

Acknowledgments

It is surreal to finish a book during a global pandemic. On the one hand, there is so much uncertainty and anxiety that it is difficult to concentrate. On the other hand, working on a book is an excellent distraction from events swirling around outside. Quarantine in particular is an odd, if useful, forcing mechanism.

Long before the final push to complete the manuscript, this book benefited from the support, feedback, and advice of many communities and individuals. At the George Washington University (GW), Charlie Glaser, Jim Goldgeier, and Elizabeth Saunders believed in my work perhaps before I did. Their patience and guidance then and now has been invaluable.

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My stay in Cambridge continued through the generosity of the International Security Program’s Project on Managing the Atom (MTA) at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. What began with a one-year fellowship morphed into two additional years of work. There I found, in Paul Avey, Gene Gerzhoy, Evan Perkoski, Mike Poznansky, Miranda Priebe, Jaganath Sankaran,

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That perfect-for-me academic job turned out to be in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Though I never expected to live in the South, I have been gifted with tremendous colleagues and countless opportunities. Though no one could recall previously holding a book workshop in the department, my colleagues and department chair took to the idea and generously supported the effort without hesitation. Jenna Jordan and Adam Stulberg kindly shepherded the workshop and made sure that the conversation stayed on track. Jenna has read the complete book more times than is reasonable. I am tremendously grateful for her friendship, as well as her time and dedication in helping to make the book better. I am also indebted to book workshop participants—Mälfrid Braut-Heghammar, Matthew Fuhrmann, Scott Sagan, and Todd Sechser—for taking the time out of their busy lives to treat the manuscript with such care. It goes without saying that the substantive feedback and presentational advice of this group of scholars was outstanding. The support, encouragement, and kindness they showed throughout the process were what surprised me. These four scholars model not only the best of the political science discipline but also the generosity and support of exceptional mentorship.

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professional advice, find an escape route at a conference, and laugh at whatever shenanigans come our way. This book—along with the rest of my scholarship and, frankly, my sanity—owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the writing groups that have been a consistent feature of my life. At GW, the Yentas—Shannon Powers and Amir Stepak—kept me laughing and kept me writing. More recently, the RED writing group has become my lifeline. Elizabeth Acorn, Danielle Gilbert, and I have met nearly weekly for the last few years. I hope someone is keeping track of the many publications and professional successes that emerged during this time. Reading each word of this book repeatedly, they have pushed me to clarify and improve at every stage. They have also offered invaluable professional advice along the way. Dani painstakingly edited the final manuscript. Each sentence is tighter and the manuscript that much stronger for her skill and dedication. Honorary RED member Jonathan Pike offered suggestions at critical junctures.

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proud and candidly a little relieved to be able to show all of these friends a final product.

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All Options on the Table

