Explaining Foreign Policy
U.S. Decision-Making in the Gulf Wars
SECOND EDITION

Steve A. Yetiv

The Johns Hopkins University Press
Baltimore
## Contents

*Preface to the Second Edition*  vii  
*Acknowledgments*  xiii  

**Introduction**  i  

1. The United States, Iraq, and the Crisis: Some Background 18  
2. The Rational Actor Model 30  
3. A Cognitive Compass: Analogies at Work 58  
4. Constructing the Threat: Saddam the Global Menace 82  
5. Elements of Groupthink on the Road to War 104  
6. Government Politics: Not Much, Actually 121  
7. Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall: Evaluating the Perspectives 138  
8. Threading the Tale 156  
9. Tackling Puzzles and Developing Theory 185  
11. Invading Iraq 214  
12. Beyond the Gulf: Foreign Policy and World Politics 251  

*Appendix: Core Interviews* 255  
*Notes* 257  
*Bibliography* 291  
*Index* 309