

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is the product of the experience and lessons drawn from many different individuals from diverse institutional backgrounds but connected by a common concern: peacebuilding and development. Its stimulus can be traced to an idea that Council on Foreign Relations President, Les Gelb, explored with Allan Gerson in the spring of 1998 as to whether, in light of the end of the Cold War, ways could be found for enabling the United Nations to play a more constructive role, especially in curbing the scourge of internal conflicts that had proliferated in the last decade. At about the same time, World Bank President James Wolfensohn, increasingly concerned about the Bank's growing portfolio of poor countries at war, called on Nat Colletta and others at the Bank to forge a more multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approach to the problem. At the United Nations, Secretary-General Kofi Annan had reached the same conclusion: that international organizations acting alone could not be expected to meet the challenge of the post-Cold War era to create conditions conducive to sustainable peace and development. "Partnering" became the operative word. The first order of business in this new vision was to strengthen partnering arrangements between the World Bank and the UN system. Toward this end, the Council of Foreign Relations established a Study Group on UN-World Bank Partnering with initial funding from the World Bank.

Soon after the Study Group convened, it became apparent that a wider net would have to be cast to include non-governmental and private sector representatives, insofar as these sectors would be critical to the success of any partnering efforts. A year and a half later, the conclusions reached by the Study Group were submitted to the World Bank and other interested parties. Key to the group's recommendations was the need for promotion of a more integrative approach centered around a new institutional structure for peacebuilding, a Peace Transitions Council. This thinking generated further dialogue among the authors

and their colleagues, leading to the idea of a much broader study which would detail the elements of a radically new approach to peacebuilding. *Privatizing Peace* is the result. It is thus only fitting that our special thanks first go to the Council on Foreign Relations and the World Bank for their vision and support in launching this work.

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In the end, what emerged was the product of the thinking of many individuals as filtered and augmented by the authors, who necessarily take full responsibility for the ideas, analysis and conclusions herein presented. It is their fervent hope that this work provokes fresh thinking and new partnerships to ensure that peace and prosperity, not war, be the hallmarks of the new millennium.