their culture and are obsessed with the inferiority of their power. The problem for Islam is not the CIA or the U.S. Department of Defense. It is the West, a different civilization whose people are convinced of the universality of their culture and believe that their superior, if declining, power imposes on them the obligation to extend that culture throughout the world. These are the basic ingredients that fuel conflict between Islam and the West.”

From *Who Are We? The Challenges to America's National Identity* (2004):

“Cultural America is under siege. And as the Soviet experience illustrates, ideology is a weak glue to hold together people otherwise lacking racial, ethnic, and cultural sources of community.”

SAMUEL P. HUNTINGTON

Harvard University
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs
1737 Cambridge St.
Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel: 617.495.4432 Fax: 617.384.9259
e-mail bbaiter@wcfia.harvard.edu

Current Positions

Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor, *Emeritus*
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, *Faculty Associate*
Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor, 1995-2007

Principal Previous Academic Positions

Eaton Professor of the Science of Government, Harvard University, 1982- 1995
Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs, Harvard University, 1981-1982
Frank G. Thomson Professor of Government, Harvard University, 1967-1981
Professor of Government, Harvard University, 1962-1967
Associate Professor of Government, Columbia University, 1959-1962
Assistant Professor of Government, Harvard University, 1953-1958
Instructor in Government, Harvard University, 1950-1953

Other Public and Professional Positions

President, American Political Science Association, 1986-1987; Vice President,
1985-1986; Council Member, 1969-1971
Co-founder and Co-editor, *Foreign Policy* (Quarterly), 1970-1977
Council Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1975-1977
Member, Commission on U.S.-Latin American Relations, 1974-1976
Chairman, Defense and Arms Control Study Group, Democratic Advisory
Council, 1974-1976
Ford Research Professor in Public Law and Government, Columbia University,
1960-1961
Research Associate on Military Policy, The Brookings Institution, 1952-1953

Administrative Positions

Chairman, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, 1996-2004
Director, John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, Harvard University 1989-
1999
Director, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 1978-1989;
Associate Director, 1973-1977

Chairman, Department of Government, Harvard University, 1967-1969; 1970-1971
Associate Director, Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University, 1959-1962

Government Service

Full Time:

Coordinator of Security Planning, National Security Council, 1977-1978
Consultant, Policy Planning Council, Department of State, 1967
Pvt. and T/5, U.S. Army, 1946-1947

Part Time:

Member, Commission on the Reduction and Protection of Governmental Secrecy, 1995 -1997
Member, Commission on Integrated Long-Term Strategy, 1986-1988
Member, Advisory Board, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 1980-1991
Member, Board of Visitors, National Defense University, 1980-1988
Member, Presidential Task Force on International Development, 1969-1970
Chairman, Council on Vietnamese Studies, Southeast Asia Development Advisory Group, 1966-1969
Sometime Consultant: Office of the Secretary of Defense; National Security Council; Department of State, Policy Planning Council; Agency for International Development; U.S. Air Force; U.S. Navy

Fellowships and Lectureships

Resident Scholar, Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Study and Conference Center, 1963, 1992
Senior Research Associate, International Institute of Strategic Studies, 1990
Julian J. Rothbaum Distinguished Lecturer, University of Oklahoma, 1989
Chester W. Nimitz Memorial Lectureship, University of California, Berkeley, 1986
Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1983-1984
Visiting Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford University, 1973
John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, 1972-1973
Samuel Paley Lecturer, Hebrew University, 1970
Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University, 1969-1970
Henry L. Stimson Lecturer, Yale University, 1966
Maurice Falk Lecturer on Defense Policy, Carnegie Institute of Technology, 1959
Faculty Research Fellow, Social Science Research Council, 1954-1957
Visiting Lecturer in Military History, Ohio State University, 1956, 1957

Publications: Books

- Who Are We? The Challenges to America's National Identity*, Simon & Schuster, 2004
- Many Globalizations: Cultural Diversity in the Contemporary World*, Oxford, 2002 (co-editor)
- Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*, Basic Books, 2000 (co-editor)
- The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, Simon & Schuster, 1996
- The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1991 (winner of the Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order)
- Understanding Political Development*, Little, Brown and Company, 1987 (Co-editor and contributor)
- Reorganizing America's Defense: Leadership in War and Peace*, Pergamon-Brassey's, 1985 (Co-editor and contributor)
- Global Dilemmas*, CFIA/University Press of America, 1985 (Co-editor and contributor)
- Living with Nuclear Weapons*, Bantam Paperbacks/Harvard University Press, 1983 (Co-author)
- The Strategic Imperative: New Politics for American Security*, Ballinger Publishing Company, 1982 (Editor and contributor)
- American Politics: The Promise of Disharmony*, Harvard University Press, 1981 (winner of Association of American Publishers Social Sciences Award)
- No Easy Choice: Political Participation in Developing Countries*, Harvard University Press, 1976 (Co-author)
- The Crisis of Democracy: Report to the Trilateral Commission of the Task Force on Governability of Democracies*, New York University Press, 1975 (Co-author)
- Authoritarian Politics in Modern Society: The Dynamics of One-party Systems*, Basic Books, 1970 (Co-editor and contributor)
- Political Order in Changing Societies*, Yale University Press, 1968
- Political Power: USA/USSR*, Viking Press, 1964 (Co-author)
- Changing Patterns of Military Politics*, The Free Press, 1962 (Editor and contributor)
- The Common Defense: Strategic Programs in National Politics*, Columbia University Press, 1961
- The Soldier and the State: The Theory and Politics of Civil-Military Relations*, Harvard University Press, 1957

Publications: Articles and Monographs

Over 100 scholarly articles, contributions to books, and monographs in the areas of civil-military relations, defense policy, military strategy, foreign policy, international relations, political development, democracy and democratization, comparative politics, American politics, and political theory.

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, Harvard University, 1951

M.A. in Political Science, University of Chicago, 1948

B.A. with honors with exceptional distinction, Yale University, 1946