In 1914, the armies and navies that faced each other were alike down to the strengths of their companies and battalions and the designs of their battleships and cruisers. Differences were of degree rather than essence. During the interwar period, the armed forces grew increasingly asymmetrical, developing different approaches to the same problems. This study of major military innovations in the 1920s and 1930s explores differences in innovating exploitation by the six major military powers. The comparative essays investigate how and why innovation occurred or did not occur, and explain much of the strategic and operational performance of the Axis and Allies in World War II. The essays focus on several instances of how military services developed new technology and weapons and incorporated them into their doctrine, organization, and styles of operations.
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IN THE
INTERWAR PERIOD
To Professor Donald Kagan, Yale University, and the late Professor Harry L. Coles, Jr., who taught us the challenges and satisfactions of historical inquiry into the mysteries of mankind’s military affairs
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There are many individuals to whom we are indebted in our efforts to put together this volume. We are most indebted to Dr. Andrew Marshall of the Office of Net Assessment for his interested and enthusiastic support of this project from its inception through to its conclusion. This is the third major project of ours that he has supported with wisdom as well as financial resources, so we owe him a triple debt of gratitude. Our editor at Cambridge University Press, Frank Smith, has also been particularly helpful in supporting this project since it came to his attention; the readers for Cambridge also helped to make this a finer manuscript than it might have been otherwise, with their sharply focused and intelligent criticism. We would like to thank our production and copy editors and our proofreader, Janis Bolster, Winifred M. Davis, and Robert E. Graham, for their splendid work in tightening the manuscript and removing inconsistencies and errors. The Mershon Center provided consistent and helpful support, with Beth Russell, Christopher Ives, David Thompson, and Albert Palazzo all making considerable contributions to the smooth running of the project. Barry Watts also deserves special thanks for his advice in crafting a number of the essays in addition to his own participation in the writing of the final summary chapter.

Finally, we need to thank our wives, Martha E. Farley-Millett and Lesley Mary Smith, for their unswerving support as well as their sharp and clear criticism.

But in the end we must take responsibility for whatever weaknesses yet remain. We can only hope that this volume makes some small contribution to a complex subject: how do armed forces change?
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