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## Foreword

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This volume is a result of a Woodrow Wilson Center project on the growth of knowledge and the rise of the modern state. It is a companion collection to the essays contained in *The State and Economic Knowledge: The American and British Experiences* (1990), edited by Mary O. Furner and Barry Supple. The project began with the recognition that of all the activities undertaken by the modern state, the most neglected as a subject of study is the subtle and multifaceted role played by government institutions in helping to elicit, organize, assess, augment, employ, refine, and conserve in many fields the knowledge base on which contemporary life has come to depend. Those of us who have worked with the project hope that these volumes will deepen understanding of the processes behind the development of knowledge itself, the diffusion of knowledge, and the effects of that knowledge on social and cultural life. We also hope that these studies will highlight once again the usefulness of a historical approach to public affairs and encourage closer collaboration between those who are concerned with the history of ideas and those who work on the political and administrative history of public institutions.

A word of thanks is due to those former fellows and advisers at the Wilson Center who began the conversations that resulted in the symposium in which preliminary versions of most of the chapters presented here appeared. We were particularly fortunate to have as keynote speakers at the symposium Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who knows as much as anyone in public life about the nexus between investigation and policy, and Professor Edward Shils, a distinguished student of the relationship. The late Warren Susman, a gifted historian and interpreter of emerging trends in scholarship, was especially helpful in getting things started, as was the late Jack L. Walker, whose death deprived us of a rare source of wisdom and insight into American politics and institutions.

The editors wish to thank all those who participated in the symposium

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where most of the chapters were first presented, as well as those who gave us chapters subsequently that helped illustrate more fully the themes that came up in discussions at the symposium and in the later stages of planning for this volume. The contributors were tolerant and cooperative in their responses to editorial suggestions, and as patient as could be hoped for in the face of delays in the production of the book. The Woodrow Wilson Center gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ford Foundation, the Shell Oil Company Foundation, and the Exxon Education Foundation for helping to make the work possible.

MICHAEL J. LACEY