

## Foreword

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America's role in protecting its interests and values in world affairs depends heavily on the combined excellence of its military, diplomatic, and intelligence capabilities. Together with its allies, America has been and can continue to be formidable in defending freedom and fostering prosperity and peace. Still, our ability to deter aggression and, if necessary, to defeat it requires—more than any other capability—a strong military and the willingness to deploy it. And the foundation on which that military capability is built is the defense budget. It supplies the resources to recruit, train, and equip our people in uniform; the weapons systems they need to defend us; and the ability to maintain a modern and technologically sophisticated defense industrial base that can sustain our armed forces.

The Hoover Institution's Defense Budget Working Group has collected a remarkable array of experts with deep knowledge and experience in the military, academe, think tanks, and private firms to analyze and interpret strengths, weaknesses, and options for reform in the defense budget and budgeting process. They have served as important military and civilian leaders of the highest rank and include prominent scholars who focus on these vital issues.

Democracies have typically underinvested in the military in peacetime. But given Russia's attack on Ukraine in 2022, China's growing assertiveness toward Taiwan and in the South China Sea, Iran's closing in on nuclear weapons capability, North Korea's ballistic missiles and nuclear programs, and the continuing threat of terrorism, the complexity and challenges facing the US military (as well as intelligence and diplomatic capabilities) are the greatest they have been since the end of the Cold War.

*Defense Budgeting for a Safer World: The Experts Speak* provides important perspectives on each of the key issues needed to understand the

defense budget and determine important funding and procedural reforms to strengthen military capabilities. The authors and participants examine these reforms to improve the budget's adequacy, predictability, flexibility, and accountability, helping achieve a greater return on taxpayers' investment in military funding, as well as greater national security. The experts provide information, insights, ideas, and solutions on threats, strategy, procurement and innovation, personnel, reform proposals, and the view from Congress, which provides the funding and authorities that create the capabilities.

From its founding, the Hoover Institution has applied its world-renowned assets and programs—its fellowship of scholars, its Library & Archives, and the conferences it convenes—toward dealing with the issues of war and peace. I'm delighted to add this landmark volume to Hoover's contributions, and I commend it to all who wish to learn more about these issues, which are so vital to America's and the world's future.

Condoleezza Rice

*Tad and Dianne Taube Director*

*Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy*