Additional Praise for The Second Term of George W. Bush: Prospects and Perils

“This collection of scholarship is timely and much-needed. It is a well-written, well-researched, and worthwhile addition to the scholarly literature on the presidency in general and on George W. Bush in particular. I believe this text is well-suited to advanced undergraduates as well as graduate students.”
—Denise von Herrmann, University of Southern Mississippi

“This book lays to bare key questions and issues that plague all second term presidents and provides a powerful lens to understand the context, constraints and capacities which presidents must confront. This book will appeal to an advanced undergraduate audience and find a home in political science and history courses on the presidency.”
—Victoria A. Farrar-Myers, The University of Texas at Arlington
The Evolving American Presidency Series

The Second Term of George W. Bush: Prospects and Perils
Edited by
Robert Maranto, Douglas M. Brattebo, and Tom Lansford
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The Evolving American Presidency

The American Presidency touches virtually every aspect of American and world politics. And the presidency has become, for better or worse, the vital center of the American and global political systems. The Framers of the American government would be dismayed at such a result. As invented at the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention in 1787, the Presidency was to have been a part of a government with shared and overlapping powers, embedded within a separation-of-powers system. If there was a vital center, it was the Congress; the Presidency was to be a part, but by no means, the centerpiece of that system.

Over time, the presidency has evolved and grown in power, expectations, responsibilities, and authority. Wars, crises, depressions, industrialization, all served to add to the power of the presidency. And as the United States grew into a world power, presidential power also grew. As the United States became the world’s leading superpower, the presidency rose in prominence and power, not only in the United States, but on the world stage.

It is the clash between the presidency as invented and the presidency as it has developed that inspired this series. And it is the importance and power of the modern American presidency that makes understanding the office so vital. Like it or not, the American Presidency stands at the vortex of power both within the United States and across the globe.

This Palgrave series, recognizes that the Presidency is and has been an evolving institution, going from the original constitutional design as a Chief Clerk, to today where the president is the center of the American political constellation. This has caused several key dilemmas in our political system, not the least of which is that presidents face high expectations with limited constitutional resources. This causes presidents to find extra-constitutional means of governing. Thus, presidents must find ways to bridge the expectations/power gap while operating within the confines of a separation-of-powers system designed to limit presidential authority. How presidents resolve these challenges and paradoxes is the central issue in modern governance. It is also the central theme of this book series.

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