

Preface

Many friends and colleagues have played a part in the production of this book. Let me beg the reader's momentary indulgence to mention just a few to whom my especial thanks are due.

This is a first book. And as it may not come again, I must take this opportunity to acknowledge the two great teachers with whom I have been blessed, Sister Mary Ulicia O'Brien, O.P., and Henry J. Landau: she, for suggesting the scholarly discipline and he, the sheer joy, of learning.

The book is a report on original research. As the reader will soon learn, it is not one whose understanding comes easily. Nor did its conception. The ideas and techniques upon which it builds required lengthy and constant consideration, discussion, criticism, and revision before reaching their present form and use. Throughout the technique-building stage of the research, Robert K. Ramers labored with extraordinary competence and devotion as its sounding board, critic, and collaborator. As the reader will recognize, his assistance in the development of agreement analysis and in the preparation of the computer programs was especially indispensable.

The computer programs and instructions for their use, together with the revised edition of the conflict data codebook that resulted from the research, are contained in a separate technical manual for this book issued simultaneously by the M.I.T. Press. The programs were written by Mr. Ramers for use on the equipment of the M.I.T. Computation Center, although they are by no means restricted to it. I am pleased to acknowledge the assistance of the Center's personnel and the contribution of their facilities to this study.

The empirical data for the research were gathered and prepared with the assistance of Robert Bates, Ralph Brown, Priscilla Clapp, R. Lucas Fischer, Janet Fraser, Edward C. Gude, Stanley Heginbotham, Jane K. Holland, Amelia C. Leiss, Richard H. Moore, Robert K. Ramers, Philip Raup, and Barton S. Whaley. Theirs was an extraordinarily difficult but indispensable task, well performed. And if I may, I would like to single out Colonel Brown, Lucas Fischer, Janet Fraser, Barton Whaley, and Colonel Moore and his staff at the Center for Research on Social Systems, The American University, for contributions and commitments that far exceeded any reasonable expectation. May they prosper!

The book is based in part upon research prepared under a contract from the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. (Of course, the judgments expressed here are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of any department or agency of the United States government.) The contract was to the Arms Control Project directed by Lincoln P. Bloomfield at the

Center for International Studies, M.I.T. I am grateful to Professor Bloomfield for his faithful support of that research, for his assistance in its execution, and for his advice on an earlier version of this manuscript, which was submitted as a doctoral dissertation to the Department of Political Science at M.I.T. The book was completed while the author was a research fellow of the Institute of Politics in the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. I am deeply obliged to Richard E. Neustadt, Director of the Institute, for affording me the time, resources, and freedom that were required to translate an exotic research document to a book worthy of a public.

That translation, in fact, quite defied the author's abilities for well over a year until the patience, discipline, and skill of Mrs. Jean P. S. Clark were mercifully applied to the manuscript. If I am the parent of this book, she surely is its midwife. Ulrike Hochreiter Bigelow typed the original manuscript and made contributions to its style and content in ways that raised the medium of clerical assistance to an expressive art form. Sally von Rumohr and Christina O'Bryan, each in her own way, carried that tradition on through the translation stage, and I am in their debt.

So, too, am I responsible for all the sins – of commission and omission alike – that follow the title. It is Colum Murphy's.

Richard Barringer

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