

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am indebted to Larry Diamond for planting the idea for this book in late 2022. Larry provided constant encouragement as my project mentor from start to finish. I am also indebted to all my coauthors for their contributions. Three of them—Robert Haddick, Ivan Kanapathy, and Michael A. Hunzeker—deserve a special shout-out for providing smart suggestions and edits beyond the chapters they wrote. *Semper Fidelis.*

Several colleagues at the Hoover Institution provided helpful feedback, including Nadia Schadlow, Matt Turpin, Glenn Tiffert, H.R. McMaster, Jim Ellis, and Philip Zelikow. The Hoover Institution is one of the country’s finest bastions of free and critical research, and I am privileged to be a part of it. I’m also grateful to the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, whose can-do CEO Mark Dubowitz suggested we bring a delegation of Israeli national security leaders to Taiwan last summer. The trip yielded fascinating exchanges that helped inspire portions of this book, especially chapter 4, “A New Military Culture for Taiwan.”

Lin Yang provided me with the Han dynasty reference that inspired the title of the book. Badiuca provided the original artwork that went inside the book and onto its cover. Abi Kim and Brandon Holt provided indispensable administrative support. Graham Allison hosted a round table at Harvard University to sharpen the book’s arguments. I’m grateful to all of them. I’m also grateful to all my colleagues at the

research firm Garnaut Global LLC. There isn't a more talented band of China-focused researchers assembled under one roof.

One of my pleasures of 2023 was getting to meet the great Australian writers Geoffrey Blainey and Ann Blainey over a meal in their hometown of Melbourne. Geoffrey's book *The Causes of War*, with its deeply investigated and frequently counterintuitive insights, electrified me when I read it as a White House official. It also inspired chapter 3, which Geoffrey was kind enough to review. The chapter is dedicated to him.

Barbara Arellano, Alison Law, and Danica Michels Hodge at the Hoover Institution Press worked speedily to publish the book, with the editorial expertise of David Sweet. I'd also like to thank the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO SF) in San Francisco for generously providing financial support for the project. TECO SF neither reviewed the manuscript in advance nor influenced its content in any way.

Most important of all is the support and love I received from my family throughout this project, which makes it all worthwhile. My siblings and parents looked at draft excerpts between cups of eggnog over Christmas. And Yen and the boys remained cheerful (and patient) during the final sprint to get it done. This book is dedicated to them.

MATT POTTINGER
Stanford, California, 2024