

**THE HOMELAND SECURITY PAPERS:  
Stemming the Tide of Terror**

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# Preface

The September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon highlighted our national-level vulnerability to the threat posed by a formidable new enemy—focused, mass destruction terrorism. The tragic events of that day also demonstrated how determined, adaptive, and sophisticated—in both planning and execution—our terrorist adversaries have become. In this sense, the September 11th attacks were an important wake-up call for the American people, dispelling forever the false notion that the U.S. homeland is somehow immune to the violence and destructive hatred that characterize the international terrorist agenda. On the contrary, given the capability and commitment of our terrorist adversaries, we can fully expect future attacks to be even more sophisticated and destructive in terms of overall physical, economic, and psychological impact. With this reality in mind, the imperative to develop a comprehensive, creative national approach to homeland security is, indeed, most urgent.

As President Bush highlighted in the *National Strategy for Homeland Security*, protecting our Nation against future terrorist attack is our number one priority. Working together as a Nation, we have made important progress in addressing our most critical vulnerabilities, preventing terrorists from reaching our shores and border points of entry, and enhancing our mitigation and response capabilities should our protective efforts fall short of the mark. As we move further in time from the tragic events of September 11th, it is important that we maintain this critical focus and do all that we can to anticipate our adversary's next move—one that may well entail the use of weapons of mass destruction against our population and national resource base.

This book presents an important intellectual framework for contemplating the future of the terrorist threat, as well as potential solutions to the complex security dilemmas that we face in dealing with a highly dynamic and resilient enemy. As we look to the future, we must be

more creative and adaptive than our terrorist adversaries. We must seek approaches that engender cooperation and integration across government, private industry, and the public at large. We must look to innovative concepts and technologies to help leverage the most effective and efficient protective solutions, while preserving the freedoms and liberties that serve as the hallmark of this great Nation. Finally, we must all take ownership of this very complex set of challenges and partner in unified fashion to defeat those who would seek to cause us great harm. I ask that you keep these imperatives in mind as you ponder the framework herein.

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