

## Preface

THE TWO OF us have worked together, on and off, for more than twenty years on national security issues, both in public and in private capacities. We have long been convinced that nuclear weapons, whether in the hands of friendly or hostile states, pose a mortal danger to humanity. This danger is unique in its terrifying potential for devastation on an unprecedented and unimaginable scale. Nothing else compares with it. We agree with President George W. Bush's assessment that the nexus of radicalism and weapons of mass destruction is where the gravest dangers to our nation lie, and where the international community must act as one to head off these dangers.

The public debate about this threat needs, in our view, a comprehensive review of the main policy issues and their related implications. We found none that we thought meets the needs of the public. Therefore, we set out in this book to provide one, calling on our respective professional backgrounds, one scientific and one diplomatic.

Our aim has been to follow a strategic approach: to identify a broad, long-term goal and to analyze the means available to reach that goal. Recognizing that policy recommendations have their ultimate test in how those ideas fit the real-world situations, we applied our strategic approach to specific countries: those that are critically important to the success of an anti-proliferation policy. These include, in addition to the United States, the estab-

lished nuclear weapon states of Russia and China, the de facto nuclear weapon states, India and Pakistan, and the undeclared or potential nuclear states: Israel, Iran, and North Korea. We assumed that Great Britain and France, both well-established nuclear weapon states, would broadly agree with our analysis and policy prescriptions, although that remains to be seen since both have been relatively silent on these issues.

Our basic conclusion is that the United States can and must provide strong leadership to rebuild an international framework to strengthen the non-proliferation regime and preserve the existing norm against the use of nuclear weapons. American and allied diplomacy, complemented by credible force, built a bulwark against nuclear proliferation and the use of nuclear weapons through the darkest years of the Cold War. This gives reason for optimism to think that success can be ours today against the new threats posed by rogue nations and terrorism. By its very nature this effort requires worldwide cooperation and determined leadership by the United States.

We see this book as a contribution to public discussion on such matters as the role of targeted diplomacy backed by military force in combating nuclear proliferation, and the impact of U.S. nuclear weapons policies on proliferation decisions by other nations. Our intent has been to sketch out the argument briefly and in terms accessible to the general public. We hope that our book will stimulate an active public dialogue. Reducing nuclear danger and preventing nuclear conflict is a major challenge for the United States and all other nations in the world.

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