

Preface

Every book is a collaborative effort no matter whose name goes on the cover. Authors build upon and extend the research of other scholars, they work in academic institutions that support their research, and live in families and communities that encourage and care for them as people. To varying degrees all those who enable the writer deserve some credit for his/her publications. The older I get the more my debt of gratitude seems to increase, not necessarily because more people help me but perhaps because I see all those who do more clearly.

I am fortunate to work at DePaul University, which embraces a broad definition of scholarship and believes that teaching extends beyond the walls of a classroom. The University not only funds my research and encourages me to share it with the larger community but in ways small and large enables me to do the variety of tasks that make up my vocation. My students energize my studies and together with my own sons remind me to care about the state of the world beyond my own lifetime. For the past four years I have taught Civil and Military response to terrorism as part of a wonderful team of individuals from the Center for Civil-Military Relations of the Naval Post Graduate School. These individuals and the many military and civilian personnel we have taught around the world have enriched my understanding of terrorism enormously. Chicago's television and radio stations, particularly WGN TV with whom I have worked closely since 9/11, have allowed me to share what I have learned with the wide public audience, for whom I have written this book.

I also belong to a vibrant faith community, Winnetka Presbyterian Church, whose members continually support my vocation. Through many adult education classes and in countless individual conversations their ideas, insights, and questions have helped guide my study of terrorism. Other congregations and civic groups have also invited me to speak and teach classes that have generated more ideas and raised new concerns. The most vibrant discussion of vital issues today may be occurring less in colleges and universities than in churches, mosques, and synagogues.

My family continues to surround me with the love and support without which I could not have completed this or any other project. Having long

ago encouraged my study of history, my mother now comes over to cook a meal, check on her grandson, and feed the dog during my trips abroad. Since I published my first book sixteen years ago, my three little boys have grown into fine young men, and my wife and I have celebrated twenty-six wonderful years of marriage. Their presence even more than their many acts of help and kindness makes possible the work that I do.