**BRIEF RESUME**

Thomas Kirkwood received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Colorado at Boulder. His dissertation, written in Germany with the help of a Fulbright-DAAD scholarship, was published in shortened form by The London School of Economics. Dr. Kirkwood directed the University of Colorado’s study abroad program in Regensburg, Germany, and later received a number of grants to conduct research in Europe. The most recent¹, awarded by AMU in 2009 and presented to the US Congress, dealt with France’s ability to bring quality universal health² care to their population at an affordable price. Kirkwood has taught at the University of Cincinnati, the University of Colorado, University of Regensburg, Regis University and American Military University (graduate school of international relations, online). He has lived for a decade abroad, speaks German, French and Italian, and has written extensively.

(Sample online responseᶟ) (Sample online lecture⁴)

Dr. Kirkwood’s first political novel, THE SVALBARD PASSAGE, was published by Macmillan and acquired by Hawn Film, Los Angeles. A later novel, THE QUIET ASSASSIN (Donald I. Fine, NAL/Signet, Book-of-the-Month Club, Brilliance Corporation), was an international bestseller and the subject of a CNN television documentary on the making of audio books. In 2012, Kirkwood was interviewed throughout the United States and Canada on human trafficking, the subject of his latest novel.

Dr. Kirkwood has sold screenplays and film options, most recently to Twentieth Century Fox. He assists, as proprietor of KWS⁵, in writing briefs, demand letters and closing statements in high-profile lawsuits for several West Coast law firms.

Kirkwood has shown that political science can be a road to traditional employment as well as an ideal basis for a self-styled career. You may want to go to my [website](https://tomkirkwood.org) for additional information.

**Curriculum Vitae**

***The Sixties***

Attended Duke University, the University of Freiburg (Germany) and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Awarded B.A. in German Literature from Colorado in 1966. Began graduate studies in political science at the University of Munich (Germany). Received M.A. in political science from the University of Cincinnati in 1969. Taught second-year political science as a graduate teaching fellow during degree program.

***The Seventies***

Received Ph.D. in political science from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1974. During my studies leading to the degree, I served as the university’s on location study abroad director at the University of Regensburg (Germany) 1972-1973. When in Boulder, I taught second-year American and European politics as a graduate teaching fellow. I was awarded a Fulbright-DAAD grant to the University of Bonn (Germany) to write my doctoral dissertation, which was published in abbreviated form by the London School of Economics. From 1974 to 1978 I taught at all levels as an assistant professor at Regis University, Denver. During this time, I was awarded a Lilly Foundation grant to study nationalized industries in France and, two years later, a private university grant to study local government in Italy. As well as allowing me to publish several articles, this time abroad provided the opportunity to become fluent in French and Italian (I already spoke German and had taught in that language at the University of Regensburg.) In 1979 I embarked on a new career in which I hoped to combine my academic past with a different future C author of political novels

***The Eighties***

My first novel, written with Norwegian Professor Geir Finne, was published by Macmillan in 1981 under the title *The Svalbard Passage.* It was sold to Hawn Films in Los Angeles but was never produced. My second novel, *The Quiet Assassin,* was published in by DIF/Penguin in 1985 and became a bestseller in the US and in translation. The novel appeared in hard cover and as a Signet paperback, was selected by Book-of-the-Month Club, became one of the first unabridged audio books using a full cast of characters (Brilliance Corporation) and was the subject of a CNN television program that explored the conversion of a written work into audio format. I spent the rest of the decade in Italy with my wife and children, working on new writing projects while I sought to expand my professional activity into parallel ventures that would yield a more predictable income. The inefficiency of the Italian post, rivaled by our own, forced me toward the Internet and computer literacy. This necessity turned out to be of enormous value later.

***The Nineties***

This is the decade in which I acquired the skills that has allowed me to start a business (sole proprietorship), KWS or Kirkwood Writing Services. The venture, still alive and lucrative, began in an unconventional way. A well-known trial attorney who had been a student of mine years ago and had admired my novels came to me with a proposal: would I be willing to write for his and associated law firms in an effort to “translate” statements of fact and closing arguments into language more comprehensible to the average person? Thus, began a long and interesting part-time profession in which my role was to make interesting material that was by nature complex and, if not understood, boring. My job had to be done by Internet, as we worked on cases coast-to-coast (and sometimes internationally.) Though first and foremost a writer and educator, I still work for law firms as an independent consultant. In 1992 an audio library edition of *The Quiet Assassin* was published. Later in the decade, the “rough cut” of my new novel, which dealt with inadequate security in all aspects of our airline industry, was optioned for 30 months by Twentieth Century Fox.

***2000-2020***

While my literary and legal work continued, I decided to expand my business into a new area, that of online graduate teaching in political science. My background in academics, my fluency in four languages and new knowledge acquired working with the law all contributed to 15 years of (imaginative) teaching, both in the traditional classroom and, from 2006 until 2015, in an online graduate program in international relations at American Military University. Since leaving academia, I have continued to build KWS and have begun a new novel, to be published in 2021*.*

*Presently, because of the pandemic, I am able to take on one or two additional legal clients and to offer my services at all levels of education as an expert in online teaching.*

 *Thomas Kirkwood*