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The United States and Right-Wing Dictatorships, 1965–1989

Building on David Schmitz's earlier work, *Thank God They're on Our Side*, this is an examination of American policy toward right-wing dictatorships from the 1960s to the end of the Cold War. During the 1920s, American leaders developed a policy of supporting authoritarian regimes because they were seen as stable, anticommunist, and capitalist. After 1965, however, American support for these regimes became a contested issue. The Vietnam War served to undercut the logic and rationale of supporting right-wing dictators. By systematically examining U.S. support for right-wing dictatorships in Africa, Latin America, Europe, and Asia and bringing together these disparate episodes, this book examines the persistence of older attitudes, the new debates brought about by the Vietnam War, and the efforts to bring about changes and an end to automatic U.S. support for authoritarian regimes.

David F. Schmitz is the Robert Allen Skotheim Chair of History at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. He is the author of *Thank God They're on Our Side: The United States and Right-Wing Dictatorships, 1921–1965*; *The Tet Offensive: Politics, War, and Public Opinion*; *Henry L. Stimson: The First Wise Man*; and *The United States and Fascist Italy, 1922–1940*.

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To Polly
For enhancing it all

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