## **Acknowledgments**

n a riff on the immortal words of New York Yankees legend Yogi Berra, academic research is "90 percent mental, and the other half is physical." While my name alone appears on the cover, this book is the result of professional and personal debts accrued over the past decade. At risk of leaving someone out, the following is my best attempt to acknowledge those who helped me complete this project.

The team at Columbia University Press, especially Caelyn Cobb, Marisa Lastres, and Monique Laban, provided a great environment for a first-time author to learn the ropes of academic publishing. Thanks to them and their staff for their help during the production process. Two anonymous reviewers offered incisive and helpful feedback during the publication process. As series editor, Marc Lynch provided a helpful sounding board from proposal to publication.

The University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies proved to be a great environment in which to host a manuscript review. A special debt of gratitude is due to Deborah Avant, Cullen Hendrix, Tiina Hyyppä, Oliver Kaplan, and Andrea Stanton for their sustained engagement with the manuscript. The Korbel Research Seminar also provided a welcome forum to discuss one of the book's empirical chapters. Special thanks to Audrey Elliott for serving as discussant, as well as Naaz Barma, Jack Donnelly, Lewis Griffith, and Tim Sisk for their comments.

Utah State University's Political Science Department has been a great place to begin my career. Damon Cann, Colin Flint, Greg Goelzhauser, Jeannie Johnson, Michael Lyons, John Pascarella, and Josh Ryan provided a warm welcome to Logan as I moved in the middle of the pandemic. Anna Pechenkina included me in her academic networks even before I joined the department, and has provided valuable feedback on various iterations of this project. Steve Sharp patiently read early drafts of several of the chapters and provided cogent feedback on both content and prose. Nicole Vouvalis and her team in the Office of Research provided vital assistance on an ethics review of the fieldwork. Zoe Denison, Kaitlin Holden, Hailey Parker, Jacob Sagers, Eden Ward, and Spencer Wing provided excellent research assistance at various stages of the project.

The John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College provided an environment that allowed me to transition from graduate student to assistant professor. I owe a special debt of gratitude for Jeff Friedman's mentorship, as well as Katy Powers for welcoming a fellow Buckeye to Hanover. My cohort mates, especially Kolby Hanson, Cullen Nutt, and Jen Spindel, proved to be not only smart colleagues, but wonderful people. An early draft of the Baghdad chapter received valuable feedback from the Dickey research seminar. Special thanks to Steve Brooks, Tom Candon, Charlie Glaser, Jenny Lind, Jay Lyall, Nick Miller, Daryl Press, Ben Valentino, and Bill Wohlforth for their comments and critiques.

Several friends and colleagues in Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq—as well as in the Iraqi diaspora in Europe and North America—provided help with travel logistics, research, and Arabic language training. Thanks to Munqith Dagher, Rand Dagher, Arwa Dagher, and Omar Saleh at the Independent Institute and Administration Civil Society Studies for their help with the Baghdad survey and key informant interviews in Fallujah, Ramadi, Mosul, and Tikrit. Mariam Tadros and the rest of the Tearfund country office in Erbil were instrumental in arranging my first trip to the field. Additional thanks to Aram Habeeb for his insights and assistance with transcribing interviews and focus group discussions. In Columbus, Ohio, Ahmed al-Haek and the Iraqi Community Center of Central Ohio were important in helping me develop the first draft of the survey questionnaire. Lobna Ghabayen, Afnan Khateeb, Marite Lebaki, and Mostafa Ouajjani provided great Arabic language instruction along the way.

The Ohio State University provided a great intellectual and personal support network during graduate school. Chris Gelpi was generous with his time and intellectual energy as he helped me refine my research question, argument, and analysis. Bear Braumoeller served as a mentor from the minute I accepted an offer to study at Ohio State in January 2012, and since then has taught me much about developing good research questions, writing well, and navigating the discipline as an emerging scholar. While he passed away shortly before this book was published, his memory provided the motivation to see the project to the finish line. William Minozzi was instrumental in shaping my interest in political methodology. More importantly, however, William took great care in checking in on me as a person. Bradley Holland provided detailed feedback on drafts of various chapters and served as a helpful sounding board for how to connect concepts and theory at the intersection of international relations and comparative politics. Karl Kaltenthaler graciously agreed to serve as an outside committee member. As the Middle East politics expert, Karl also helped me navigate fieldwork in the Middle East, including all the joys and frustrations of collecting data in conflict zones. A special thanks to Teri Murphy for providing valuable feedback on how to conduct conflict-sensitive research.

