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Book Author(s): ELBRIDGE A. COLBY

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THE STRATEGY OF DENIAL

AMERICAN DEFENSE IN AN AGE
OF GREAT POWER CONFLICT

ELBRIDGE A. COLBY

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This book is dedicated to my father, Jonathan,
with profound respect and gratitude
for his example and encouragement

The first, the supreme, the most far-reaching act of judgment that the statesman and commander have to make is to establish . . . the kind of war on which they are embarking; neither mistaking it for, nor trying to turn it into, something that is alien to its nature. This is the first of all strategic questions and the most comprehensive. . . .

Nothing is more important in life than finding the right standpoint for seeing and judging events, and then adhering to it. . . . Policy is the guiding intelligence and war only the instrument.

Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*