

Marion Smith - Executive Director of the [Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation](#)

Marion Smith is a civil-society leader, expert in international affairs and has been Executive Director of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation since March 2014. As Executive Director, he provides strategic leadership for VOC and spearheads its educational initiatives. In addition to his work at VOC, Smith is also founding president of the Common Sense Society, an international foundation that promotes civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and leadership virtues among young professionals in the United States and Europe.

Smith is a native of South Carolina, where his ancestors fought as both Patriots and Tories during the American War of Independence. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wofford College with a bachelor of arts degree in Government & History. He has studied in England, France, The Netherlands, and Hungary, where he received a masters' degree in International Relations from Central European University. He is chairman of the National Civic Art Society and was previously a visiting fellow at the B. Kenneth Simon Center for Principles and Politics at The Heritage Foundation.

Smith's research focuses on the role of ideas in American foreign policy, U.S. diplomatic and military history, and on the future of transatlantic security cooperation.

His articles have appeared in various publications, including USA Today, CNN.com, The Hill, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, National Review, and The Weekly Standard.