

CHADWICK F. ALGER: THE EARLY YEARS AT NORTHWESTERN

Harold Guetzkow

Chad Alger and I both began our work in the Department of Political Science with Chairman Richard Snyder at Northwestern University in the fall of 1957. Alger came to Northwestern initially as a Post-Doctoral fellow in the International Relations Program, and then joined the faculty the following year as an Assistant Professor, while I arrived at Northwestern later in my career as a full Professor. Alger flourished at Northwestern and, by 1966, he had already been promoted to full Professorship. He also served as Co-Director and Director of our departmental International Relations Program. Alger has a great ability to make people feel comfortable when interacting with them and to work with others as part of a team. This ability was demonstrated when he worked with me by providing a piece in the 1963 volume *Simulation in International Relations: Developments for Research and Teaching*.

During his thirteen years at Northwestern, Alger's scholarly contributions were numerous and penetrating. He particularly focused his studies at and on the United Nations, including spending a year as a Visiting Professor of United Nations Affairs in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at New York University. The ability to relate well with people that was apparent at Northwestern served him well when carrying out research at the United Nations. He has a frank, yet confidential way of relating to others that allowed him to build a rapport and trust with delegates in order to gain vital insights into the everyday activities of the United Nations. Alger's frequent New York City field trips to the United Nations provided a window for all of us back in Evanston with reality-oriented descriptions of inside United Nations processes.

The perceived importance of his work was well demonstrated by the fact that his article, "Non-Resolution Consequences of the United Nations and Their Effect on Internal Conflict" in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (Alger, 1961), was reprinted some five times in other volumes. His piece, "Research on Research: A Decade of Quantitative and Field Research on International Organization" (Alger, 1970), was particularly enlightening to me due to its revealing nature on the range of ways that were being used to explore how people were really operating in the international system. Alger's deep perspectives about international organizations were often balanced by juxtapositions of such with intranational politics (see Alger, 1963). This perspective was foreshadowed in his doctoral dissertation completed at Princeton University, titled *The Use of Private Experts in the Conduct of U.S. Foreign Affairs* (Alger, 1957).

Even at this early age, his work was being recognized nationally and his stature in the field was growing. This became obvious when he was invited to participate in a Foreign Relations Series for high school students, where he contributed *The United States in the United Nations* (Alger, 1964). In 1968, Alger was honored by the editors of the *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* to write the essay “International Relations. The Field.” (Alger, 1968a). He was also often invited by editors from other social science disciplines to contribute pieces to their volumes, such as Louis Kriesberg in 1968 for the *Social Process in International Relations* (Alger, 1968b). As these examples illustrate, Alger was widely seen as a social scientist, par excellence.

Throughout Alger’s years at Northwestern, his work foreshadowed his future place as a world-class scholar. His place as such was granted by his appointment in 1971 by The Ohio State University as the Mershon Professor of Political Science and Public Policy. His work while at Ohio State is beyond the scope of this piece, but I especially recognize the interesting work he has carried out that demonstrates how Ohio is linked to the international scene, while he has also maintained the remarkably successful ability to connect with scholars and events outside of the United States. Overall, Alger has been a man of determination, insight, and creativity in making his ideas reach fruition and has served to greatly inspire the work of others.

References

Alger, Chadwick F. 1970. “Research on Research: A Decade of Quantitative and Field Research on International Organization.” *International Organization*, Vol. XXIV, No. 3, Summer, pp. 414-450.

Alger, Chadwick F. 1968a. “International Relations. The Field.” In *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. New York: Macmillan Co. and The Free Press.

Alger, Chadwick F. 1968b. “United Nations Participation as a Learning Experience.” In Kriesberg, Louis, ed., *Social Process in International Relations*. New York: John Wiley and Sons.

Alger, Chadwick F. 1964. *The United States in the United Nations*. Foreign Relations Series (3rd rev. ed). River Forest, IL: Laidlaw Brothers.

Alger, Chadwick F. 1963. “Comparison of Intranational and International Politics.” *American Political Science Review*, LVII, No. 2, June, pp. 406-419.

Alger, Chadwick F. 1961. “Non-Resolution Consequences of the United Nations and Their Effect on Internal Conflict.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. V, No. 2, June, pp. 128-145.

Alger, Chadwick F. 1957. “The Use of Private Experts in the Conduct of U.S. Foreign Affairs.” Ph.D. dissertation. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University.

Guetzkow, Harold, et. al. 1963. *Simulation in International Relations: Developments for Research and Teaching*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.