For all my complaints about graduate student life, very few are related to Ohio State. Numerous faculty members were generous with their time, ideas, and energy, including Larry Baum, Sarah Brooks, Skyler Cranmer, Rick Herrmann, Vlad Kogan, Marcus Kurtz, Erin Lin, Jennifer Mitzen, John Mueller, Michael Neblo, Irfan Nooruddin, Jan Pierskalla, Amanda Robinson, Randy Schweller, Alex Thompson, Daniel Verdier, Alex Wendt, and Tom Wood. Several friends provided a great support network, including Raphael Cunha, Marina Duque, Andy Goodhart, Adam Lauretig, Daniel Kent, Eleonora Mattiacci, Jason Morgan, Ruthie Pertsis, Dan Silverman, Greg Smith, Josh Wu, and Iku Yoshimoto. Special recognition goes to my fellow cohort members, including Jose Fortou, Reed Kurtz, Anna Meyerrose, Drew Rosenberg, and Avery White.

Outside of Ohio State, a host of friends and colleagues provided valuable feedback on various parts of the project. Special thanks belong to Manuel Almeida, Sonia Alonso, Nick Anderson, Bruce Berglund, Eli Berman, Steve Biddle, Graeme Blair, Hal Brands, Jay Buddhika, Matt Buehler, Sarah Bush, Matt Cancian, Jon Caverley, Luke Condra, Jesse Driscoll, Jeff Hass,

Doug Howard, Kristen Fabbe, Peter Feaver, Sharan Grewal, Will Inboden, Dan Jacobs, Renanah Miles Joyce, Josh Yousif Kalian, Mehran Kamrava, Josh Kertzer, Greg Kruczek, David Lake, Dave Lewis, Charles Lipson, Aila Matanock, Franky Matisek, Paul Miller, Mike Poznansky, Nuno Monteiro, Matthew Nanes, Gerd Nonneman, Tim Oliver, Bob Pape, Michael Reese, Mara Revkin, Justin Schon, Jake Shapiro, Travis Sharp, Matthias Staisch, Paul Staniland, Bob Trube, Austin Wright, Joel Westra, and Tom Wright. I would also like to acknowledge the generous financial support of the Charles Koch Foundation, the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, the Ohio State Decision Science Collaborative, the United States Institute of Peace, and Utah State University's College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

A final thanks goes to close friends and family. Joel Benedetti, Matt Hirdes, Nathaniel Fischer, Jonathan Fischer, and Steven Keil remind me on a regular basis that I am more valuable than my academic sinecure. As adopted parents and close family friends, Steve and Donna Wickersham have encouraged me at each step in my academic journey. My in-laws, Hugh and Sally Reid, have been a great support in all my academic pursuits since the time they entered my life in August 2007. My parents, Marty and Sue Knuppe, have encouraged me to pursue discernment, integrity, and wisdom. My four younger sisters—Catherine, Lauren, Shaylynn, and Victoria—serve as regular reminders to not take myself too seriously. Adding four new brothers-in-law to the mix added some much-needed humor. Thanks to Ben, Tyler, Joseph, and Jordan for joining the Knuppe clan. Lucas Wehner, my German "brother," has been a close friend since high school and has made Germany a second home for the Knuppe family.

My wife, Amy, and sons, Elliott and Ethan, have incurred the greatest debt in my academic journey. Amy has supported my career for the better part of a decade without complaint or objection. Her ability to balance her own career, our relationship, and motherhood is an inspiration. Elliott's birth in January 2017 came as a welcome distraction from academia and a reminder about what is truly important in life. Ethan's arrival on the precipice of the COVID-19 pandemic was another unexpected joy. Pursuing a life of the mind would not have been possible without them tending to my heart. I love you three.