backdrop of successive international crises and in the broad context of national security decision-making involving the White House, State Department, NSC, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the intelligence agencies. Even as the secretary and the administration were able to put Berlin and Cuba behind them, the problem of how to defend South Vietnam from communist aggression threatened to overshadow McNamara’s accomplishments and unravel his unfinished institutional agenda. The deepening commitment in Vietnam dominates the last year of the book, but not before, as the authors convincingly demonstrate, McNamara’s seminal first four years had fundamentally transformed roles and methods and redefined relationships in the ongoing evolution of the Cold War national security establishment.

Lawrence S. Kaplan is University Professor Emeritus of History and Director Emeritus of the Lyman L. Lemnitzer Center for NATO and European Union Studies at Kent State University. He is currently Adjunct Professor of History at Georgetown University. A leading scholar of NATO and the author of numerous books and articles on diplomatic history, he has been a Fulbright Lecturer at the Universities of Bonn, Louvain, and Nice, as well as a visiting lecturer at University College, London.

Ronald D. Landa holds advanced degrees in history from Northwestern University and Georgetown University, from which he received the Ph.D. in 1971. From 1973 to 1987 he was a historian in the Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State, where he edited volumes in the documentary series Foreign Relations of the United States. From 1987 until his retirement in 2000, he worked in the Historical Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he has since served as a consultant and contract historian.

Edward J. Drea obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas following military service in Japan and Vietnam. He spent many years as a senior historian with the U.S. Army and is the author of MacArthur’s ULTRA: Codebreaking and the War Against Japan and other books and articles on military history.