## CONTENTS

List of Maps	хi
Author's Note	xiii
Prologue	I
PART ONE <b>America's Term</b>	s
1. Twelve Years in the Making	9
2. The Axis of Evil	21
3. The Bush Doctrine	32
4. Resolution 1441	46
5. The Failure of Diplomacy	63
6. The Week of Waiting	78
PART TWO	
America's War	
7. Best-Laid Plans	95
8. The Element of Surprise	107
9. Shock and Awe	121
10. A Turn for the Worse	132
11. The British in Basra	144
12. Securing the North	153
13. Saving Private Lynch	165
14. Through the Karbala Gap	174
15. Thunder Run	187

x Contents

16. The Fall of Bagh	odad	199
17. The Aftermath		213
	PART THREE	
Ame	rica's Consequence	es
18. Catastrophic Suc	cess	227
19. Smooth Landing,	Rough Takeoff	239
20. Casus Belli		252
21. The Price of Goi	ng It Alone	264
Epilogue		279
Chronology		285
Notes		289
Acknowledgme	nts	299
Index		305

## MAPS

Iraq and Its Neighbors, Iraq's Ethnic and	
Religious Groups	8
The War Plan	103
The Opening Offensive	113
The Ambush at Nasiriya	134
Northern Iraq	154
The Karbala Gap and the Approach to Baghdad	184
The Thunder Run	197
The Fall of Baghdad	203