

## FOREWORD

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For more than 225 years extraordinary men and women have represented the United States abroad under diverse circumstances. Their dedication and achievements remain little known to their compatriots. In 1996 the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training (ADST) and Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired (DACOR) created a book series to increase public knowledge and appreciation of the involvement of American diplomats in world history. The author of the newest volume in the series, former Foreign Service Japan expert Ulrich A. Straus, exemplifies—with this exhaustively researched and deeply moving account of Japanese POWs of World War II—the professionalism and humanity that characterize the best career diplomats.

Of the many books in English on the twentieth century's greatest conflict, none focus on the Japanese prisoners of war it produced. Now, in *The Anguish of Surrender*, Rick Straus recounts the painful dilemma individual Japanese soldiers and sailors faced when, despite intense indoctrination to the contrary, they were forced to confront the reality of becoming captives. Straus examines in depth how Japanese POWs dealt with this dilemma, which put them truly in extremis—between life and death—and compelled them to drop their illusions. He shows how trained Allied linguists, including many Japanese Americans, extracted useful intelligence from their psychologically unprepared captives by affording them humane treatment. In the course of his research, Straus interviewed and corresponded with former POWs in Japan and delved deeply into POW interrogation records at the National Archives, the sparse material later written by their U.S. Army and Navy interrogators, interviews of America's Japanese language officers and enlisted men, and Japanese source material, including publicly and privately published books and articles by former Japanese POWs.

Rick Straus lived in Japan a total of twenty-one years, beginning in the period 1933–40, when he was a child. He returned there as a U.S. Army Japanese language officer in early 1946, serving in the Occupation, at the Tokyo major war crimes trial, and in the Intelligence Division (G-2) of GHQ, to which he returned during the Korean War. While in Japan conducting doctoral research under a Fulbright grant in 1955, he took the Foreign Service examination and, in 1957, joined the State Department. Fully half his thirty-year Foreign Service career dealt directly with Japan—ten years in Japan, in the political section of Embassy Tokyo and as consul general in Okinawa, and five at the State Department working on U.S.-Japan relations. Among other assignments, he served in West Berlin, as political counselor in Bern, as State Department director of Philippine affairs, and as adjunct professor at the National War College in Washington, D.C. Since retiring from the Senior Foreign Service in 1986, he has taught and lectured on Japan and U.S.-Japan relations at George Washington, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Michigan, Michigan State, Indiana, and Grand Valley universities, the College of William and Mary, and Hope College, and he appears as a local PBS foreign affairs commentator in Interlochen, Michigan.

In *The Anguish of Surrender*, Rick Straus combines scholarship, expertise, and empathy to convey, for the first time in English, the truly dramatic and deeply human stories of Japanese POWs, from their prewar indoctrination through unexpected prison camp experiences to postwar reintegration. In the process he advances our understanding of the paradoxical wartime roots of postwar Japanese-American friendship.

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