Preface

I am again delighted to have the opportunity to present a new edition. This time I was prepared: Shortly after the manuscript for the second edition was sent off, the Gulf crisis entered a new phase as U.S. aircraft bombed Iraq. No sooner had the second edition come out than the USSR collapsed. These two events alone set the tone for the third edition, in which there is a case study of the Gulf War, analysis of the "new world order" the war was supposed to inaugurate, and consideration throughout of the meaning of our post–Cold War, post-Soviet era.

Those are not the only developments that provided new material, of course. I have added or extended analysis of United Nations peacekeeping, the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil, sustainable development, European integration, and arms control issues such as nuclear proliferation and conventional weapons transfers. Important figures and data have been updated through mid-1993.

I regret that for reasons of space and other constraints I have had to drop case studies of the Philippines, Nicaragua, Canada, and Poland from this edition. However, the key points in those studies have been integrated into the text. And the China, Japan, and Brazil cases have been augmented.

I want to thank my colleague from Nigeria, Professor Mohamed Wader, for his careful review of the manuscript; Milton Leitenberg and John Hall for providing various pieces of information; and Mary Krug for again assisting in the manuscript's preparation.

Writing a concise account of the enormous changes in world affairs since the second edition (1991) is not only an analytical challenge but also an editorial headache. I beg the reader's indulgence for having to make frequent use of phrases such as "since the end of the Cold War," "new (world) order," and "post–Cold War"; and for incorporating "FSU" (former Soviet Union) into an already too lengthy list of global acronyms. (The reader will be happy to know, however, that "FY" and "FC" for "former Yugoslavia" and "former Czechoslovakia" are nowhere to be found!) Fortunately, I had
the wise and able help once again of Gia Hamilton at Lynne Rienner Publishers, for which I am very grateful.

—Mel Gurtov