

PREFACE

This book offers a vigorous defense of democracy's ideal and an unapologetic critique of our drift from it. The Cold War is largely responsible for this drift and we believe it was pivotal to the construction of a framework of political power put in place long before the horrible events of September 2001. The essays on our recent and present past all make this clear.

Most of the book's contributors are drawn from a group of regular participants in a monthly seminar on the National Security State at George Washington University convened by Marcus Raskin. A few other contributors were participants in a conference at the National Press Club in 1999 hosted in connection with the seminar, and several became involved through their affiliation with the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. Participants included current and former members of Congress, current and former cabinet officials, and scholars recognized as leaders in their academic fields. Anabel Dwyer served as the initial rapporteur for the seminar before Carl LeVan served in that position for most of the remaining six years.

The debates in the seminars and at these various affiliated events over the years were extraordinary. Participants disagreed on matters such as the need to rewrite the National Security Act of 1947 as the centerpiece of the strategy for dismantling the National Security State. Differing views on the relationship between capitalism and American expansionism also led to lively debates. However, everyone involved in this book is devoted to challenging the assumptions of the National Security State and engaging in a debate on fundamental issues related to the institutional and intellectual betrayal of American democracy. It is our collective hope that *In Democracy's Shadow* and the collection of alternatives it contains will offer a powerful tool for inciting the citizenry to action and restoring accountability to government.

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