

INTRODUCTION

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This edition of the *U. S. Army War College Guide to National Security Policy and Strategy* differs from its predecessor published in 2001, *The U. S. Army War College Guide to Strategy*, in several respects. First, as the altered title suggests, the focus of the volume has expanded to include examination of the national security policymaking environment and process in addition to the earlier emphasis on strategy. Broadening the focus forced a necessary divergence from the tight alignment with the U.S. Army War College's (USAWC) strategy formulation guidelines that characterized the earlier volume. The guidelines are still fundamental to our approach to studying strategy and are included as Appendix I to this work—we have simply allowed ourselves to delve more deeply into the strategic policy environment, reflected in the chart showing the Army War College Strategy Formulation Model found as a figure in the appendix. Second, the authors, with the exception of Martin Cook, are all current or recently departed members of the Department of National Security and Strategy in the War College. (Martin recently left the War College's Department of Command, Management, and Leadership.) This allows a more coordinated examination of issues in a manner consistent with our current approach to thinking about and teaching national security and strategy. Finally, we have avoided where possible reprinting articles. Some are so basic to the Army War College's approach to thinking about and teaching strategy that they reappear; most are written for this book.

Although the Department of National Security and Strategy uses several of the chapters in this volume as readings for its core course “War, National Policy and Strategy,” this is not a textbook. It does reflect, however, both the method and manner we use to teach strategy formulation to America's future senior leaders. As we continue to refine and update the *Guide*, we intend to increase course-oriented essays; however, that is a long-term project only the glimmer of which is visible in this edition. The book is also not a comprehensive or exhaustive treatment of either strategy or the policymaking process.

The *Guide* is organized in broad groups of chapters addressing general subject areas. We begin with a look at some specific issues about the general security environment—largely international. The section on strategic thought and formulation includes chapters on broad issues of strategy formulation as well as some basic strategic theory. The third section is about instruments of national power, and the final section deals with selected issues about the U.S. national security policymaking process.