FOREWORD

In the wake of the Cold War, a host of what have been loosely termed "new security" challenges have become the focus of growing concern worldwide. These typically comprise international terrorism, ethnic strife, environmental degradation, food and energy scarcities, drug trafficking, population growth, uncontrolled migration, and organized crime. Though these can hardly be considered novel problems, their explicit characterization and treatment as security issues do constitute a relatively new development.

With the goal of broadening international understanding of how these challenges are perceived and addressed around the world as well as to stimulate further research, the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) commissioned twelve scholars under the direction of Paul Stares, senior research fellow of the Japan Institute of International Affairs and a nonresident senior fellow of the Brookings Institution, to conduct individual national and regional surveys of current thinking, policy, and research.

The surveys covering the Asia Pacific region were first presented at the Asia Pacific Agenda Conference in Bali in January 1997, while those relating to other regions were discussed at the first Global ThinkNet forum convened jointly by the Brookings Institution and JCIE in Washington, D.C., in March 1997. After substantial revision, the surveys are reproduced here in a single volume. As such, this volume represents the first global survey of its kind covering the new security challenges.

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