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Preface

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed on December 8, 1987 in Washington by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, was a milestone in nuclear disarmament and a decisive step towards ending the Cold War. To mark the thirtieth anniversary of this monumental event, the Berlin Center of Cold War Studies, the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History, and the Department of History of the University of Mannheim got together to hold a conference at the European Academy in Berlin. This took place between November 30 and December 2, 2017, under the title, “The INF Treaty of 1987: A Reappraisal.” The present volume contains the revised proceedings.

It was a memorable conference. The organizers were the three editors of this book along with Bernd Greiner. Many others contributed to the conference’s success. First, we would like to thank the German Foundation for Peace Research, the Chancellor Willy Brandt Foundation, and the Humboldt University Berlin for the generous financial support that made the conference possible. Secondly, we would like to thank those who chaired the various panels: Dr. Bernd Rother, Dr. Arvid Schors, Prof. Dr. Hélène Miard-Delacroix, and Dr. Agnes Bresselau von Bressendorf. We are also very much indebted to Dr. Bettina Greiner and Sophie Lange for the excellent organization of the conference, which included a public panel discussion, chaired by Bernd Greiner, in the Humboldt University Berlin. On the panel were: Susanne Baumann, Dr. Oliver Meier, Otfried Nassauer, and Prof. Dr. Andreas Wirsching.

Prof. Dr. Leopoldo Nuti and William Alberque, who gave papers at the conference, had to drop out of the published proceedings, but we thank them for the helpful contributions they made to our discussions in Berlin. Two essays in this book are by authors only approached later. We are very grateful to Wolfgang Richter for agreeing to take on the complicated task of summarizing the intrusive INF verification system, and our special thanks go too to Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kühn, who discusses the present problems and prospects of the INF Treaty. Finally, we would like to thank Cedric Bierganns, Richard Rohrmoser, and Philipp Scherzer for issuing two conference reports.

Our last words of thanks go to those who helped us prepare the text of this volume, especially our English copy-editor, Jon Ashby, who turned the submitted papers into highly readable English essays, and our student assistants, Leila Esh and Philipp Scherzer.