The Challenge of Grand Strategy

The years between the world wars represent an era of broken balances: the retreat of the United States from global geopolitics, the weakening of Great Britain and France, Russian isolation following the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, the resurgence of German power in Europe, and the rise of Japan in East Asia. All these factors complicated great-power politics. This book brings together historians and political scientists to revisit the conventional wisdom on the grand strategies pursued between the world wars, drawing on theoretical innovations and new primary sources. The contributors suggest that all the great powers pursued policies that, while in retrospect were suboptimal, represented conscious, rational attempts to secure their national interests under conditions of extreme uncertainty and intense domestic and international political, economic, and strategic constraints.

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The Challenge of Grand Strategy

The Great Powers and the Broken Balance between the World Wars

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The Challenge of Grand Strategy: The Great Powers and the Broken Balance between the World Wars started as a conference held on the campus of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City in March 2009. At the University of Utah, for their support, we acknowledge the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (Steven Ott, Dean), Office of the Vice President for Undergraduate Studies (John Francis), Ambassador John and Marcia Price Foundation, Office of International Education Programs, Department of Political Science (Matt Burbank, Chair), Institute for Public and International Affairs (Steven Ott, Director), The Graduate School, Political Science Graduate Student Advisory Committee, and the Associated Students of the University of Utah. Four graduate students in the University of Utah’s Political Science Department played a key role in organizing the conference, and we thank Mark Bean, Koji Haraguchi, Saban Kardas, and Bill Pingree for their assistance. This volume benefited from the suggestions from discussants and chairs who participated in the conference, including Scott Cooper, Paul Hammond, Valerie Hudson, Benjamin Judkins, Adam Luedtke, and Christopher Whytock. We also thank Dean Steven Ott for his opening remarks.

Following the conference, we organized panels at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Toronto and the International Studies Association annual convention in New Orleans. We thank the chairs, discussants, and participants for their comments that strengthened the project, including Robert Art, David Edelstein, Jeffrey Meiser, Keith Neilson, Barry Posen, Daryl Press, and John Thompson.

We would like to acknowledge Patrick James and David Lake for their support and comments on different drafts of the book manuscript. The following Tufts University undergraduate students deserve special thanks for providing research assistance: Soukiana Belhadj Soulami, Jesse Poon,
Acknowledgments

and Quinn Rask. We thank Cambridge University Press editor John Haslam for his support. We also acknowledge the extensive comments and suggestions by the anonymous reviewers for Cambridge University Press. Of course, we accept responsibility for all errors in this book.

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