

Preface

THIS VOLUME HAS BEEN A FEW YEARS IN THE MAKING AND grew from a paper that the editors presented at the meeting of the Inter-University Consortium for Armed Forces and Society in Fall 2007. The paper focused on the challenges that were then facing the Transatlantic alliance. One of the audience members was Geoffrey Burn, editor at Stanford University Press, who approached us about the possibility of expanding some of those ideas as the basis for an edited volume. The concept he presented to us, and that we wholeheartedly supported, was to enlist scholars and country specialists on both sides of the Atlantic to write chapters that focused on a number of themes, but from the perspective of the specific country. The themes would be introduced at the beginning of the volume, with conclusions drawn at the end based on what each of the chapters stressed. We thought that this would be a very realistic approach for an edited volume, especially when there seemed to be so much turmoil among the partners on both sides of the Atlantic.

We worked closely with Geoffrey to outline a time line, and then used the annual meetings of both the International Studies Association (ISA) and American Political Science Association (APSA) as benchmarks to have chapters drafted and as the basis for discussion. Both organizations were helpful in giving us panel time; Jeanne White of ISA also provided space for the group to meet so that we had a quiet place to develop our ideas and review our thoughts after our panel. As we discovered, this approach of presenting

papers for professional conferences, and then using feedback to revise, worked extremely well.

We were also fortunate in recruiting a superb group of colleagues to draft each of the chapters. Although we do not see each other often, the ongoing e-mail contact punctuated by the face-to-face discussions at the professional meetings helped us develop into a coherent group, a point that is reflected in this volume. The themes developed in each chapter and the approach taken were the result of discussion and collaboration among all the contributors. The ongoing dialogue among us also helped ensure a more cohesive volume.

The editors would like to thank all those contributors for their willingness to work together, meet deadlines, attend the various meetings, and provide input and suggestions that, we think, make this an unusually strong edited work. We have nothing but the highest praise for Geoffrey Burn, who met with us regularly to toss around ideas and provide feedback. His suggestions, as well as insistence that we remain true to the time line, ensured the production of this volume in a timely fashion. He has been nothing but helpful throughout.

Also at Stanford, editorial assistant Jessica Walsh helped us track all the nitty-gritty (contracts, maps, etc.) without which this volume would not have been possible. She was available to answer questions and to further guide us through the process.

Finally, both of us want to say what an honor it has been to work together and with such a wonderful group of scholars. Many people complain about the difficulties associated with doing an edited volume. We did not see any of that and, in fact, found this volume to be a wonderful and exciting project to be part of.

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