Alliances have shaped grand strategy and warfare since the dawn of civilization. Indeed, it is doubtful that the United States of America would have gained its independence without its Revolutionary War alliance with France. Such alliances may prove even more important to international security in the twenty-first century. Economic and financial difficulties alone will ensure that policy makers attempt to spread the burden of securing vital interests onto other nations through alliances, both formal organizations such as NATO and informal alliances of convenience as developed to wage the Gulf War in 1991. A team of leading historians examine the problems inherent in alliance politics and relationships in the framework of grand strategy through the lens of history. Aimed at not just the military aspects of alliances, the book uncovers the myriad factors that have made such coalitions succeed or fail in the past.

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Grand Strategy and Military Alliances

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Contents

List of maps  vii
List of contributors  ix
Acknowledgment  xi

1 Introduction: grand strategy and alliances  1
   Peter R. Mansoor and Williamson Murray

Part I Maritime powers and the continental commitment

2 Grand strategy, alliances, and the Anglo-American way of war  19
   Williamson Murray

3 The Anglo-Prussian alliance and the Seven Years War  47
   Dennis Showalter

4 Preserved by friend and foe alike: the Sixth Coalition against Revolutionary France  73
   Richard Hart Sinnreich

5 The Franco-British military alliance during World War I  108
   Paul Harris

6 The Grand Alliance in World War II  136
   Mark A. Stoler

7 Adapt and survive: NATO in the Cold War  166
   Ingo Trauschweizer

Part II The political and military challenges of coalition warfare

8 The Peloponnesian War and Sparta’s strategic alliances  197
   Victor Davis Hanson and David L. Berkey
Contents

9 The Anglo-Burgundian alliance and grand strategy in the Hundred Years War
   CLIFFORD J. ROGERS

10 The Franco-American alliance during the War for Independence
   MARK GRIMSLEY

11 The alliance that wasn’t: Germany and Austria-Hungary in World War I
   MARCUS JONES

12 The Axis
   WILLIAMSON MURRAY

   RICHARD SWAIN

14 Conclusion: alliances and coalitions in the twenty-first century
   PETER R. MANSOOR

Index
Maps

3.1 Europe during the Seven Years War 61
4.1 Europe, 1813–1814 79
5.1 The Western Front, 1916–1918 125
6.1 The War in Europe, 1942–1945 148
6.2 The Pacific War, 1942–1945 155
7.1 NATO and the Warsaw Pact 170
8.1 The Greek World, 431–404 BC 203
9.1 The Hundred Years War, 1337–1429 221
10.1 The Yorktown Campaign, 1781 274
11.1 The Central Powers in World War I 305
12.1 The Axis Powers in World War II 336
13.1 The Gulf War, 1991 372
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