American Grand Strategy in the
Mediterranean during World War II

This book offers a thorough reinterpretation of U.S. engagement with the Mediterranean during World War II. Andrew Buchanan argues that the United States, far from being a reluctant participant in a “peripheral” theater, had substantial grand-strategic interests in the region. By the end of the war, the Mediterranean was effectively an American lake, with the United States enjoying a predominant position resting on military, political, and economic interests and assets extending from North Africa, via Italy, Spain, France, and the Balkans, to the Middle East. This book examines the multilayered processes by which this hegemonic position was assembled and consolidated. It discusses the changing character of the Anglo-American alliance, the establishment of postwar spheres of influence, the nature of presidential leadership, and the common interest of all the leaders of the “Grand Alliance” in blocking the development of social revolutions emerging from the chaos of war, occupation, and economic breakdown.

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To Angus and Brenda Buchanan
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Source: OWI, courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Photo Archive, WWII, Conferences, Casablanca.

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Source: OWI, courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Photo Archive, WWII, Algeria.

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Source: OWI, courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Photo Archive, WWII, Conferences, Casablanca.
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Source: Signal Corps, courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Photo Archive, WWII, Conferences, Casablanca.

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Source: Signal Corps, courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Photo Archive, WWII, Mediterranean Theater, Allied Military Government.

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Source: OWI, courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Photo Archive, WWII, Italy (1).
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MAP 1. Map of the Mediterranean showing major Allied landings, 1942–1945

Source: Editable map by Map Resources. Design work by Mary Nell Bockman. Finished map used by permission of Mary Nell Bockman. © Map Resources.
MAP 2. Map of the Mediterranean

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