



Executive Summary

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CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND PEACEBUILDING: PILLARS OF A NEW AMERICAN GRAND STRATEGY

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Since the end of World War II, U.S. policies have been formed by changing and, at times, competing ideas about America's role in the world. None of these visions, however, are sufficient to address the rapidly changing nature of today's global security context and provide a coherent and comprehensive organizing framework to protect and promote U.S. national security at home or abroad. Unless the President—irrespective of party or political persuasion—finds a way to align foreign policy prescriptions with evolving global trends, the gap between American aspirations and accomplishments may grow, and the prospects for continued American leadership may diminish. Given the new global realities, how are U.S. interests to be promoted in a world in which others no longer blindly follow the single most powerful and influential country? What are the prospects for American leadership, and what are appropriate strategic responses to emerging security threats? What principles should inform the development of those responses? What, in other words, should be the elements of a new grand strategy guiding the formulation of American foreign and national security policy?

This volume traces the central plans and policies that (ought to) comprise Washington's efforts to harness political, military, diplomatic, and economic tools to advance U.S. national interests in an increasingly complex and globalizing world. Authors contributing to this volume tackle stra-

tegic choices for effectively addressing emerging security threats, integrating conflict management approaches into strategic decisionmaking, sharing the burden of peacebuilding and stability operations between military and civilian actors, strengthening civil-military cooperation in complex operations, and enabling the timely scaling-down of military deployments.

Highlights include contributions by Frederick W. Smullen III, former Chief-of-Staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell, who advocates that the United States, as the remaining single global superpower, can and should lead by example, taking strategic advantage of a moment in history that offers the opportunity to heal America's global image, strengthen its influence with like-minded nations, and (re)earn respect as a solid citizen nation of the world; and by former German Defense and Economics Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg who warns that new and intertwined global challenges and shifts of power risk marginalizing traditional partnerships and multinational institutions. International efforts to address emerging security threats, Guttenberg argues, ought to reach out past the "old West" to bring emerging powers into the global dialogue, so they will shoulder greater global responsibility while recognizing the limits of their own power. In general, the authors agree that any new American grand strategy ought to be based on a smaller U.S. footprint, particularly in conflict

zones, strengthen the appeal of American values abroad, and consider alternative policy approaches—to include especially peacebuilding and conflict management—to accomplish its strategic goals.

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