Preface and Acknowledgments

*Innovate to Dominate* is the second installment of an examination of the titanic struggle that the People’s Republic of China has waged in the pursuit of wealth, might, and innovation since its founding in 1949. *Fortifying China* was the first account that delved into the political economy of China’s defense technological and industrial development between the 1950s and the late 2000s spanning the reigns of Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and Hu Jintao.¹ This book covers the rule of Xi Jinping, or more specifically his first decade at the helm, and goes beyond the defense technological and industrial realm to examine the broader innovation-security-development landscape.

The foundations of this book rest on a large-scale multiyear research and educational project funded by the US Department of Defense beginning in 2009 to identify and study the long-term security challenges awaiting the United States and the international community. The Minerva Research Initiative was the brainchild of the secretary of defense at the time, Robert Gates, and ably led by Tom Mahnken, whom I have had the privilege of collaborating with ever since on a wide range of projects. Over the course of the 2010s, I was able to lead a multitude of workshops, training courses, and research trips examining Chinese approaches to innovation and technological development very broadly defined. This resulted in the publication of numerous studies and the nurturing of a small but growing number of students and analysts to focus on the intersection between technology, economics, national security, and China, who are in great demand these days. This book is a distillation of many of the insights gained from this endeavor.

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