What are the factors that determine how central governments respond to demands for independence? Secessionist movements are numerous and quite varied in form, but the chief obstacle to their ambitions is the state itself, which can deny independence demands, deploy force if need be, and request that the international community respect its territorial integrity by not recognizing the breakaway region. *Age of Secession* focuses on this crucial but neglected moment in the life of a secessionist movement. Griffiths offers a novel theory using original data on secessionist movements between 1816 and 2011. He explains how state response is shaped by international and domestic factors, when conflict is likely, and why states have proliferated since 1945. He mixes quantitative methods with case studies of secessionist movements in the United Kingdom, Russia/Soviet Union, and India. This is an important book for anyone who wants to understand the phenomenon of secession.

**Ryan D. Griffiths** is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney. His research examines the dynamics of secession, sovereignty, and international order. He is also a lead investigator on the International System(s) Dataset (ISD) Project. He completed his PhD at Columbia University and has held visiting posts at Johns Hopkins University, Yale University, and the Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI).
‘Griffiths provides a simple but powerful explanation of why we live in an ‘age of secession’, characterized by a steep increase in the number of states since 1945, and why some secessions are peaceful while others are violent. Located at the intersection of International Relations and comparative politics, the book is a finely-crafted analysis of the evolution of the modern international system.’

Jason Sharman, Griffith University

‘Ryan Griffiths not only greatly advances our understanding of secession but speaks to broader dynamics in international relations – the trends of colonization and decolonization and now, as he calls it, the Age of Secession. By using both compelling case studies and a sharply designed set of quantitative analyses, Griffiths makes a clear and convincing case for his argument that the reactions of the center to a group’s separatist aspirations is the key to understanding the dynamics of fragmentation. This book is a major contribution that will be required reading for anyone seeking to understand ethnic conflict, civil war, sovereignty, and the history of international relations.’

Stephen M. Saideman, Carleton University
Age of Secession

The International and Domestic Determinants of State Birth

RYAN D. GRIFFITHS
For Alison, Henry, and Beatrice
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Acknowledgments

The foundation for this book was laid during my time as a PhD student at Columbia, and the fine adjustments were made as a faculty member at the University of Sydney. Chief among the intellectual contributors are my PhD advisors. I was extremely fortunate to have had Tanisha Fazal as a mentor. She supported my early ideas regarding state birth and pushed my research in a direction that balanced the type of big-picture theory that I was drawn to with the level of analytical precision that it required. Her mentorship has left an indelible mark on my work. I am also grateful to Jack Snyder for insights on a range of theoretical points and for his unrelenting support and advice. His willingness to take time to entertain my ideas would surprise anyone unfamiliar with his dedication to graduate advising. Alex Cooley read several versions of this manuscript and provided invaluable intellectual and moral support. I benefited greatly from Michael Doyle’s close readings of my work, and his influence helped shape the final product. Robert Jervis was an excellent advisor during my time as a graduate student, and I thank him for his ideas and contributions.

I am indebted to a number of other individuals from the political science department at Columbia. Elise Giuliano was kind enough to serve on my defense committee, and she provided a substantial number of comments on matters related to secessionism. Pablo Pinto gave advisory support during my early days as a graduate student. Page Fortna was extremely generous in her advice and assistance. A truly exceptional seminar with Sheri Berman introduced me to the topics of nationalism and state formation – research areas that will sit at the center of my work for some time. I thank Helen Milner, Alfred Stepan, and Kenneth Waltz for their teaching and their useful comments. At various points I also received valuable feedback from Erik Gartzke, Andrew Gelman, Shigeo Hirano, Robert Lieberman, Robert Shapiro, and Michael Ting. My time as a doctoral student would have been less exciting and less productive without the support of
Acknowledgments

my fellow graduate students, among them Kate Baldwin, Bernd Beber, Michael Beckley, Brooke Greene, Guy Grossman, Seva Gunitsky, Dafna Hochman, Reyko Huang, Suzanne Katzenstein, Adriana Lins de Albuquerque, Eric Mvukiyehe, Joseph Parent, Dianne Pfundstein, Stefanie Pleschinger, Stefano Recchia, Allan Roth, Cyrus Samii, Thania Sanchez, Ivan Savic, Alexandra Scacco, Aqil Shah, Neelanjan Sircar, Jessica Stanton, Alex Weisiger, and Matt Winters. Finally, I received outside council from David Carter, Hein Goemans, David Lake, and Jason Sharman. Bridget Coggins and Phil Roeder were particularly helpful in providing both advice and access to their data.

The University of Sydney provided a second intellectual home and sponsored an excellent book workshop that was attended by Steve Saideman (all the way from Ottawa), Peter Radan, Sasa Pavkovic, and a number of committed participants from my department: James Der Derian, Charlotte Epstein, Rich Frank, Graeme Gill, Ben Goldsmith, Diarmuid Maguire, John Mikler, Jamie Reilly, and Frank Smith. At various other points I received valuable assistance from Max Gromping, Justin Hastings, Megan MacKenzie, Ferran Martinez i Coma, Pippa Norris, David Smith, Rodney Smith, Simon Tormey, and Colin Wight.

I would like to acknowledge financial support from the political science departments at Columbia University and the Johns Hopkins University as well as from the Department of Government and International Relations and the Centre for International Security Studies at the University of Sydney.

I would also like to thank my parents for their love and encouragement over the years. Most of all, I would like to thank my wife, Alison, who read more versions of this book than I can count. I dedicate this work to her and our children.