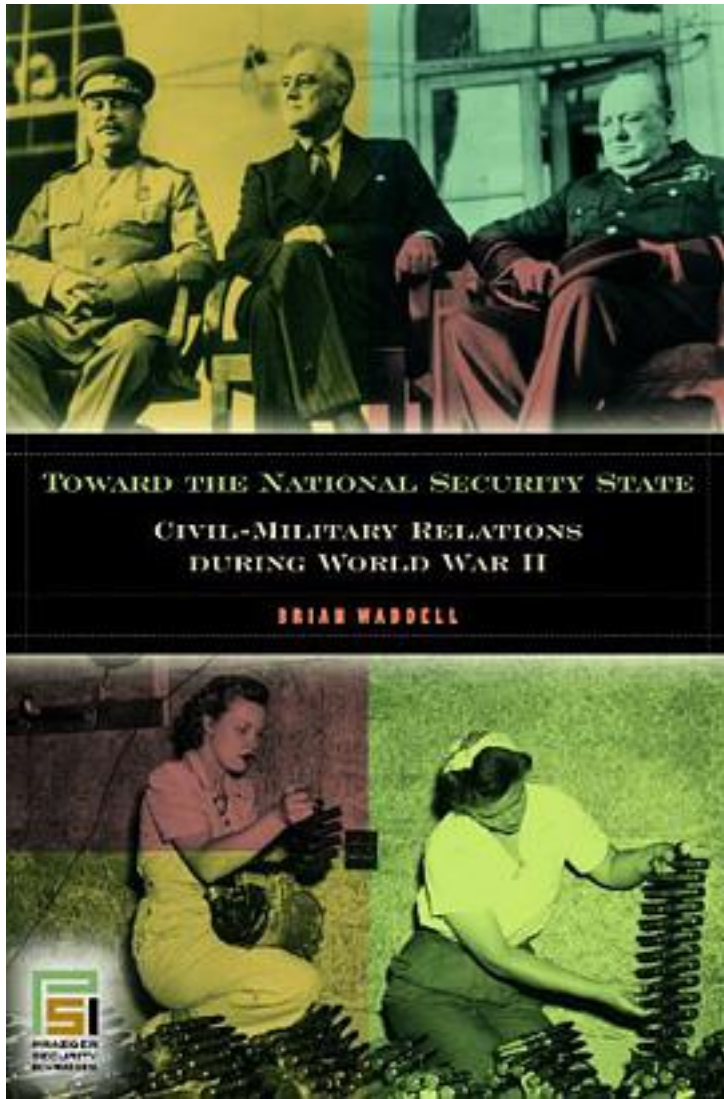


Toward the National Security State



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American involvement in World War II transformed U.S. civil-military relations by propelling the U.S. military into a prominent position within the national government. This established new links and a new unity between key civilian and military personnel that were institutionalised in the post-war national security state. The author explores these developments and examines the impact of the new relationships that were forged in the face of the threat of fascism and rose to dominate the military-industrial complex during the Cold War. Rarely is World War II considered from the perspective of how it changed the fundamental nature of American government, despite the fact that the national security state institutionalized after the war did just that. This book approaches this dramatic shift in American national government by examining the intense wartime changes in civil-military relations that allowed the U.S. to participate fully as a partner in a two-front world war, and that influenced greatly the post-war transformations in American government. Dramatic changes are traced in three areas of civil-military relations: military-corporate relations surrounding mobilising the "arsenal of democracy;" top-level command relations between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his military commanders; and, the civil-military tensions and relations involved in mobilising a mass citizen army. After reviewing the wartime transformations in these three areas, a final chapter analyses the post-war synthesis of these changes as the U.S. institutionalised a striking new civil-military unity through the post-war national security state.

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