

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THIS BOOK BEGAN as an ongoing discussion that Condoleezza Rice and I had during the late 1990s about the final decades of the cold war, and particularly the key turning points related to its end. We became interested in producing a candid conversation on this topic between Americans and Russians by inviting a few scholars and statesmen to submit essays and enlisting specialists from the other side of the cold war divide to provide commentary. The idea was endorsed by John Raisian, director of the Hoover Institution, and Charles Palm, then deputy director of Hoover, and Palm conferred with Victor Kuvardin, a member of the Executive Committee of the Gorbachev Foundation in Moscow. Kuvardin and Palm agreed that a unique project was in the making. I would like to thank Kuvardin, Raisian, and Palm for their encouragement and support throughout this project.

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