

Preface

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The 21st century will be the first truly Global Century. Growing cross-border flows of trade, investment, finances, information, technology, cultures, values, ideas, and people are drawing the far corners of the Earth together, creating new opportunities and dangers. Decisions, events, and people anywhere in the world—no matter how distant—can now influence our safety, prosperity, and policies. Several important questions arise from accelerating globalization. How will this dynamic unfold? What are its strategic consequences? Will it draw the world closer together in a web of cooperative ties, or will it tear the world apart, creating conflict and strife? What are the implications for U.S. foreign policy and national security strategy? How can the America help *shape* the new global environment? These questions are addressed in these volumes.

Volume I of *The Global Century: Globalization and National Security* examines globalization's impact on world affairs and the task of forging responsive policies and strategies. Volume II provides additional in-depth analyses of global and regional trends, and of policies for dealing with them. Taken together they are the product of a major research project sponsored by the Department of the Navy and carried out by the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University. The project brought together a team of more than 50 experts from a variety of disciplines. The results of their intellectual labors and collaboration are on display in these path-breaking volumes.

These volumes do not represent the views of the Department of Defense or any other governmental agency. They are scholarly inquiries aimed at stimulating new policy thinking and at driving home the urgency of coming to grips with globalization. They offer an opportunity to learn about an exciting and important worldwide trend that is affecting countries and people everywhere—a trend that U.S. strategists will need to address in the coming years. 🌐